



## **Center for African Affairs and Global Peace**

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#### **Mogadishu under fire**

An outburst of fighting this week has killed at least 80 people, many of them civilians, say Mogadishu residents. More than 200 people have been wounded in the last 24 hours as Ethiopian forces are engaged in reprisal attacks after two soldiers' bodies were dragged through the streets on Thursday. Somali insurgents have dragged the bodies of two dead Ethiopian soldiers through the streets of Mogadishu after a day of heavy battles. Residents say hundreds of people trailed after them, pelting the corpses with stones, chanting "God is great".

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Eric Laroche, told parliament in Baidoa that 1.5 million Somalis were in need of emergency aid, the Reuters news agency reports. Mogadishu's hospitals are packed with wounded and refugees from the fighting, and are reported to be running low on supplies of food and water. Doctors say hospitals are overflowing with badly injured people. "As you can see there is nothing they left for us and most of those who died, died due to injuries they sustained and no medical assistance," Saido Ali Asoble told Reuters news agency.

On the other hand, the idea of deploying UN peacekeeping troops to Somalia became "neither realistic nor viable", the UN head has said. Ban Ki-Moon said due to the security situation, it had not even been possible to send a technical assessment team to Somalia. The African Union (AU) did agree to send 8,000 peacekeepers to Somalia earlier this year but only 1,600 Ugandan troops have actually made it. Mr. Ban suggests the international community could consider other options, including a multi-national force or what he calls a "coalition of the willing". But diplomats say it is hard to imagine which countries will want to contribute troops given how dangerous and chaotic Somalia is. Presidential adviser Abdirashid Sed told the BBC. "This problem needs international intervention and an international solution."

Some good news came from Addis Ababa, November 9, 2007 (Addis Ababa), as The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) said more than 29,000 quintals of food aid has been transported to distribution stations for people in need of relief

food assistance in various Zones of the Somali State. Some 109 heavy duty trucks have transported the food aid. This was disclosed at a consultative meeting held here on Friday which was attended by heads of United Nations Agencies, representatives of pertinent Federal sector organizations. UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia Fidel Sorosoro and Director General of DPPA, Simon Mechale jointly chaired the meeting. Some 36 heavy duty trucks would soon be deployed on Saturday to transport the relief aid to Degehabour, Warder and Korahe Zones of the State. DPPA and World Food Program (WFP) are undertaking preliminary activities to increase the number of distribution station to 186 from 35 currently. The teams would monitor the situation of the State and execution of the food aid provision; it was disclosed in the course of the meeting.

Finally, more than 400,000 - nearly a third of Mogadishu's population - had fled since February, and this number is supposed to grow after the Islamists and opposition groups agreed to form a new alliance to overturn the government and force Ethiopian troops out of Somalia.

References:

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