

# Rwanda Rulers Flee as Rebels Advance

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Rwanda's disintegrating government is reported to have fled its last temporary refuge near Gitarama, south of the capital Kigali, in the face of a relentless rebel advance.

One officer of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front said his men could walk into Kigali at any time but there was nothing left worth taking there except "a few monuments, a few buildings".

Diplomats said most government ministers and senior officials had left a former civil servants' college near Gitarama which served as their headquarters. They escaped by road and helicopter to the government-held western city of Kibuye on the shores of Lake Kivu, facing eastern Zaire. "Most of the government has gone to Kibuye and others are already

abroad," a diplomat said. He added that the main thrust appeared to be moving on Gitarama.

The Rwandan government's hold on Kigali also began to crack last night as tens of thousands of soldiers, civilians and militiamen flooded out of the capital as the rebels took over most of the suburbs. As the rebels advanced they captured a few members of the murderous militias responsible for killing about 500,000 people since April 6.

Security problems have forced the United Nations to suspend the evacuation of civilians trapped in Kigali.

Government and rebel front delegations are due to meet for ceasefire talks today.

By Sam Kiley in Kigali.