

French troops start pullout from Rwanda

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PARIS, April 12 (Reuter) - France said on Tuesday it was pulling out one-third of some 500 troops sent to Rwanda to evacuate westerners.

The Defence Ministry said the soldiers staying behind in the war-torn central African country would help Belgian troops to evacuate remaining foreigners.

“France wants to show that its intervention in Rwanda is strictly limited to evacuating nationals whose lives are being endangered,” the ministry said.

“This is why it is withdrawing an infantry company today, cutting by one-third the troops deployed in Rwanda over the past three days.”

France closed down its embassy in Kigali on Tuesday and said all French nationals who had wanted to leave Rwanda had left.

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