



**Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa:
Eritrea's View**

*An Information package prepared by
The Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the UN
New York*

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I. Introduction

1. Eritrea has been grappling with several challenges since it emerged as an independent nation in 1991, after several years of bitter armed struggle against Ethiopian colonial rule. The Horn of Africa is a sub-region that has suffered, at this juncture of history, more than its share of conflicts and natural disasters. Yet, despite these daunting obstacles, Eritrea has been focused on the rehabilitation and development of its war ravaged society and economy as well as defending its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. The serious efforts towards the achievements of several objectives of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, including the 17% economic growth registered in 2011 are all testimonies to Eritrea's focus on development.

2. However, Ethiopia's occupation of sovereign Eritrea territories in violation of the "final and binding" delimitation and demarcation decisions of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission remains a serious impediment to peace and development in the region. The lack of action by the Security Council on Ethiopia's failure to respect its treaty obligations and its breach of international law has emboldened Ethiopia to up the ante and to publicly announce its futile schemes of overthrowing the Government of Eritrea by military means. To execute its policy of "regime change", the Government of Ethiopia has, among other things, organized and hosted a conference of Eritrean subversive groups in Awasa, Southern Ethiopia, in November last year.¹ It has stepped up its military attacks by organizing, hosting, training, financing and arming groups opposed to the Government of Eritrea. The armed incursions into Eritrean territory on 15 March 2012, which Ethiopia publicly announced, are acts of naked aggression that constitute a singular menace to regional destabilization. But Ethiopia's pronounced policies and strident acts of destabilization continue to be tolerated by the UNSC with impunity for reasons that have nothing to do with the maintenance of regional peace and security or the supremacy of law. In the event, the President of the State of Eritrea has requested, through his letter of 27 March 2012, the UN Security Council to launch an investigation into these acts that are principally abetted by and that implicate another State – the United States of America. Despite Ethiopia's continued policy of destabilization, which requires the urgent action of the Security Council, Eritrea has stated that it will exercise, as much as possible, restraint and will remain committed to regional peace and security as highlighted in the subsequent paragraphs of this information package.

II. Eritrea's contributions towards Regional Peace and Development

3. Eritrea's regional policy may be succinctly described as anchored on the promotion of a safe and cooperative neighborhood. This policy emanates from, and is underpinned by, compelling economic, political and security considerations. The reality of regional economic complementarities amid the inexorable trend of globalization; the exigencies of creating a regional common market to attract foreign investments of scale; as well as historical affiliations and trade ties that exist between the peoples of the region that transcend the limits set by geographic boundaries dictate that functional regional economic blocs are fostered and consolidated. The political imperative is equally evident as almost invariably in all these countries, the same

¹ See **Annex 1** Ethiopia's senior officials have been stating publicly their desire to 'overthrow' the Eritrean government and have been hosting meetings of subversive Eritrean elements with much publicity.



linguistic and ethnic groups straddle the State boundaries. The fact is the peoples of the Horn of Africa region are bound by deep historical ties as well as cultural affiliations. Security considerations assume paramount importance due to deleterious spillover effects of turmoil or instability in any country; the tendency of opposition movements to seek haven in neighboring countries; as well as a recent history of tragic intra-State and inter-State wars.

4. This policy precept has been pursued and implemented by the Government of Eritrea through a three-pronged strategy:

- a. **Promotion of regional security architectures that can play a pivotal role in prevention, management and resolution of conflicts:** Eritrea joined IGAD in 1994 soon after its formal independence. The Authority was formed in 1986 with a narrow mandate to deal with drought and desertification among its members. In 1995, Eritrea joined ranks with its sisterly countries in the region in the effort to revitalize and expand the organization, with the aim to render it an important tool for regional integration. However, in 2007, the Authority endorsed Ethiopia's invasion of Somalia, in contravention to its own earlier decisions and UNSC resolution 1725 (2006) that prohibited neighboring countries from intervening in Somalia, including through the mantle of peacekeeping. The decision compelled Eritrea to temporarily suspend its participation from IGAD meetings. In July 2011, Eritrea informed the Executive Secretary of IGAD that it is ready to resume its participation at IGAD meetings. However, Ethiopia is singlehandedly and illegally blocking, to date, Eritrea's return to the organization.²

As part of its efforts to promote peace in the region, Eritrea has made modest contributions to finding settlement to the conflicts in the region. Eritrea's pivotal contributions in the articulation of the Declaration of Principles that IGAD enunciated in 1994 is a matter of historical record. In the years that followed and with its partners in IGAD, Eritrea was constructively involved through its envoy in the facilitation of the negotiations that eventually led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 between South Sudan and The Sudan. Eritrea also believes that ensuring unity and stability of North Sudan and establishing cooperative relations between the two states is critical for both parties and the entire region.

Eritrea's catalytic role in bringing about an agreement between the central Government in Khartoum and the eastern opposition movements which resulted in the Asmara Peace Accord as well as its multiple joint efforts with other regional countries – Chad, Libya, and Qatar– to contribute to a congenial environment for a Sudanese solution to the problems in Darfur all fit into its efforts to ensure safe and cooperative neighborhood.

It is important to note that Eritrea continued to promote, in its modest capacity and principally through the regional forum of IGAD as the most appropriate vehicle, an enduring solution to the crisis in Somalia. In its genuine efforts and quest to cultivate a common regional consensus on the diagnosis and most viable solution to this seemingly intractable problem, Eritrea did not hesitate to go against the international current to publicly pronounce its views and opinions with honesty and candor. Eritrea's policy views on

² See **Annex 2** Ethiopia has been illegally and singlehandedly blocking the participation of Eritrea in the IGAD meetings since last year.



resolving the Somali crisis can be summarized as: (a) there can be no military solution to the conflict; (b) a lasting solution can only be the outcome of an inclusive political process and, (c) success will be predicated on a process that is Somali-owned and Somali-driven; one that respects the choice of the Somali people.

b. **Promotion of pacific settlement of disputes and strict adherence to international law:**

The Eritrean government believes that predictable inter-State relations rest on strict adherence to international law. In all the disputes Eritrea faced, it sought pacific settlements and has faithfully and invariably implemented the rulings of international arbitration; even when it was utterly dissatisfied with the rulings. For instance, in 1995, Eritrea was dragged into minor skirmishes with **Yemen** about the Hanish Islands in the Red Sea, when the latter did not only lay new claims on, but also put settlements in, the disputed islands. These islands were always part of Eritrea (during Italian, British Temporary Administration and Ethiopian colonial rules). The dispute was soon referred to international arbitration on the basis of an agreement brokered by the French Government. The arbitration decision was not in Eritrea's favor. However, in line with its strong commitment to pacific settlement of disputes and strict adherence to international law, Eritrea gracefully accepted the verdict and evacuated its troops from the islands promptly.

