

Dar es-Salaam [Mpungwe expressed optimism that the two sides would sign a peace accord]

AFP, March 22, 1993

The rebels are mostly exiles whose families fled massacres in the late 1950s after the Tutsis, Rwanda's traditional rulers, lost a power struggle to the Hutus.

Clashes between Hutus and Tutsis killed thousand of people in neighbouring Burundi in 1988.

On the sidelines of the Arusha talks, representatives of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations, Tanzania, Rwanda's government and the RPF were discussing ways to send more OAU military observers to supervise the latest ceasefire, which took effect on March 9.

Fifty OAU ceasefire monitors have been in Rwanda since an earlier ceasefire was agreed in July.

Ami Mpungwe, a Tanzanian diplomat chairing the Arusha talks, expressed optimism that the two sides would sign a peace accord early next month.

Rebel forces last week withdrew from three northern regions captured in last month's fighting. France said it would pull out troops sent to protect foreigners in the central African country.

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