

Rebels hunted after attack on army post

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KIGALI, Jan 30 (AFP) - Rwandan government troops are hunting down rebels in the northwest of the country after a major rebel advance and an attack on a government army base last week, informed sources said Thursday.

There was heavy fighting Wednesday in the Butaro region localities of Kindoyi, Rutovu and Musama, all of which the rebels had occupied, the sources said.

Rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (FPR) last Thursday attacked a military headquarters in the Butaro region with rocket-launchers, mortars and automatic weapons.

The rebels attacked other army positions on Sunday, officials said. Military sources said those who attacked the Butaro headquarters had been wearing Ugandan Army uniforms.

Since the FPR launched its offensive in October 1990, authorities here have accused the Kampala government of backing the insurrection.

Many of the rebels are deserters from the Ugandan armed forces. They come from Rwanda's minority Tutsi clan, tens of thousands of whom have lived in exile since a Hutu uprising put an end to Tutsi feudal rule in 1959.

More than 800 Tutsi refugees from the fighting in Rwanda have taken shelter in a temporary United Nations camp at Kirundo in the north of neighbouring Burundi, an AFP correspondent on the scene there said Thursday.

Some of them bore wounds which they said were inflicted by Rwandan government soldiers who accused them of belonging to or supporting the FPR.

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