

Rwanda rebels claim to be have reached Kigali suburbs

AFP, April 11, 1994

KAMPALA, April 11 (AFP) - Rwandan rebels said Monday they had reached the outskirts of the capital Kigali and were poised to march on the city to reinforce colleagues besieged there, a rebel spokeswoman said.

"We are about to storm Kigali primarily to reinforce our forces besieged in the capital," Christine Umutoni, spokeswoman of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) in Uganda told reporters here.

She said the front would try to capture all members of the presidential guard and try them for war crimes.

"We shall take over these people but after the war they will face the law of the land for crimes they committed," Umutoni said.

The presidential guard has been blamed for the murder of several government officials and thousands of civilians including the prime minister

since the death of Rwanda President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundian counterpart Cyprien Ntaryamira in a plane crash in Kigali on Wednesday.

Umutoni said the rebel front did not recognize a ceasefire announced by the United Nations during the weekend.

"We don't think at this time the UN has the moral authority to work-out a ceasefire ... they failed in the first place to see that the Arusha peace accord is observed by these people now killing Rwandese ... as far as we are concerned there is no ceasefire of any kind," she said.

Arusha is a town in Tanzania where the Rwandan government and rebels signed a peace agreement last year in an effort to end three years of civil war.

The agreement calls on the Hutu-dominated government to bring the Tutsi rebels into a transitional gov-

ernment, but the deal has never been str/jnm/dw
implemented.