[RPF demands dissolution of Rwanda's interim government and presidential guard as conditions for ceasefire talks]

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AFP, April 16, 1994

KIGALI, April 16 (AFP) - Rwandan rebel commanders have demanded the dissolution of the interim government and of the Hutu-led presidential guard as preconditions for entering into ceasefire talks, AFP learnt Saturday.

The demands form part of a list of conditions presented Friday to government forces by commanders of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) during the first meeting between the two sides since ethnic bloodletting began ravaging the east African country 10 days ago.

The meeting failed to reach a truce accord between the sides, who Saturday remained dug in around the Rwandan capital.

UN officials handed a copy of the list to an AFP correspondent still in the Rwandan capital.

The RPF conditions are drafted under four main headings, namely:

– "Dissolution of the government and (resignation of) the self-proclaimed president."

– "Condemnation of the (Hutu-dominated) presidential guard for intitiating the massacres," and rendering the guard "incapable of doing further harm" by dissolving it.

– "Halting and putting an end to massacres throughout Rwanda" by forming joint patrols comprising rebel, government and UN forces in a bid to evaluate the number of victims.

– Ensuring the arrest of militiamen, local authority officials, politicians and journalists who took part in reprisal attacks or "incited massacres."

The RPF has also demanded that the interim administration relinquishes "the state apparatus at its

disposal" and takes action against individual government members "guilty of corrupt acts and participation in inciting the population to hatred and violence."

The RPF has refused to acknowledge the authority of the interim administration, constituted after the April 6 death of Rwanda's long-ruling Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana in a plane crash which was apparently the outcome of a successful assassination attempt.

The two sides were due to hold further talks Saturday under the auspices of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

The RPF truce proposals – and counter-proposals from the government side – are expected to form the basis of Saturday's talks in a hotel in a rebel-held sector of Kigali.

A truce accord signed last August by the two sides provides for a power-sharing agreement between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribal factions, and for free elections to be held next year.

Thousands of people have been reported killed since the ethnic carnage broke out to shatter the accord on April 7.

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