

UNICEF says at least seven Rwandan employees killed

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UNITED NATIONS, April 14 (Reuter) - At least seven Rwandans working for the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) have been killed in the turmoil sweeping that country during the past week, UNICEF said Thursday.

"While unable to confirm the exact numbers or circumstances of their deaths, the agency has received reliable reports from a number of sources, including eyewitnesses, that at least seven of its national staff have been killed," it said.

Before the fighting erupted last week UNICEF had 55 employees in Rwanda. These included 11 international staff, all of whom were evacuated along with their families.

UNICEF said attempts to protect and relocate the national staff were largely foiled by the extent of the chaos and by armed gangs which prevented Rwandese nationals from leaving the country.

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