

# Rwandan rebels warn France, Belgium, U.S.

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BRUSSELS, April 9 (Reuter) - Rwandan rebels warned France, Belgium and the United States on Saturday to limit their troop deployments in the African state to helping evacuate their nationals and not to support the government.

“The Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) will not give any warning to those who seek to transform what they claim as humanitarian missions into military assistance for autocratic regimes which are close to the end,” the rebels said in a statement from their Brussels office.

The RPF, which has vowed to smash Rwanda’s interim government

following the assassination of the country’s president, said it understood that Western nations wanted to rescue their nationals trapped by the fighting in Kigali.

“The presence (of foreign troops) in our country must be limited in time,” the statement said. “Experience has taught us that some countries...do not respect their word.”

France has sent almost 300 troops to Kigali airport, crack Belgian paratroops are on their way and U.S. Marines have deployed in neighbouring Burundi.

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