

International Red Cross urges UN to stay in Rwanda

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GENEVA, April 21 (Reuter) - The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Thursday it would be a mistake for the United Nations to reduce its military operations in Rwanda.

The humanitarian agency said Rwanda was bordering on anarchy and there was a "definite risk of famine" in the Central African country of seven million people.

Jean-Daniel Tauxe, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, was asked at a news conference whether the United Nations should withdraw its 1,600 troops.

"It would be a mistake to scale down," he told reporters at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva. "There is a definite risk of famine."

The ICRC also said it was concerned over an increase in violence at Butare, in southern Rwanda, where an estimated 100,000 displaced people have massed near the closed border.

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