

# Africans urge Rwanda, Burundi to mourn in peace

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ADDIS ABABA, April 7 (Reuter) - Fellow Africans urged the people of Rwanda and Burundi on Thursday to mourn their slain presidents in peace instead of fuelling ethnic hatred.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) expressed its great "shock, sorrow and regret" at the deaths of President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi.

An OAU statement urged the tiny central African states to "mourn these sons and leaders of Africa with maximum restraint."

It said their deaths on Wednesday were more tragic as they were returning from a peace summit in Dar es Salaam, convened by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi in a bid to end tribal bloodletting.

The OAU called on both Burundians and Rwandans to reject anything that would worsen the situation in their countries.

"Every effort and measure should be exerted to ensure that the momentum for peace in the two countries is sustained and the legacy of peace these two leaders leave behind is preserved," it said.

East African leaders also condemned the deaths, warning that any violence in Burundi and Rwanda threatened the whole region.

In Kampala, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said: "It is an unfortunate incident which underlines the problems facing our continent. It must be condemned in the strongest terms possible."

In a message to the people of Rwanda, Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi said: "The people of Rwanda should try to pursue avenues for peace rigorously. The situation must not be allowed to deteriorate." He urged Burundians not to lose hope of a lasting solution to political problems facing their country.

Tanzania, which hosted the peace summit, called the deaths tragic and declared a day of mourning. (c) Reuters Limited 1994