

Tribal clashes reported in northwest

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KIGALI, Feb 8 (AFP) - Ethnic fighting between Hutus and Tutsis flared up Monday in the northwestern town of Ruhengeri, informed sources reported here in Rwanda's capital.

Telephone links with the town were cut and it was impossible to verify the extent of the fighting between the Rwandan Patriotic Front and troops of the Hutu-controlled government.

The government radio, for its part, said the fighting was started by Tutsi troops of the Patriotic Front who staged attacks on the villages of Nyabishambi and Karabi, in the north.

Last month, more than 80 persons were killed in tribal fighting in Rwanda's northwest.

On Friday, ambassadors from Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, the United States and Canada - who provide the bulk of Rwanda's foreign aid - met with President Juvenal Habyarimana and urged him to take steps to end the violence.

Habyarimana expressed his regrets and assured his visitors that steps were being taken to bring peace to the affected area, according to a communique.

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