

# News Release

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## RWANDA: OUELLET CONDEMNS KIBEHO MASSACRES

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today vigorously condemned Saturday's charge on the Kibeho camp by the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), which resulted in some 2000 dead and at least 650 wounded, some of them very seriously.

After expressing his revulsion at the news of the massacre, which could have been avoided, the Minister went on to say, "This attack by the soldiers of the RPA very seriously jeopardizes the efforts at national reconciliation both by the Rwandans themselves and by the international community. This violence is totally unacceptable. An inquiry must be launched and the perpetrators identified; and the Rwandan government must take steps to ensure such a slaughter does not recur. I remind the Rwandan authorities that it is their duty to establish a climate of confidence to encourage the return of refugees, in accordance with the commitments they made at the Bujumbura conference on refugees in mid-February. For the time being, I have dispatched Ambassador Dussault to the scene. He will report to me promptly and the Canadian government will make the necessary decisions."

The Army circled some 90 000 refugees on a hillside camp at Kibeho in an attempt to force them to return home. With the help of UNAMIR (United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda), the authorities had succeeded in persuading the refugees in the former "Turquoise" zone to return home voluntarily. Whereas by the end of the war last July they had numbered some two million, there were now no more than 200 000 still in the camp.

Mr. Ouellet deplored this sudden recourse to unwarranted violence, which has cast doubt on whether the Rwandan government is sincere about national reconciliation.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874



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