19 priests and nuns killed in Rwanda - Jesuits

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ROME, April 8 (Reuter) - Nineteen Roman Catholic nuns and priests have been massacred in the Rwandan capital Kigali in violence after the deaths of the Rwanda and Burundi presidents, the Jesuit order said on Friday.

The order said in a statement that all the victims of the killings on Thursday were African. Three European Jesuits who witnessed the massacre were spared, the order said.

The statement said the killings took place at the Jesuit order's "Centre of Spirituality" in Kigali. It did not say who was responsible.

"Those killed...included 11 nuns, five secular priests and three Jesuits.

All were African. Three European Jesuits who were at the centre when the massacre took place were spared," the statement, issued by the Jesuit head-quarters, said.

Fighting raged for a second day in Kigali and around its rebel-held parliament early on Friday as rival tribes and political groups battled for control in renewed civil war.

President Juvenal Habyarimana and Cyprien Ntaryamira, president of neighbouring Burundi, died when a plane bringing them back from regional peace talks in Tanzania was hit by a rocket on Wednesday night.

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