

Pope appeals for peace in Rwanda

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VATICAN, April 9 (AFP) - Pope John Paul II urged Rwandans Saturday to resist hatred and vengeance caused by the ethnic bloodletting ravaging the country, and to find the courage instead to forgive and to talk.

"At this time when terrible news is reaching me from your country ... I appeal to you not to succumb to feelings of hatred and vengeance and

to courageously practice dialogue and forgiveness," he said in his message.

He also appealed to church leaders in the mainly Roman Catholic country to help the population through the troubles.

"I am praying for you, the church prays for you," he said.

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