

Rwandan government gunship attacks MSF vehicle

afpr000020011028dq71030gn

226 Mots

01 Juillet 1994

Agence France-Presse

Anglais

(Copyright 1994)

BRUSSELS, July 1 (AFP) - A Rwandan government gunship Friday attacked a vehicle being used by French medical aid group Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) in the Nyamata region of southern Rwanda, MSF said in a statement released here.

The low-flying government army helicopter fired two rockets at the well-marked transporter on a road five kilometres (three miles) outside Nyamata, the statement said.

"Nobody was hurt in the attack, which has to be seen as a serious violation of international humanitarian law," MSF said, adding that the rockets missed their target.

The region in which the attack happened is generally under the control of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

Meanwhile the aid group said its staff in Rwanda had seen a mass movement of people being herded towards the town of Rilima, also in the south of the country, ordered there by the RPF "for security reasons."

The exodus was happening in "poor conditions and without real preparations," MSF said.

Since the start of this week, between 50,000 and 100,000 people have been forced to leave the towns of Gitarama, Ruhango, Kagbai and Nyanza and several refugee camps, MSF said.

"It is impossible to guess the exact number of people who never reach their destination," victims of dysentery and dehydration, MSF said.

csg/pcj/jms

AFP AFP