

Two French gendarmes, wife killed in Rwanda

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PARIS, April 13 (Reuter) - Two French paramilitary gendarmes and the wife of one of them have been killed in Rwanda, the defence ministry said on Wednesday.

It said the body of Sergeant Major Rene Maier was found on Wednesday. Those of Sergeant Major Alain Didot and his wife Gilda were discovered on Tuesday in Kigali.

The bodies, which had been buried in shallow graves outside their homes, will be flown back to France, the ministry said.

Three former French Air Force soldiers, part of the crew on the plane of Rwandan Prime Minister Juvenal Habyarimana, were also killed when the plane was hit by a rocket and crashed.

Habyarimana's death last week unleashed a wave of ethnic fighting which claimed many thousands of lives.

A defence ministry spokesman said there were no losses among the 500 soldiers sent to Rwanda to evacuate French nationals and other foreigners.

France said on Tuesday it was pulling out one-third of the troops. Those staying behind would help Belgian troops to evacuate those foreigners still remaining.

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