

70 Rwandan rebels killed in clashes with army: claim

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KIGALI, April 18 (AFP) - Seventy rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) were killed in clashes with army forces in the northwestern Ruhengeri region, officials said Sunday.

The rebels launched attacks at dawn Friday on the localities of Butaro and Kidaho, killing three army regulars and three civilians.

The RPF guerrillas fired shells on Kidaho from the Echuya forest, in-

side neighbouring Uganda, the officials said.

Four villagers were kidnapped by the rebels who forced them to carry equipment, they added.

The RPF, based in Uganda, has posed a significant threat to the one-party regime of President Juvenal Habyarimana since it launched an armed insurrection in October 1990.

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