On Djibouti, Eritrea has long maintained that there is no "good-faith border dispute" between the two sisterly nations, and if it existed the mechanisms that both the governments put in place in the years prior to the incident could have led to an acceptable bilateral solution, without internationalizing the matter. In reality, the incident was part of US ploy to tarnish Eritrea's image and encircle it regionally, with the intent of diverting attention from the mounting pressure on Ethiopia to respect the demarcation decision of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). As part of that ploy and putting the cart before the horse, Eritrea was first condemned by the Security Council for an 'aggression' against Djibouti and days later the Council requested to dispatch a fact finding mission to the region to investigate the incident between the two countries. The question, however, still remains, on what bases did the Council first condemn Eritrea if it did not have all the facts in the first place? And why was it necessary to elevate a putative dispute to that level and use it as a basis for sanctions against Eritrea; particularly when the UN Security Council had kept mum for years in regard to Ethiopia's occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories?

What is hopeful about the two States is that they have agreed for a third party mediation. In June 2010, the leaders of the two countries signed a peace agreement entrusting the Emir of Qatar to facilitate the determination of the boundary of the two countries.³ It is Eritrea's conviction that both parties remain committed to the efforts of the State of Qatar in finalizing the mediation process.

c. **Cultivation of robust bilateral ties with individual neighboring countries:**

Until **Ethiopia** invaded Eritrea in 1998, the two countries enjoyed strong economic, cultural and security relations. Ethiopia had been using Eritrean ports at symbolic rates and without any hindrance. Even during the war, Eritrea offered the use of its ports to transport humanitarian aid to Ethiopia. Similarly, since the determination of the maritime boundary

³ See **Annex 3** the full text of the Agreement signed between the State of Eritrea and Republic of Djibouti. Both countries has entrusted the mediator with determining the boundary.



between Eritrea and Yemen, both of these states are enjoying warm relationship with frequent high-level visits to both capitals. Moreover, Yemen and Eritrea signed no less than eight bilateral agreements on various forms of cooperation. In the event, Eritrea has no reasons to doubt that the end of Ethiopia's occupation will lead the way for lasting peace and cooperation between the two countries. In any case, the normalization of bilateral ties between two neighbouring countries, with its inevitable ebbs and flows, is predicated on mutual respect, and can never occur or flourish, when one side persists in violating the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the other.

Eritrea's relation with **the Sudan** has been rapidly improving since the signing of the CPA. The finalization of the highway linking Sudan to Eritrea, abolishment of visa for the citizens of the two countries, and plans for open border for the free movement of peoples and goods demonstrate the will for fostering enduring and strategic cooperation between the two sisterly countries. Eritrea has welcomed the referendum in **Southern Sudan**, respected the choice of the people to set up an independent State and has demonstrated to the Government of Southern Sudan its solidarity with, and support for the new State. In the past twenty years, and despite some challenges, Eritrea's relations with its immediate neighbours - Djibouti, the Sudan, Egypt, Chad, Kenya, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Uganda, have been generally good.⁴

III. Ethiopia's Violation of the Peace Agreement

5. For ten years now, Ethiopia continues to occupy sovereign Eritrean territories in complete disregard of international law and its treaty obligations under the Algiers Agreement of 2000. Article 4 (2) of the Algiers Agreement states:

The parties agree that a neutral Boundary Commission composed of five members shall be established with a mandate to delimit and demarcate the colonial treaty border based on pertinent colonial treaties (1900, 1902 and 1908) and applicable international law. The Commission shall not have the power to make decisions *ex aequo et bono*.

In Article 4 (15) it is further stipulated:

The parties agree that the delimitation and demarcation determinations of the Commission shall be final and binding. Each party shall respect the border so determined, as well as the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the other party.

6. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, formed subsequently in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Algiers Peace Agreement, rendered its delimitation decision on 13 April 2002 after a lengthy litigation process between the parties over a period of 14 months. Eritrea accepted the decision hoping that the final determination of the border will open doors for lasting peace and development between the two countries and the region as a whole. Ethiopia, on the other hand, oscillated between:

⁴ Despite the efforts made by some countries to tarnish its image, Eritrea ties with most of its neighbors is warm and constructive **Annex 4**.



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- "wholeheartedly **accepting**" the decision in 2002, claiming that it had been awarded extra territory that it did not even claim, and calling on the Security Council to exert pressure on Eritrea to comply;
 - to **denouncing** the ruling in 2003 as "illegal, unjust and irresponsible, a recipe for continued instability, and even recurring wars" castigating the Boundary Commission and calling for an "alternative mechanism";
 - to **claiming** that it accepted 85% of the ruling in 2004 and to later accepting it "in principle,"
 - and lastly to **announcing** that it "accepted" the delimitation decision but rejecting the demarcation decision.

According to the President of the Boundary Commission:

"Ethiopia is dissatisfied with the substance of the Commission's Delimitation Decision and has been seeking, ever since April 2002, to find ways of changing it".

In his Report of January 22, 2007, UN Secretary General stated:

"Ethiopia's refusal to implement - fully and without preconditions - the final and binding decision of the Boundary Commission remains at the core of the continuing deadlock".

7. Ethiopia insisted on "dialogue" as well as the "creation of an alternative mechanism" and a "third party or a neutral body" to demarcate the border. Ethiopia's call for dialogue has always been to change the ruling as rightly noted by the Commission. The issue of dialogue is fully consummated leading up to the decision of the Commission. There is no longer "a border dispute", but only the implementation of that decision in good faith. The Commission, which was mandated by both parties to give its ruling, rejected Ethiopia's request for dialogue. In a response to a letter that was sent to the Commission by the former Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, the President of the Commission elucidated this fact. The main content of the letter by the President of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), Sir Elihu Lauterpacht, dated 27th November 2006, to the former Foreign Minister of Ethiopia,⁵ was:-

"You place great emphasis on 'the need for dialogue and support by neutral bodies to help the two Parties make progress in demarcation and normalization of their relations.' Of course, 'the normalization of relations' is a desirable objective but that is a matter that falls outside the scope of the Commission's mandate, which is solely to delimit and demarcate the border. The scope for 'dialogue' is limited to what is necessary between the Commission and the Parties to further the actual process of demarcation on the ground. There is no room within the framework of the Algiers Agreement for the introduction of 'neutral bodies' into the demarcation process."

