

**PRESS RELEASE NO 098/2004****THE AFRICAN UNION DEPLOYS MORE TROOPS IN
DARFUR AS PART OF ITS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN
AMIS**

As part of its efforts aimed at strengthening the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and as a follow up to the decision of the 17th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the AU held on 20 October 2004, the AU has deployed in the Darfur region of the Sudan, today, a group of 50 military personnel from Nigeria. This deployment of Nigerian troops will be followed by the deployment on 30 October of 237 troops from Rwanda.

These new deployments, together with the 310 military personnel from Nigeria and Rwanda the AU has already sent to Darfur earlier in August, will bring the military component of the AMIS to 597 troops.

This significant expansion of the military personnel of AMIS follows the 17th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the AU, which decided that AMIS shall now consist of 3,320 personnel, including 2,341 military personnel, among them 450 observers, up to 815 civilian police personnel, as well as the appropriate civilian personnel.

More troops from Nigeria and from other African countries are expected to be deployed in the following days.

Addis Ababa, 28 October 2004