

EU urges end to violence in Rwanda, pledges aid

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LUXEMBOURG, April 18 (Reuter) - European Union foreign ministers on Monday appealed to the warring sides in Rwanda to end violence and negotiate a peace settlement.

The ministers issued a statement expressing consternation at the mass violence and atrocities which had claimed numerous victims in the central African state in the last two weeks.

The statement said that the EU was ready to play its part in humanitarian aid which it hoped would be organised on an adequate scale to deal with the human tragedy unfolding in the region.

The ministers praised the solidarity of EU member states which had helped to organise the withdrawal of almost all foreigners from Rwanda following the upsurge of violence.

Thousands of people have been killed in Rwanda in the past two weeks in an orgy of violence that erupted after the presidents of Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi were killed in a rocket attack on a plane at Kigali airport on April 6.

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