

Rebels deny attack on army positions

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NAIROBI, Nov 30 (AFP) - A leader of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (FPR) denied Tuesday a report that its forces had attacked Rwandan government army positions, violating a ceasefire.

Jacques Bihozagara, responsible for the FPR's international relations in Europe, said the report was "part of the campaign of defamation and intimidation" waged by the Kigali authorities.

Rwandan state radio said earlier Tuesday that FPR troops had launched an attack at Mutura in Rwanda's northwestern Gisenyi province.

The government and the FPR signed a ceasefire and peace pact last August 4 at Arusha in Tanzania, ending three years of civil war.

But Bihozagara said that Mutara [Mutura] was a long way from FPR positions and such an attack was impossible.

Bihozagara was speaking after a conference in Mombasa, on the Kenyan coast, grouping representatives of all sides in the Rwandan conflict. Participants called on the FPR and the government to implement the Arusha agreement and to bring an end to violence in the country.

They also urged international aid to help put the agreement into effect.

The U.N. observer mission in Rwanda last week reported that 37 people were killed by unidentified attackers in the north of the country on November 18.

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