

UNHCR staff to hold peace rally for Bosnia, Rwanda

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GENEVA, April 21 (Reuter) - The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said on Thursday its staff would hold a peace rally in Geneva on Friday to express their "anger and frustration" at the killing of civilians and aid workers in Bosnia and Rwanda.

The UNHCR is the main relief organisation operating in former Yugoslavia and has also been overwhelmed with feeding Rwandan and Burundi refugees fleeing recent ethnic fighting.

Staff and their family members plan to leave the UNHCR's lakeside building at noon (1000 GMT) to gather in front of the nearby U.N. European headquarters, the Palais des Nations.

"Participants are invited to wear white armbands and carry flowers which will be laid in the Palais des Nations as a continuing protest against the carnage," a statement said.

"The protest is designed to send a message to the political leaders to stop the killing and stop the indifference, especially in Bosnia, Rwanda, Angola, Afghanistan, Somalia and other troublespots where civilians and humanitarian workers are being brutally targetted and killed," it added.

A UNHCR field officer was killed earlier this week in the Somalia conflict, while four UNHCR personnel and three local staff members have been under almost constant fire in the Bosnian enclave of Gorazde.

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