

Rwandan peace negotiators sign accord on power-sharing

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DAR ES SALAAM, Oct 31 (AFP) - The Rwandan government and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) signed a partial protocol on power-sharing on Saturday as a first step to end their devastating two-year civil war, Tanzanian foreign minister Ahmed Hassan Diria confirmed by telephone from Arusha in northern Tanzania.

The accord, which comes after a month of intensive negotiations, contains a concession by Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana to share executive powers and not to veto decisions taken by a new transitional cabinet, Diria said.

However, the RPF rebels will not enter government until other portions of the power-sharing protocol have been successfully negotiated, Di-

ria said.

The peace talks were adjourned for two weeks earlier on Friday after the two sides failed to agree on modalities for representation in a proposed all-party transitional national assembly and the sharing of cabinet portfolios.

The signed protocol contains agreements for a weaker presidency, an executive cabinet headed by a prime minister and a judiciary under which the supreme court would be restored.

After further consultations with their respective leaderships, the two delegations will return to Arusha in mid-November to tackle the remaining sticking points of the peace negotiations.

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