

U.N. leader seeks Rwandan president's help in Burundi

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NAIROBI, Dec 9 (AFP) - U.N. deputy secretary-general James Jonah has asked Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana for his help in finding a political settlement in neighbouring Burundi, Radio Rwanda reported Wednesday.

In an interview with Rwandan official radio monitored by the BBC, Jonah said the main problem was that neither the people nor the government in Burundi trusted the army.

"I think this is a matter which the international community will have to deal with because without full confidence in the army, the situation in Burundi will remain very critical," Jonah said.

The U.N. official attended Monday's funeral in Bujumbura of the late Burundian leader Melchior Ndadaye who was killed in an abortive military coup in October.

Ndadaye was the first democratically-elected president and the first from the majority Hutu tribe. Since independence from Belgium in 1962, Burundi had always been ruled by Tutsis who make up most of the army.

During his visit to Kigali, Jonah will also investigate the situation in Rwanda where the a United Nations mission is being deployed under the terms of a peace settlement signed in August after three years of civil war.

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