

Nigerian president retires 40 generals

by UPI

LAGOS, Nigeria -- About 40 Nigerian generals have been retired by orders of President Umaru Yar'Adua, whose office said there was no motive for the mass layoff. "The retired officers are those who were due for retirement having spent the stipulated 35 years in service," read a statement from the president's office, This Day newspaper reported Wednesday. "No other motives should be ascribed to this purely routine movement of personnel in the Armed Forces." Some speculated the president retired the generals to stave off a possible coup, a notion Yar'Adua's office denies. The Nigerian leader who was elected in April has vowed to crack down on government and military corruption, as well as the violence plaguing the oil-rich West African nation.

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