

Burundi [France threatened to suspend economic cooperation with Burundi]

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France expressed its "full support" for Ndadaye and threatened to suspend economic cooperation with Burundi, worth some 200 million francs (35 million dollars), foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said.

A threat to "democracy in this friendly nation is unacceptable," Duque said. "France will not be able to maintain its major cooperation effort if legality is not respected in Burundi."

He added that there was no particular risk to the 900 French nationals in Burundi, including 800 in Bujumbura.

The first trouble came before

Ndadaye was invested, with a coup attempt by Tutsi officers on July 3. This was put down quickly as the army, led then by chief of staff Colonel Michel Mibarurwa, proved loyal to the new president.

Like neighbouring Rwanda, another densely populated highland nation, Burundi has been wracked by outbreaks of strife between the Hutu majority and their Tutsi overlords.

Some 200,000 Hutus were massacred in 1972, ten years after independence from Belgium, and another wave of violence claimed at least 5,000 lives in 1988, according to official figures.

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