Regarding Ethiopia's claim on the existence of "anomalies and impracticabilities", the President of the Commission states:

⁵ See **Annex 5**, for the full letter of the President of the EEBC.



"Ethiopia insisted that the boundary should be altered to meet with what Ethiopia chose to call "anomalies and impracticabilities", despite the clear statements of the Commission that this could not be done. When asked to confirm its continuing acceptance of the Delimitation Decision, Ethiopia repeatedly qualified its position by saying that it wished negotiations to take place regarding such "anomalies and impracticabilities". Eritrea's insistence on strict adherence to the terms of the Delimitation Decision was a position which it was entitled to adopt in accordance with the Algiers Agreement."

8. Faced with insurmountable Ethiopian obstructions, and undertaking its responsibility under the Algiers Agreement, the Boundary Commission ended its operations on 25 August 2008 by filing its twenty-seventh and final report to the Secretary-General. The Commission concluded its work on delimitation and demarcation of the Eritrean-Ethiopia border in November 2007 using modern techniques of image processing and terrain modeling in conjunction with the use of high resolution aerial photographs by identifying boundary points both through grid and geographical coordinates.

9. In a letter to the parties and the Secretary General of the UN, the Commission solemnly concludes: "it hereby determines that the boundary will automatically stand as demarcated by the boundary pillars points listed in the Annex hereto and that the mandate of the Commission can then be regarded as fulfilled." Subsequently, signed copies of 45 maps on a scale of 1:25,000 containing the demarcation of the boundary by coordinates were sent to the parties on 30 November 2007. A copy was also deposited with the United Nations as well as another copy for public reference is retained in the Office of the U.N Cartographer.

10. This is the final legal and technical closure of the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict. To date, in stark violation of international law and its obligations under the Algiers Agreement, Ethiopia continues to occupy the town of Badme and other Eritrean territories.

IV. Eritrea's Stance on the Unjust Security Council Sanctions

11. In December 2009 and December 2011, the UNSC adopted resolutions imposing a series of sanctions on Eritrea. These measures are biased, unjustified and not rooted on a genuine concern for international peace and security. They constitute, in fact, an extension of unwarranted US hostile policies and acts against Eritrea. The US government, which shielded Ethiopia's non-compliance from any action by the Council, has long attempted to eclipse the main issue of Ethiopia's occupation and sought to unjustifiably punish Eritrea for its refusal to get derailed from the legal border ruling and for candidly opposing its misguided policies in the Horn of Africa.

12. Ambassador John Bolton, former US Permanent Representative to the UN, in his book '*Surrender is not an Option: Defending America at the United Nations*' notes, in regard to the border issue between Eritrea and Ethiopia:

"I certainly had no favorite, but it seemed that Eritrea had a point. Ethiopia had agreed on a mechanism to resolve the border dispute in 2000 and now was welching on its deal in flat violation of its commitments...I said we should solve the problem and not let it fester forever, France, Japan and several other Council



members agreed with me... For reasons I never understood, however, Frazer reversed course, and asked in early February to reopen the 2002 EEBC decision, which she had concluded was wrong, and award a major piece of disputed territory to Ethiopia. I was at a loss how to explain that to the Security Council..."

On similar issue, Mr. Azouz Ennifar, former Acting Special Representative of the UNSG to Eritrea and Ethiopia reported:

"I met on 24 June 2006 with Jendayi Frazer, U.S Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in Addis Ababa. She regretted that the EEBC is not flexible. She told me that she has developed parallel tracks to deal with the matter. In her view, demarcation as Eritrea wants it is not feasible. She also said that the status quo would benefit Ethiopia and demarcation would not take place without dialogue. U.S. Embassy Berlin cable of 11 August 2009, similarly, reads: "We agreed that Ethiopia is an 'indispensable partner' to stability in the region, the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea is 'frozen' for the foreseeable future;"

13. In the words of the former Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, the strategy pursued by the US Administration was to 'pin down and punish Eritrea' for refusing to give up the legal course. Notwithstanding the attempts to disguise the sanctions by giving it an African flavor, they were planned and pushed for by the US. The US Cables disclosed by WikiLeaks in the run up towards the resolution in December 2009 clearly elucidate this fact:

- *During the meeting with Ethiopian Charge d'Affairs, Ambassador Fesseha Tessema on August 08, 2009, Ambassador Rice emphasized: "...that any new sanctions resolution should be an Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) initiative led by Uganda in the Security Council. She recalled IGAD's prior lack of consensus on a sanctions framework for Eritrea during its June visit to New York, and stated that any new resolution should reflect the common ground between Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia."*
- *In conversation with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni held on 20 September 2009, Ambassador Rice: "... reminded Museveni that past experience suggested that the UNSC would not block a resolution led by African members and supported by the African Union. She shared the U.S. read that, if Burkina Faso and Uganda co-sponsor this resolution, the British will support, the French will "keep their heads down" and will not block..."*
- *In a meeting held with Ethiopian Prime Minister in November 2009, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs at U.S. Department of State Karl Wycoff stated that: "Ambassador Rice's personal involvement at USUN, has caught the attention of Eritrean President Isaias. Wycoff added that the USG has worked to undercut support for Eritrea, including his own visits to Gulf countries to enlist their support in such activities..."*

14. In fact, the present sanctions were enunciated long before the recent mayhem in Somalia and the 'border dispute' with Djibouti. A letter dated March 01, 2008, sent by the then US Secretary of State, revealed by WikiLeaks, states:



"Department is especially interested in the views of African members of the Security Council. Potential options include: Imposing a travel ban on key Eritrean government officials. Placing an assets freeze on these same officials and/or other Eritrean assets/resources. Imposing trade, investment, or other restrictions related to Eritrean resources, including mining, and; imposing an arms embargo on Eritrea."

15. The facts and events highlighted above underscore the assertion that the sanctions resolutions are not based on fact and law. No solid evidence was presented proving that Eritrea was guilty of perpetrating grave acts that threaten regional and international peace in contravention of, and as stipulated in, the Charter of the United Nations. The truth is Eritrea has been and remains the aggrieved party.

V. The way forward for a peaceful and stable sub-region

16. As affirmed in Article 2 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of any state is critical to the promotion of peace and security in the Horn of Africa, and in this connection, Eritrea wishes to reaffirm its commitment to peace and security of the region and to continue to extend its cooperation to all interested parties in addressing issues of common concern, including peace in Somalia.

