U.S. calls for peace talks in Rwanda

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WASHINGTON, April 22 (Reuter) - The White House called on warring factions in Rwanda Friday to agree to an immediate ceasefire and said the United States was prepared to take part in efforts to arrange a political settlement of their dispute.

Its plea for an end to bitter internecine fighting that has killed tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands coincided with a meeting between National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and Rwandan human rights monitor Monique Mujawamarija.

Mujawamarija narrowly escaped with her life after mayhem between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes spread through Kigali after the killing of Rwanda's president April 6.

"We call on the Rwandan army and the Rwandan Patriotic Front to agree on an immediate ceasefire and return to negotiations called for and facilitated by the government of Tanzania," a White House statement said.

It added that the United States "is prepared to participate, as in the past, in renewed negotiations in the context of the Arusha Agreement of August 4, 1993."

That agreement called for a negotiated settlement and power-sharing between the rival tribes.

The White House statement said Lake had expressed his deep satisfaction that Mujawamarija had escaped harm, and that he was deeply concerned about the continued violence in Rwanda.

"All responsible officials and military officers must bring offending troops and units under control immediately," it said.

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