

Rwanda peace talks deadlocked by army dispute

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DAR ES SALAAM, March 31 (AFP) - Peace talks between Rwanda's government and its rebel adversaries are deadlocked over a dispute about the number of soldiers each side would contribute to a proposed joint army, officials said Wednesday.

The two sides have agreed to merge their forces in a 13,000-strong army.

But the government wants 80 percent of the troops to come from its forces, while the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) wants the army

to include roughly equal numbers of rebels and government soldiers.

The rebels said neither side should have more than 10 percent more soldiers than the other, according to officials mediating at the talks in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha.

It was unclear whether there was a similar dispute about a joint force of 6,000 paramilitary police and 3,000 ordinary policemen which they have also agreed to form.

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