

Thousands of Rwandan rebels advance on capital

Reuters, April 9, 1994

MULINDI, Rwanda, April 9 (Reuter) - A 4,000-strong force of Rwandan rebels is advancing in two groups and may arrive in Kigali, capital of the tiny central African state, early on Sunday, a rebel official said.

"They (troops) may arrive as early as before dawn on Sunday. But they met strong resistance along the way, so this is not certain," said the official of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), who asked not to be named.

The RPF officer said rebel forces would reinforce a 600-strong battalion already in Kigali and would engage government troops who have gone on a rampage in the city.

"We must destroy the capacity of this regime to kill and destroy," the official said. "They (government soldiers) have three options : join us, stand aside, or fight us."

The official said the main RPF force would remain in the northern region that it holds, mainly to mop up government forces resisting them in that area.

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