

"I feared for my life every moment" - missionary

Esipisu, Manoaah

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NAIROBI, April 10 (Reuter) - "I feared for my life every moment," American missionary Marty Felds said on Sunday after escaping from a tribal bloodbath in the heart of Africa.

"It is not very comfortable when bullets are flying around, when you hear mortar fire nearby. Yes, it felt dangerous," he told Reuters after travelling by road from Rwanda to Burundi and flying on to Kenya.

Felds, a 25-year-old Texan, said he watched a Rwandan friend put to death by soldiers in Kigali, capital of the small overcrowded land that plunged into chaos when its president's plane was shot down on Wednesday.

"These things are shocking, heart-breaking," he said.

In deserted farmlands south of Kigali, the bodies of massacre victims in tattered clothes were strewn across the road that took the American to safety.

The American convoy was stopped at several roadblocks and took 15 hours to reach the Burundi capital Bujumbura, said Felds, one of 50 Americans in a planeload of 80 shocked Westerners flown to Nairobi on Sunday.

A second plane was on its way and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in Washington the evacuation of Americans from Rwanda was over.

"Never again," said Claudia Cantel, a U.S. aid worker after fleeing Rwanda for the second time in 3-1/2 years.

She was evacuated in October 1990 when rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front invaded from Uganda.

The U.S. aid director in Rwanda, Dick Dijkernan, said he left Kigali in "chaos and complete anarchy" with thousands of frightened Rwandans barricaded in their homes.

But he denied reports that the U.S. convoy had been shot at. "There were bullets everywhere. It is presumptuous to think they shot at us."

Baptist missionary David Hooter, 36, of Dallas, who fled with his children aged seven and eight, talked of "a complete mess, a shattered state, a destroyed people, chaos, chaos".

"It was scaring. Fires out in the suburbs, people carrying murderous weapons across town, civilians hunting for civilians to kill, no order, nothing," said Hooter.

"We have no idea whether we shall go back. We would love to but life is dangerous out there," Hooter said.

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