

Congo Combatants Agree to Cease-Fire

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KIGALI, Rwanda, June 19 — The Congolese government and two rebel factions agreed today to halt fighting in an eastern region and pull back from newly occupied areas, hours after a battle for a town there killed dozens of people.

The cease-fire was signed in neighboring Burundi by the Congolese government, the Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy and the government-allied Congolese Rally for Democracy-ML.

Earlier today, the Rwanda-backed group captured Lubero in North Kivu Province from government troops and their allies, Sylvain Mbuki, the group's military chief, said from its headquarters in Goma on the Rwandan border.

Fighting began on Wednesday in Lubero, 100 miles north of Goma and about halfway to Bunia, where fighting among tribal militia has killed 500 people since May.

A French-led international emergency force is in Bunia to protect civilians and curb the violence after 700 United Nations troops stationed there did not intervene. Uruguay said today that it would deploy another 190 troops as part of the multinational force.

United Nations military observers in Lubero confirmed that the Rwanda-backed side had captured the town, said Hamadoun Touré, spokesman for the United Nations mission.