17. Likewise, Eritrea expects and hopes that the UN Security Council, consistent with its mandate under the UN Charter, would ensure Ethiopia's unequivocal withdrawal from occupied sovereign Eritrean territories. This flagrant violation of international law remains the singular cause of the prevailing tension and source of potential conflagration between the two sisterly countries.

18. Eritrea vehemently calls on the UN Security to lift the unjust sanctions imposed on Eritrea as they are not based on fact and law and do not serve the interests of peace and justice.

19. Eritrea further urges the Security Council to be particularly mindful of the arms embargo which infringes on the fundamental right of a member State, whose territories remain occupied and who is facing constant threats from a belligerent party, to defend itself.

20. With respect to the border issue between Eritrea and Djibouti, it is important that both states remain committed to the Qatari mediation in order to lead the way for mutual respect and cooperation as two sisterly states of the sub-region.

ANNEXS



Ethiopia says to work for Eritrea "regime change"

Thu, Apr 21 2011

By Aaron Maasho

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) - Ethiopia declared openly Thursday that it will support Eritrean rebel groups fighting to overthrow President Isaias Afewerki.

The two countries have often traded harsh rhetoric since a 1998-2000 border war killed some 80,000 people, but Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has until now ruled out confrontation.

However, Addis Ababa warned last month it would take "all measures necessary" against its northern neighbor after accusing it of plotting to carry out bomb attacks inside Ethiopia during an African Union summit in February.

Government officials have said the plot targeted a hotel where a number of heads of state were staying during the summit, as well as other facilities.

Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister Hailemariam Desalegn accused Asmara of working to destabilise his country and topple the government in Addis Ababa.

"We have embarked ourselves on equal reaction, which is regime change (in Eritrea)," he told journalists.

"This regime change is not by invading Eritrea but by supporting the Eritrean people and groups which want to dismantle the regime. We are fully engaged in doing so," Hailemariam said.

Hailemariam did not disclose the extent of Addis Ababa's support, but a few Eritrean groups already operate from northern Ethiopia and have staged sporadic hit-and-run attacks inside Eritrea in the past.

Wednesday, some 1,600 Eritrean refugees gathered in Addis Ababa to call for democratic rule in their country, which thousands have fled in recent years citing rights abuses.

Authorities in Asmara were not immediately available for comment, but Isaias often dismisses foreign-based opponents as "puppets" acting under the orders of foreign governments.

Eritrea was part of Ethiopia until 1991 when rebel forces led by Isaias fought their way to secession following a 30-year liberation war.

Meles and Isaias were then allies leading separate rebel groups fighting former Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, but they have been foes ever since the border war.

Eritrea has since become one of the world's most secretive nations and has frosty relations with most of the West including the United States, which it accused of siding with Ethiopia during its border war.

The border conflict has yet to be resolved, with Ethiopia calling for a negotiated implementation of a boundary ruling, an approach Eritrea has ruled out.

(Editing by [George Obulutsa](#) and [Paul Taylor](#))

Eritrea/Ethiopia: A new border conflict over the port of Assab is looming

May 7 (The Indian Ocean) – A new border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea triggered over the port of Assab according to the Indian Ocean Newsletter. As reported, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, is strongly tempted to put his recent public threat into practice. This threat, which he levels against President Issayas Afeworki of Eritrea, would consist of providing Ethiopian backing for Eritrean opponents. According to information obtained by The Indian Ocean Newsletter, some Eritrean rebels and an amount of military equipment are being grouped for this purpose at Mille, a small township in Eastern Ethiopia, situated near the Djibouti and Eritrean borders. This would be intended to prepare for a possible military operation against the Eritrean port of Assab. However, such an operation stands little chance of succeeding unless it is backed by hardened Ethiopian troops, which would lead to a significant new border conflict. It could therefore merely be a manoeuvre to create a diversion or a bluff by Addis Ababa as a means of applying diplomatic pressure on Asmara.

However, EPRDF (Ethiopian ruling coalition) officials in the army hold a more trigger-happy stance in speaking to their troops. They prepare them for the idea of a new war against Eritrea, whose immediate aim would be to recapture the port of Assab. They generally add that this warring plan has the approval of Washington and London.

Meles Zenawi is currently a major promoter of themes liable to cement national unity against outside enemies, both real and imaginary. His aim is especially to dissuade any Ethiopians who might be tempted to question his domestic policy in similar ways to the Arab revolutions. But this Ethiopian propaganda in favour of violent overthrow of President Afeworki could, at any moment, result in sparking a new military conflict between the two countries.

On behalf of the Eritrean Government, the ambassador Girma Asmeromat requested at the 275th Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council (26 April), that Ethiopia must respect

ANNEX 1

international law and the Final and Binding Delimitation and Demarcation arbitration Decisions of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) and “must unconditionally withdraw from sovereign Eritrean territory”. According to him, as it is articulated in the Algiers Agreement Article 4 Paragraph 15 and Article 5 Paragraph 7, the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) has unanimously delivered its Final and Binding Delimitation and Demarcation Decisions in April has 2002 and November 2007 and therefore “there is no contested or disputed border between Eritrea and Ethiopia



Eritrea’s National Conference for Democratic Change opens

Addis Ababa, (November 25, 2011): On Tuesday this week, a National Conference for Democratic Change in Eritrea opened in the town of Hawassa, the capital of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s State in southern Ethiopia. Bringing together over thirty political parties, including the 11 member Eritrean Democratic Alliance, and representatives from civil society organizations from all over the world, over 500 delegates are meeting to devise a new strategy to oust the regime of President Isaias in Asmara. None of these groups or organizations are, of course, able to operate in Eritrea. The conference has been organized by the Eritrean National Commission for Democratic Change to discuss a draft political charter and a roadmap for a transition to democratic rule in Eritrea. Other items on the agenda include the adoption of an interim constitution, the adoption of a grand strategy to overthrow the dictator, the creation of necessary institutions and the establishment of a leadership. Addressing the meeting, the ENCDC Chairman, Amha Domenico, said now was the time to free Eritrea from its oppression. He called on opposition forces to narrow their differences and unite to rescue their nation. The head of the Secretariat of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front, Ato Redwan Hussein, also addressed the conference and expressed his belief that the conference would help Eritrean opposition forces to resolve their differences and reach a consensus. He also pledged the support of the Ethiopian people and government in the struggle to bring about peace and democracy in Eritrea.

