Rwanda fighting spreads to the south, says aid body

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BRUSSELS, April 8 (AFP) - Ethnic clashes in Rwanda have spread from the capital Kigali to the south of the country, the humanitarian organisation Medicins sans Frontieres (MSF - Doctors without Borders) said here Friday.

It said conditions were tense around the southern town of Butare, where Hutu refugees have been threatening the local Tutsi inhabitants, and in the Burengue region where fighting has been reported in villages near refugee camps.

MSF said in a statement that it had been forced to evacuate 62 doctors and aid workers from the two regions into neighbouring Burundi because of the fighting.

Earlier, the International Committee of the Red Cross said ethnic fighting in Kigali had left at least 1,000 Rwandans dead and thousands more wounded over the last two days.

MSF said it was trying to send two surgical teams and 10 tonnes of medical equipment into the Rwandan capital overnight Friday.

"At this moment the situation in Kigali is extremely tense and it is impossible to move around by car. The wounded in the central hospital and in the streets of the city need immediate attention," it added.

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