El Pais reports massacre of 1,180 Tutsis

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MADRID, April 15 (AFP) - More than 1,000 Tutsis were massacred by Hutu fighters in a Rwandan village east of the capital Kigali, the Spanish daily El Pais reported Friday.

According to the El Pais correspondent, dozens of bodies, most of them horribly mutilated, were lying in and around a church in Gikoro, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of the capital Kigali.

The journalist quoted two Roman Catholic priests who said 1,180 people had been killed in the massacre last Wednesday. All were Tutsis, the priests said.

In the Zairean capital, Kinshasha, meanwhile, sources said close to 50,000 Burundians were seeking refuge in Zaire.

The sources said Zaire had opened its borders to Burundian and Rwandan refugees and European nationals fleeing the fighting in Rrwanda.

In Paris, meanwhile, the information service for the French armed forces announced that no French troops remained in war-torn Rwanda.

The service said the last detachment of some 50 troops had left Kigali for Bangui, Central Africa, on Thursday.

The only remaining French nationals in Rwanda were some priests and some French people married to Rwandans, a spokesman said.

Some 150 French paratroopers involved in evacuating foreigners from Rwanda returned to France Friday.

During their six-day mission, some 500 French paratroopers evacuated 1,280 foreigners.

In Kigali, a Belgian officer said the Belgian contingent of the United Nations mission in Rwanda would leave the Rwandan capital by the beginning of next week.

The officer, who wanted to remain anonymous, said the Belgians' departure would leave the remaining peacekeepers lacking equipment.

The Belgians, the officer said, had by far the greatest number of vehicles and the most sophisticated weaponry.

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