

# Belgium says 10 Belgian soldiers killed in Rwanda

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BRUSSELS, April 8 (Reuter) - Belgium said on Friday that 10 of its peacekeepers had been killed by Rwandan soldiers in Thursday's eruption of violence in the central African state.

"The Belgian armed forces have the painful duty to announce that 10 Belgian military blue helmets were killed on April 7 by Rwandan soldiers," said a statement by Defence Ministry spokesman Colonel Van de Weghe.

A U.N. official in Rwanda earlier reported the deaths of 11 Belgians serving with United Nations forces there.

The statement said the soldiers, members of the second commando battalion of Flawinne in Belgium, were in charge of the security of Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana. She was also killed in Thursday's violence.

The Belgian soldiers were "apprehended" as the prime minister tried to flee Rwandan soldiers who had surrounded her residence, said the statement.

"The Belgian soldiers were disarmed, then taken to a military camp in Kigali where they were executed."

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