A SEMINAR OF ERITREAN OPPOSITION CHAIRED BY AN ETHIOPIAN

Addis Ababa: Rubansaba.com

Hits: 3041



Bereket Simon chaired the Eritrean opposition seminar in Addis Ababa

The Eritrean opposition seminar in Ethiopia which started last Wednesday the 17th of August discussed in its fourth day self-evaluation of the Eritrean opposition forces, and is expected to discuss more agendas in the following days.

Three Ethiopian officers are attending the seminar: General Mesfun, Tsegay Berhe and Bereket Simon.

Mr. Bereket Simon is leading the seminar, which is expected to last for about six days, with the agendas of:

Define your enemy or PFDJ.

Self-evaluation of Eritrean opposition.

The situation of the Eritrean people inside Eritrea and Diaspora.

Strategy on how to get rid of PFDJ

Observers say that, it looks like that Ethiopia is evaluating the Eritrean opposition for the last time whether to help them or dump them.



ANNEX 2

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Minister of Foreign Affairs

Asmara 25 July 2011

H.E. Eng. Mahboub M. Maalim
Executive Secretary of IGAD

I have the honour to inform you and through you the member states of IGAD that the State of Eritrea has decided to reactivate its membership in IGAD with immediate effect. As you will recall Eritrea felt compelled to freeze its activities in IGAD in protest of the regrettable blessing that the organization gave to the military invasion by the Ethiopian government against a fellow member state, Somalia, in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1725 of December 6, 2006, which was adopted only two weeks before the invasion.

Many changes have taken place in the IGAD region since Eritrea's decision over four and half years ago. The emergence of South Sudan as an independent Republic is a momentous one, with positive but intricate ramifications. The current acute humanitarian situation has accentuated the urgency of prioritizing food security and environmental protection and more broadly economic development and cooperation. The need for comprehensive regional peace and stability is today more crucial than ever.

Maintenance of regional peace and security, development of regional economic cooperation and enhancement of the environment were the three pillars that the IGAD Heads of State agreed upon when they launched the "new initiative of revitalizing IGAD" in 1995. Fifteen years on, it is clear that we have a long way to go to make significant progress on any of these three objectives.

As Eritrea recommences its activities in IGAD, it is determined to make its contribution, in cooperation with member states, to the achievement of peace and development as well as the revitalization of IGAD.

Sincerely,

Osman Saleh Mohammed
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea



ሚኒስትር ጉዳዮች ወጪ. وزير الشؤون الخارجية

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ref.: MO/114/2011

H.E. Dr. Jean Ping
Chairperson, African Union Commission
Addis Ababa

Excellency,

Allow me to avail of the occasion to extend to Your Excellency my warmest greetings and best wishes for the good health of Your person.

It is with utter disbelief that I have learned that Ethiopia has unilaterally and illegally obstructed Eritrea from attending IGAD's 40th Extraordinary session that convened on 24 August 2011 in Addis Ababa. This diplomatic blunder, which contravened IGAD rules and procedures as well as Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, not only prevented our diplomat from performing his duties of representing his country; but also violated his person and was subjected to harassment at the hands of the Deputy Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, his security officers, and Sheraton Hotel guards.

I would like to bring to Your Excellency's kind attention the following facts pertaining to the issues at hand.

It must first be established that if and when a point of order or rules and procedures are invoked by a member state in sub-regional, regional and international organizations: it is a standard practice for the Chair to solicit the opinion of the Legal Advisor. It is also the Chair's mandate to allow the members of the organization to deliberate on the matter and to conclude the debate with a simple majority. IGAD, as a sub-regional organization, cannot and should not be an exception to these basic democratic procedures and practices.

ERITREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE AUC CHAIRPERSON CONCERNING
ETHIOPIA'S ABUSE OF IGAD RULES AND PROCEDURES

Indeed, there are clearly spelt out methods and procedures to follow in the Agreement Establishing the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) signed in 1996 by the Heads of State and Government of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

It should also be established that the existing IGAD Charter and rules and procedures stipulate that:

- All members are sovereign and equal.
- No Member State has veto power or the right to prevent or block the participation of another Member State in any IGAD organized or sponsored meetings.
- There is no clause that delegates or empowers the Council or the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, to prevent a Member State from participating in any IGAD sponsored or organized meetings.
- The Chairperson and the Executive Secretary do not have the mandate to take unilateral decision or action.
- There is no article or clause that restricts a Member State from temporarily suspending or reactivating its membership.

It should further be established that the IGAD Charter is abundantly clear on membership rules and procedures. As Your Excellency, may be aware; out of the 24 Articles of the IGAD Charter, only two articles deal with the issue of membership. Namely,

Article 1 (A) states:

- b) Membership shall be open only to African States in the sub-region which subscribe to the principles, aims, and objectives enshrined in the Agreement.
- c) New members shall be admitted by a unanimous decision of the Assembly.
- d) Application for membership shall be made by means of an official written request to the Assembly.

Article 22 states:

- a) Any Member State wishing to withdraw from the Authority shall give to the Chairman of the Assembly one year's written notice of its intention to withdraw; and at the end of such year shall, if such notice is not withdrawn, cease to be a Member State of the Authority.

ERITREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE AUC CHAIRPERSON CONCERNING
ETHIOPIA'S ABUSE OF IGAD RULES AND PROCEDURES

b) During the period of one year referred to in the preceding paragraph, a Member State wishing to withdraw from the Authority shall nevertheless observe the provisions of this agreement and shall remain liable for the discharge of its obligations under this Agreement.

Excellency,

It is in view of this fact that Eritrea had officially informed in writing to all members of IGAD through its Executive Secretary, that it has suspended its membership effective from 21 April 2007. It is to be recalled that Eritrea was coerced into taking the decision to temporarily suspend her membership from IGAD in protest to numerous IGAD resolutions. The notable ones being those that sanctioned Ethiopia's military invasion of Somalia, in outright violation of IGAD's and UN Security Council resolutions that had inhibited military involvement of frontline or neighboring countries in Somalia.

It should be underlined that Eritrea is not a new member and is not applying for readmission, as it has not withdrawn from IGAD. Therefore, article 1 (A) and Art. 22 do not apply to Eritrea's temporary suspension or reactivation of its membership. At this juncture, I must also mention, Your Excellency, that suspension of participation and withdrawal from an organization are two legally and substantially different concepts and actions.

It was out of this shared apprehension that Eritrea had not withdrawn but had only temporarily suspended its membership from IGAD. IGAD had never also ceased its engagement with Eritrea. It was out of this conviction that a year and five months after Eritrea's temporary suspension of her membership that the 12th Summit of Heads of State and Government of IGAD, which gathered in Addis Ababa on 14 June 2008, had decided to send to a Ministerial Delegation to Eritrea.

