

Reports from Eritrea say a group of around 100 soldiers have surrounded the ministry of information in the capital, Asmara.

State TV has also reportedly been taken off air in what some have described as a coup attempt.

The city is said to be calm with no shots having been fired.

Eritrea's government has been criticised by human rights activists as one of the world's most

repressive and closed countries. The websites of key Eritrean state and ruling party media are currently operating

erratically, with the site for the ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) party inaccessible.

President Isaias Afewerki has ruled the country as a one-party state since independence from neighbouring Ethiopia.