

ICRC medics checking wounded in Kigali hospitals

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GENEVA, April 8 (Reuter) - The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Friday that an ICRC medical team was checking on wounded in Kigali hospitals and a special surgical team was on standby to travel to the Rwandan capital.

An ICRC spokesman said a five-member team had taken medical supplies to Kigali Hospital Centre and was evaluating the number of patients there wounded by fighting in the city.

“The first indications are there are a considerable number of wounded, including civilians and soldiers,” a Geneva spokesman for the humanitarian agency told Reuters after speaking with the medical mission.

He had no figures and said the team, consisting of a doctor, three nurses and an ICRC delegate, also hoped to visit Kanembe Hospital, the second main hospital in the Rwandan capital.

“There is also a surgical team on standby in Geneva to travel there as soon as the situation permits,” the spokesman said. The mission consists of a doctor, anaesthetist and nurse.

Kigali airport has remained closed since renewed civil war broke out after the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed late on Wednesday in a rocket attack on their plane as they flew back from a regional peace mission.

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