

France evacuates more nationals from Rwanda

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PARIS, April 10 (Reuter) - France said it had resumed evacuating its nationals by air from Rwanda on Sunday and had sent troop reinforcements to the central African country.

The Defence Ministry said 64 nationals were flown out of the Rwandan capital Kigali to the Burundi capital Bujumbura on Sunday, bringing to more than 150 the number of French citizens rescued since evacuation operation "Amaryllis" began on Saturday.

On Saturday evening an initial military flight carried 43 French nationals from Kigali to the Central African Republic capital of Bangui, marking the beginning of an international air evacuation effort.

An undisclosed number of the 600-odd French nationals in Rwanda safely fled the towns of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi by road toward neighbouring Zaire or Burundi, the ministry said in a statement.

A new contingent of soldiers took off from Bangui for Kigali on Sunday and will raise the number of French troops at Kigali airport and in the capital to 460 men, including a surgery unit, the ministry said.

A company of soldiers was to leave the southwestern French city of Toulouse on Sunday for Bangui to reinforce France's military presence in Africa. Before the evacuation operation began France had about 8,600 soldiers on the continent.

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