I recall that as a result of this decision, a Delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya Hon. Moses Wetangula and composed of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan Hon. Deng Alor and the Executive Secretary of IGAD Eng. Mahboub Maalim visited Eritrea on the 14th and 15th August 2008.

I also recall quite definitely that the Delegation had an open and frank discussion with President of Eritrea, H.E. Isaias Afwerki. In this meeting the Delegation appealed to the President for Eritrea to reactivate its membership. As can be verified from IGAD's own report and Press Release, dated 16 August 2008, Eritrea's relationship and engagement with IGAD was never discontinued. IGAD's Press release states that: **“President Afwerki briefed the delegation on the reasons that led to Eritrea's decision to suspend its membership in IGAD. He**

ERITREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE AUC CHAIRPERSON CONCERNING
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reiterated Eritrea's continued commitment to the integration of the region. He emphasised the point that IGAD must be restructured so that it can be a strong vehicle for integration. He further reiterated Eritrea's commitment to continue being engaged with IGAD. He thus designated Hon. Arefaine Berhe Minister of Agriculture of Eritrea, to be the focal person to deal with IGAD matters."

According to IGAD's report on the meeting with President Isaias, the Kenyan Foreign Minister, Hon. Moses Wetangula was also clear on Eritrea's temporary suspension of its membership. The report states that **"Minister Wetangula expressed to President Isaias that IGAD is not whole without Eritrea. The healing process has begun and he hoped that Eritrea will return back to the fold. He also observed that the suspension of Eritrea of its membership did not mean withdrawal."**

Based on the discussions and the understanding reached between the President of Eritrea and IGAD's Ministerial Delegation, dialogue on the revitalization and consolidation of IGAD resumed between Eritrea and IGAD. Subsequently, numerous telephone and email communication took place between Eng. Mahboub Maalim, IGAD's Executive Secretary and Eritrea's Minister of Agriculture, H.E. Arefaine Berhe.

Excellency,

In recognition and appreciation of the consistent and frequent requests and appeals made by IGAD Ministerial Delegation, AU and International Development Partners such as EU; and in the spirit of reconciliation, peace and security and regional integration; as well as in recognition of the current economic and political dynamics of the world, Eritrea has finally decided to reactivate its membership to IGAD effective 25th July 2011.

Eritrea's reactivation of its membership in IGAD is not only legitimate; it is also consistent with the current rules and procedures of IGAD. It is a positive decision that should be appreciated and commended by all peace-loving people and advocates of regional cooperation and integration. It is in this spirit and adhering to the current rules and procedures of IGAD, the Executive Secretary of IGAD, Eng. Mahboub Maalim on his communication of 28 July 2011, addressed to me, commended Eritrea's reactivation decision as **"Historic and Bold."** This should have sufficed as a confirmation to Eritrea's automatic reactivation of its membership to the Authority, should there be any legal requirement for it after all.

ERITREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE AUC CHAIRPERSON CONCERNING
ETHIOPIA'S ABUSE OF IGAD RULES AND PROCEDURES

Excellency

At this juncture, it is important to give critical consideration that Ethiopia has been the Chair of IGAD for the last four years and that most of the Extraordinary Meetings of IGAD are held in Addis Ababa. This has given Ethiopia free hand to commit such unwarranted, deplorable and slanderous diplomatic acts against a Member State.

It should be recalled that Eritrea's reactivation of its membership in IGAD should have been handled by the Member States of IGAD in accordance with the rules and procedures of the organization in the presence of Eritrea. It should never have been unilaterally handled by Ethiopia, the current Chair and host country, which used its security agents and Hotel guards to implement her slanderous political and diplomatic agenda of blocking Eritrea's membership to IGAD.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Ethiopia should never have gone to the Eritrean seat, and should never have requested the Eritrean diplomat to leave the meeting hall and should never have enlisted the security apparatus, which violated his person. The Deputy Minister's actions violate Article 29 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which clearly states that "the host country has full responsibility to treat a diplomatic agent with due respect and to take appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his person, freedom or dignity."

It must be understood that the flouting of the rules and procedures of IGAD as well as violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations by Ethiopia are motivated by her myopic political and diplomatic agenda that is meant to take advantage of Eritrea's absence in IGAD meetings and deliberations. This belligerent act must be condemned by everybody unequivocally.

Therefore, in the spirit of defending and upholding AU's regional economic integration vision and agenda and in order to maintain the integrity of our regional and continental organizations, I wish to seize this occasion for Your Excellency to urge the Government of Ethiopia to respect Eritrea's right of participation in any IGAD lead or sponsored meetings without any precondition effective 25 July 2011.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Osman Saleh Mohammed
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the State of Eritrea
Asmara, October 18, 2011

ANNEX 3

The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 7 June 2010 from the Chargé d affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Qatar** to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, and its enclosure.

This letter will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2010/291.

8 June 2010

Permanent Mission of the
State of Qatar to the United Nations
New York



الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

QUN/10-558
7 June 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith, a letter dated 6 June 2010 addressed to Your Excellency from His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, with its enclosure, the Executive Document of the Agreement concerning peaceful settlement of the border dispute between the State of Eritrea and the Republic of Djibouti, signed on 6 June 2010 by His Excellency the President of the State of Eritrea and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Djibouti.

It would be highly appreciated if the letter and its enclosure are circulated among the members of the Security Council for their information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Aya Ahmed S. Al-Thani
Ambassador
Chargée d'Affaires, a.i.

His Excellency Ambassador Claude Heller
President of the United Nations Security Council
New York
Fax: (212) 963-7878
(212) 371-2906

Unofficial Translation

STATE OF QATAR
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

No. 5/938/1/2010

His Excellency Ambassador Claude Heller
President of the United Nations Security Council
New York

Excellency,

It gives me pleasure to inform Your Excellency that the Governments of the State of Eritrea and the Republic of Djibouti have agreed to entrust the State of Qatar to undertake mediation efforts to reach a resolution to the border dispute between their countries through peaceful means. The Presidents of the two countries have signed an agreement for this purpose, which was also signed on behalf of the State of Qatar as mediator and witness, by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.

In this agreement, the two countries have agreed, based on the strong relations between both of them and the State of Qatar, to authorize the mediator with full powers to issue a document for work implementation containing legal and technical actions as well as mechanisms as he deems fit for a final and binding resolution of this border dispute, and have confirmed their acceptance of the said document to be announced by the State of Qatar and of the ensuing resolution.

