

Coup attempted in Burundi, Belgian radio says

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BRUSSELS, April 25 (Reuter) - Units of the Burundi army attempted a coup early on Monday but the chief of staff had the situation under control, Belgian radio said.

The radio said several units attempted the coup in the capital Bujumbura around 0100 GMT and tried to rally other units. However, they did not succeed and some had already been arrested, it said.

The radio said the interim president and government were in hiding.

Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira was killed with his Rwandan counterpart President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6 when a rocket downed their plane at the airport in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

The Rwandan president's death plunged Rwanda into violence, with an estimated 100,000 killed over the past two and a half weeks. Diplomats and aid workers have said they fear an upsurge of violence in Burundi where the security situation is worsening.

They said on Sunday a government deadline for people to hand in illegal weapons was expected to be widely ignored and passage of the deadline might spark fresh violence between the Tutsi-dominated military and gunmen from the Hutu majority – the same tribes that have plunged Rwanda into turmoil.

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