OAU secretary general expected in Burundi

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BUJUMBURA, Oct 30 (AFP) - The secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity was expected in Bujumbura on Saturday to assess the chances of restoring stability to the country wracked by a coup attempt, Radio Burundi reported.

It said Salim Ahmed Salim would be accompanied by Said Rifaat, special envoy of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the current OAU president.

Both men attended a regional summit on the Burundi crisis in Kigali, capital of neighbouring Rwanda, on Thursday.

The summit, also attended by Rwanda's President Juvenal Habyarimana, Tanzanian Prime Minister John Malecela, and Zairean Prime Minister Faustin Birindwa, urged the immediate deployment of an Africanled multinational peacekeeping force in Burundi.

But Rwandan radio reported Saturday that Rwanda would not be able to contribute troops to any international force in Burundi. Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastase Gasana was quoted as saying that "Rwanda, which has just emerged from three years of fractricidal war, is not in a position to take part immediately in the force by sending troops to Burundi."

"However, Rwanda would not dissociate itself from the action, but would take part in one way or another in the stabilization force and in restoring confidence in Burundi," Gasana said.

Burundi President Melchior Ndadaye was murdered in the bloody coup on October 21.

Radio Burundi reported late Friday that Burundi's ministers who survived the putsch have begun touring the countryside to reassure the population.

The radio said some ministers visited villages in Kirundo, Muyinga and Karuzi provinces in northern Burundi, Ruyigi and Cankuzo provinces in the west of the country, and the central province of Gitega.

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