

Rwandan rebels say they not attending talks

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ARUSHA, Tanzania, April 23 (Reuter) - Rwandan rebels said they were not meeting government officials at talks in northern Tanzania on Saturday but were there only to deliver news of a unilateral ceasefire.

"I had two aims in coming here. One was to talk with the secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and to meet Tanzanian government officials to brief them on our ceasefire," said Theogene Rudasingwa, secretary-general of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Talks scheduled to start at 6.00 pm local time (1600 GMT) never convened and officials from the Rwandan government expected to arrive by a United Nations aircraft had not turned up hours later.

Tanzanian-born OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim, top African officials and Western diplomats were in the Tanzanian town of Arusha for the talks aimed at winning a ceasefire when Rudasingwa announced the RPF had unilaterally declared a truce that would take effect at midnight on Monday (2100 GMT).

Rudasingwa said that he would be leaving Arusha on Sunday morning and that the RPF would wait to see if the government side could fulfill conditions of its ceasefire including the end of massacres and a return to the rule of law.

But the RPF official condemned the international community for not apportioning blame in the violence which he said was sparked by the government and its militias.

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