I would like to add that the State of Eritrea has withdrawn from the disputed border areas—such withdrawal not to be considered a recognition of any rights until the final resolution of the dispute in accordance with the Agreement. The State of Qatar has verified the withdrawal through the deployment of its forces in the border areas. It will supervise the monitoring of the border until a final decision is reached regarding the dispute settlement. In the process of the implementation of the agreement, the State of Qatar also intends to form a committee under its chairmanship with the membership of the two parties to select and appoint, with their consent, a global company to demarcate the borders according to the provisions of international agreements and rules on border delineation that the two parties are bound with. The issues of the POWs and the missing persons will also be settled under the supervision of the State of Qatar.

I would appreciate it if Your Excellency see to it that this letter is brought to the attention of all members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[signed]
Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Doha on 6 June 2010

Unofficial Translation

**Agreement between
the State of Eritrea and the Republic of Djibouti**

The Government of the State of Eritrea and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti, hereinafter referred to as the "parties",

Having considered the request by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Djibouti that His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar intervene to resolve the dispute between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea,

Based on the strong relationship between both countries and the State of Qatar,

Desirous to entrust to the State of Qatar to undertake mediation efforts to reach a resolution of the border dispute between them through peaceful means,

Expressing deep appreciation to the State of Qatar for accepting the mediation,

Have agreed to authorize the mediator, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, with full powers to issue a document containing legal and technical actions as well as mechanisms as he deems fit for a final and mutually binding resolution of this border dispute, and accepted the work document that will be announced by the State of Qatar and the ensuing resolution.

State of Eritrea
[signature]
Isaias Afwerki
President of the State of Eritrea

Republic of Djibouti
[signature]
Ismail Omar Guelleh
President of the Republic of Djibouti

Mediator and Witness
State of Qatar
[signature]
Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Emir of the State of Qatar

Executive Document of the Agreement

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al-Thani, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, announced that based on the authorization of H.E. President Isaias Afewerqi, President of the State of Eritrea, and H. E. President Ismael Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, to His Highness Sheikh bin Khalifa Al-Thani to resolve the boundary difference between them,

Noting by the State of Qatar the withdrawal of the State of Eritrea from the boundary areas subject of the difference, provided that will not constitute recognition of any rights until the final settlement of the difference in accordance with the Agreement , and the verification it carried out,

Implementing the instructions of His Highness the Emir,

The following Executive Document of the Agreement has been issued:

Article(1).

A Committee shall be established under the Chairmanship of Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al-Thani, with one representative from each of the Parties to resolve the boundary difference in accordance with the authorization given by the Two Parties to the State of Mediation. The Committee shall nominate and appoint with the agreement of the Parties one of the world companies to carry out the demarcation of the frontiers between the two countries, in accordance with the principles and rules known internationally on frontiers demarcation and in a manner conforming to the agreements and the international rules on delimitation of borders binding upon their respective countries. The Chairman of the Committee may establish committees and have resort to any person he deems appropriate, whether from politicians, technicians, professionals or lawyers, to complete the tasks of the Committee.

Article(2).

The Committee shall aim at putting to an end the frontiers difference between the Parties, and the demarcation of the frontiers between their respective countries in a manner which would serve the relations of good neighbourliness.

Article (3).

Each Party shall provide the State of Qatar with a list containing the number and names of POW's detained by it, if any, and also a list containing the number and names of missing persons. The exchange of POW's between the two countries shall be made, and each Party shall investigate the fate of missing persons. All this shall be done under the supervision of the State of Qatar.

Article (4).

Each Party shall provide the State of Qatar with all the information, documents, and instruments which would facilitate the work in order to present them to the world company entrusted with the demarcation of the frontiers.

Article(5).

The world company agreed upon to demarcate the frontiers shall present the outcome of its work to the Committee referred to in Article(1) of this Document, and the decision of the Committee shall be final and binding upon the Parties.

Article (6).

The State of Qatar, in its capacity as Mediator in resolving the dispute between the two Parties, shall supervise the monitoring of the borders until such time as the final decision of the Committee referred to in Article (1) of this Document on the settlement of the dispute is announced.

Article(7).

The State of Qatar shall deposit this Agreement and the Executive Document of the Agreement on the settlement of the boundary difference with the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the African Union.



Emir attends opening of Sudan-Eritrea highway

Publish Date: Thursday, 27 October, 2011, at 01:16 AM
Doha Time

QNA/Kassala

HH the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki attended the inauguration ceremony of the continental Kassala-Ai Lafa highway, linking Sudan with Eritrea.

Following the opening ceremony HH the Emir attended the mass rally of Kassala province held on the occasion where he delivered an address highlighting the Sudanese-Eritrean relations which have shifted to a deeper and wider stage of co-operation, openness and dialogue based on joint interests and awareness.

HH the Emir also underlined the importance of enhancing regional co-ordination in the Horn of Africa region.

He noted that the Sudan-Eritrea highway was a new chapter in a long record filled with strong brotherly relations between the peoples of the two countries which are closely bound by geography, history and interrupted bonds of humanity.

He recalled that Eritrea had been for thousands of years the mainland of the Arabs to Africa and Sudan and the road of Africans and the Sudanese to the Arab countries, noting that the Hijrah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the most prominent example of such a historical fact.

HH the Emir reiterated Qatar's constant support to the brethren in Sudan and Eritrea and offering whatever assistance that could further strengthen co-operation and understanding between them.

For his part, President Bashir highlighted in a similar address the determination of the peoples of Sudan and Kassala to invite HH the Emir to attend the opening ceremony of the highway, since he was the first leader who moved to improve the Sudanese-Eritrean relations and whose efforts resulted in peace in Darfur.

Bashir stressed that the highway, which is a generous gift from HH the Emir, would contribute to increasing the movement of citizens and commodities between Sudan and Eritrea.

Eritrean President Afewerki highly praised the leading role Qatar is playing in the region and the world alike and highlighted the influential and effective role Qatar plays for supporting stability and development of Sudan. "What we have seen today proves the historical role of HH the Emir," he said.

The 26.2km-long highway was built at Qatar's expense and is regarded an economic lifeline and a channel for communication across the border between Sudan and Eritrea and aims to support the economic and integration projects and further enhances the neighbourly relations towards the development and growth prospects between the two countries.

HH the Emir and his accompanying delegation left Kassala yesterday evening concluding a one-day visit to Sudan. They were seen off at Kassala International Airport by Bashir and Afewerki.



