



Sudan People's Liberation Army



Office of the SPLA Spokesman

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SPLA is not Advancing towards Northern Sudan nor Approaching the town of Kosti

Reference to repeated allegation by some Khartoum newspapers and politicians that the SPLA is advancing towards Northern Sudan and is approaching the town of Kosti, let me assure the Sudanese people that the allegation is not true. The allegation is a big lie for deviating public attention from the current political crisis in the country. The period of disengagement of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has elapsed on the 9th July 2007 as agreed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The CPA also defines Northern Sudan as the area of SAF deployment and Southern Sudan as the area of SPLA deployment. Therefore, it is the right of the SPLA to deploy in any part of Southern Sudan when directed by the political authorities of Southern Sudan after the passing of the disengagement period. Units of SAF that are still in Southern Sudan, apart from those in the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), are staying illegally, yet the SPLA is pursuing peaceful avenue through mechanisms of the CPA for their redeployment to Northern Sudan. The following are facts on ground in Northern Upper Nile State and any genuine Journalist can verify them. The facts are:

1. On the 22.9.2007 Northern Upper State Security Committee directed SPLA to deploy one Infantry Company to the village of Wunthou (known in Arabic as Joda) to support the Police in controlling the situation due to local feud in the village;
2. On the 7.10.2007 Joda Police detained four (4) trucks loaded with explosives, ammunition and guns being sent illegally to Southern Sudan. SAF began to reinforce their force in Joda with the aim of releasing by force the four detained trucks. That was the beginning of the current tension in Northern Upper Nile State;
3. On the 8.10.2007 SPLA deployed one Infantry Battalion to the village of El-Halaga (between Wunthou and Gerger) as requested by the civil authorities due to raising tension caused by the detained four trucks;

4. On the 18.10.2007 the Northern Upper State Security Committee requested the deployment of one SPLA Infantry Company to the village of Kuek on the western bank of the river Nile.
5. There is no SPLA unit deployed to the village of Tebin as alleged by the warmongers. There is a Police station only in Tebin.

Let me reiterate that the SPLA is not advancing towards Northern Sudan nor approaching the town of Kosti. Those who beat drums of war are warned that times of cheap politicking and blackmailing are gone.

Thanks.

Signed:

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