

Belgian foreign minister flies home in Rwanda crisis

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BUCHAREST, April 8 (Reuter) - Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes interrupted a visit to Romania on Friday to fly home to help tackle the crisis caused by Thursday night's massacre of Belgian peacekeepers in Rwanda.

"We lost some 10 peacekeepers in Kigali on Thursday, which was a tragic night for us," Claes told reporters. "I will leave Romania today to join my cabinet colleagues in Brussels."

Claes was originally scheduled to end a three-day visit to Romania on Saturday.

He was asked how Belgium - the former colonial power in Rwanda - would react to tribal violence and

the killing on Wednesday of Rwanda's president and prime minister. He declined to say whether Belgium would send troops to the African country.

"So far there are no signs that fellow Belgians and other Europeans in Rwanda are in great difficulty," Claes told Reuters.

"We are going to observe all the rules of the game within the United Nations framework."

Claes said Rwandan Patriotic Front troops were still battling in the streets of the capital Kigali on Friday against presidential troops and guards.

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