

# More than 1,000 Rwandans flee into Zaire

Reuters, April 11, 1994

KINSHASA, April 11 (Reuter) - More than 1,000 Rwandans have crossed the border into neighbouring Zaire to escape bloody reprisals back home, an international aid agency reported on Monday.

The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) said the flood of refugees, most of them from the minority Tutsi tribe, started on Thursday, the day after the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed in a rocket attack on their airplane.

The refugees are streaming into the far eastern Zairean town of Goma, where they are being met by aid organisations such as Medecins sans Frontieres, Oxfam and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

A spokesman for the ICRC said he was hearing confused reports of fighting just across the border from Zaire, but had no confirmation of what was happening.

The French, Belgian and British embassies in Kinshasa were trying to organise the evacuation of two groups of Western nationals who fled into the Zairean lakeside towns of Goma and Bukavu.

They are due to be ferried by plane to the Burundi capital of Bujumbura, where they will join the main evacuation being organised by the Belgian government.

(c) Reuters Limited 1994