

Sudan People's Liberation Army



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

Office of the SPLA Spokesman

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SPLA Press Release on the withdrawal of SAF from Rum-Akeer of Northern Bahr El Ghazal State

Two Infantry Companies of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) decided to withdraw northward from the old railway station of Rum-Akeer of Awiel North County, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State at the night of 16th October 2007. It is worth noting that at 7 pm of the above mentioned date, a group of drunken soldiers from both SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) clashed in the market of Rum-Akeer, where they were drinking alcohol, resulting in the following casualties:

- SAF side: One (1) killed and four (4) wounded;
- SPLA side: Three (3) wounded.

The withdrawing SAF Infantry Companies attacked our two Infantry Companies at Wahr-Guet Base (known in Arabic as Bahr El Arab railway station) in the morning and mid-day of 17/10/2007 with the following casualties:

- SAF side: Eight (8) killed and unknown number of wounded as the attackers succeeded to evacuate their wounded;
- SPLA side: One (1) killed and two (2) wounded.

The SAF Units in El-Muglad, Meiram and the northern bank of Wahr-Guet, are very busy preparing to retaliate.

The Governor of Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, Col. Madut Biar Yel and the SPLA command in the State are doing their level best to calm down the situation.

It is worth noting that Rum-Akeer is one of the villages of Northern Bahr El Ghazal State where SAF is refusing to redeploy from them despite the passing of the 9/7/2007 dateline of SAF redeployment to the north of 1/1/1956 border between Northern and Southern Sudan. Two Infantry Companies of SAF and one Infantry Company of SPLA "Proper" were deployed in Rum-Akeer.

The casualties on the two sides are regrettable and are lost to the Sudan. The incident is now being investigated by the joint committee from SAF, SPLA and

UNMIS that left Juba to Northern Bahr El Ghazal State since Saturday, 20/10/2007.

Thanks.

Signed:

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