

# Army chief confirms Burundi coup attempt

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BUJUMBURA, April 25 (Reuter) - A military coup failed in the central Africa state of Burundi early on Monday after moderate units refused to take part, army chief of staff Jean Bikomagu told Reuters.

He said the situation was now under control.

Bikomagu said units of Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army attempted the coup in the capital Bujumbura around 0100 GMT, but other units failed to rally to them, fearful of a Hutu-Tutsi tribal bloodbath like the one raging in neighbouring Rwanda.

"We are working to restore order, we will also continue the process of disarmament," said Bikomagu. He added several soldiers responsible for the attempt had been arrested.

Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira was killed with his Rwandan counterpart President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6 when a rocket downed their plane at the airport in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

Ntaryamira's predecessor Melchior Ndadaye, the first Hutu to hold Burundi's presidency, was killed in a coup attempt last October.

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