

Medical charity MSF to send aid, doctors to Rwanda

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PARIS, April 9 (Reuter) - Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said on Saturday it planned to send 33 tonnes of medical aid and two teams of doctors to the Rwandan capital Kigali to care for dozens of people in urgent need of surgery.

Anne Brown, a spokeswoman for the Paris branch of Belgian-based MSF, said a plane carrying 26 tonnes of blood and surgical supplies would fly on Sunday from Brussels or Amsterdam to the Burundi capital Bujumbura, where they would pick up the surgeons.

A second plane with seven tonnes of aid hoped to leave Nairobi for Kigali on Sunday morning, Brown said.

Both planes would have to wait until they received authorisation from French troops controlling Kigali airport with Rwandan troops before heading there, she said.

A MSF statement said several of its 40 medical experts in Kigali were able to enter the city's hospital on Saturday. More than 50 people with serious injuries would need emergency major surgery, it said.

The director of the Belgian branch of MSF said on Friday that several dozen Rwandans working for international aid organisations in Kigali had been massacred.

MSF director Georges Dallemagne said armed men, believed to be from Rwanda's presidential guard, had shot the aid workers dead in front of expatriate staff.

Brown said it was not known whether any of MSF's 126 volunteers in Rwanda had been killed.

Two French humanitarian aid groups said on Friday they were evacuating foreign workers from Rwanda because of massacres and chaos in the central African country.

Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) and Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres (Pharmacists Without Borders) said the decision had been taken to protect the lives of their workers.

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