,Thani-HH the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Bashir and Eritrean -Sudanese President Omar Hassan al Afewerki jointly cutting the ribbon to President Isaias Ai Lafa highway yesterday-inaugurate the Kassala



President Isaias holds talks with South Sudan leader



Asmara, 26 September 2011 – President Isaias Afwerki held talks in New York on September 24 with President Salva Kiir Mayardit of the Republic of South Sudan focusing on bilateral issues.

In the meeting, President Isaias once again congratulated the people and Government of the Republic of South Sudan in connection with independence. Besides, the two leaders exchanged views regarding development in South Sudan and relations with neighboring countries especially Sudan.

President Isaias assured President Salva Kiir Mayardit of Eritrea's readiness to extend the necessary cooperation towards strengthening the independence of the Republic of South Sudan.

The two leaders reached understanding on taking continuous steps through charting work programs for developing relations between Eritrea and the Republic of South Sudan.



President Hadi receives letter from Eritrean President

[31/March/2012]

SANA'A, March 31 (Saba) - President Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi received here on Saturday a letter from President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea.

The letter handed over by Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh included heartfelt congratulations to President Hadi and the Yemeni people on the success of overcoming the last

year crisis.

In his letter, Afewerki wished to achieve more progress in the subsequent phase of the Gulf initiative that are supported the Security Council resolution 2014.

At the meeting, Hadi accented that the relations between Yemen and Eritrea are historical and will be strengthened according to the common interests of the two neighboring countries.

AF
Saba

Eritrea and Uganda Discuss Issues of Bilateral Relations and Regional Stability



Uganda held talks on ‘Strategic and Political’ issues with its ‘strategic and vital country’ Eritrea

By News Agencies,

President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea has arrived in the capital Kampala today to discuss various regional and political issues with his host president *Yoweri Kaguta Museveni*.

Afwerki, who was accompanied by his Foreign Minister *Osman Saleh* and the head of Eritrea’s political affairs office, *Yemane Ghebreab*, described his latest visit to Uganda as a **historical opportunity** to exchange views on various timely issues with his counterpart.

He was received at State House in Entebbe by Museveni before inspecting a guard of honor mounted by officers and men of the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) and received a **21 gun salute**.

Uganda described Eritrea as one of the strategically vital countries to the stability of the region especially in the Horn of Africa and the wider global agenda.

After today's meeting, as part of his three days state visit to Uganda, Afwerki called for a more regular mechanism that allows for more communication exchanges among leaders in the region as part of strengthening strong bilateral ties and establishing areas of realistic coordination.

“This engagement will be more frequent when we see the outcome of our delegations memorandums,” he said.

He also adds, *“It is an opportunity to come back home again, it is a good feeling. We have only dealt with a few issues and I hope we shall have time to exhaust all the issues. I have learnt a lot from President Museveni and I will listen to him and come to understand of regional issues.”*



Museveni received Afwerki with a guard of honor and 21 gun of salute

President Museveni has said today's discussions was mainly focused on **“strategic and political issues”** in the region and on bilateral agreements. He also adds on, “apart from the political and security issues, there are other issues of cooperation in the region, including in trade, exchange in education, regional flights.”

President Isaias also said, *“We have held a good discussion which we have not finished. We shall have more time for more conclusions. We discussed strategic and political issues in the region and our ministers are developing various bilateral agreements. Apart from the political and security issues, there are other issues of cooperation in the region including in **trade**, exchange in **education**, **regional flights** etc...”*

The two presidents held a bilateral meeting shortly after holding a closed door meeting.

A top Ugandan foreign ministry official said Kampala was keen to hear Eritrea's response to accusations of supporting Somalia's Shebab fighters.

“There are serious allegations that Eritrea is supporting Al-Shebab in destabilising the Horn of Africa region, and so we will be hoping to hear responses to those issues,” James Mugume, the foreign ministry permanent secretary has said.

Mugume, however, hailed Issaias' visit as an important step by the small Red Sea state to rejoin the six-member regional body. **“We will be looking at issues on how Eritrea wants to avoid the comprehensive sanctions,”** Mugume adds.

President Afwerki will later today be hosted to a state banquet at State House in Entebbe. During his visit, he will tour the *Quality Chemicals Industry* in Luzira and the Dairy Corporation factory in Bugolobi before meeting with the Eritrean Community resident in Uganda.

Earlier this month Eritrea applied to rejoin the regional bloc, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

It pulled out of Igad in 2007 after the body – made up of Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia – supported Ethiopia’s military intervention to back the weak government in Somalia.

Eritrea analyst Michael Wrong told the BBC that Mr Afewerki’s trip was the latest sign that he wanted to end Eritrea’s isolation.

“Eritreans pride themselves on their independence from the world, but I think there is a realisation this has reached dangerous levels. They are now regarded as a pariah state,” Ms Wrong told the BBC’s Network Africa program.

“I suspect this is Eritrea reaching out to neighbours to say: ‘We don’t want to be completely on our own.’”

Foreign Minister delivers President Isaias’ message to Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces of Egypt

Asmara, 16 March 2012 - Mr. Osman Saleh, Eritrean Foreign Minister, on March 15 delivered a message from President Isaias Afwerki to Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces of Egypt.

During the meeting, the two sides reached consensus to develop relations in all sectors between the brotherly people of Eritrea and Egypt and discussed the objective situation in the region in general and that of the Horn of Africa in particular.

Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi commended the strong commitment of President Isaias and reaffirmed that Egypt would work in cooperation with Eritrea to serve the interest of the two sisterly countries and for the prevalence of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region.

Enclosure

Attachment to paragraph 6 of the twenty-second report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission: letter dated 27 November 2006 from the President of the Commission to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia

I have received and read with care your letter to me of 13 November 2006. Although it is not usual for international tribunals to respond to criticisms made by a discontented party, it is not possible for the Commission to leave your observations without some response — the more so as you have already given much publicity to your letter and have requested that it should be published as a Security Council document. I do not reply in full detail because the Commission's understanding of the facts is set out in the Statement which it is issuing today, of which I attach a copy. Nonetheless, with great respect, I have to tell you that, insofar as your letter purports to set out facts, those that it states are, regrettably, in significant detail wrong or highly selective.

At the outset, as a striking example of misleading selection, I refer to the manner in which, towards the end of your letter, you refer to the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 17 October 2006. You quote the whole of that statement with the exception of the highly relevant final paragraph bearing on the conduct of Ethiopia. This reads as follows: "Members of the Security Council call on Ethiopia to implement fully the EEBC decision". This was not the first time that the Security Council has called on Ethiopia to fulfil its obligations in respect of the Demarcation Decision. Nor is Ethiopia's failure to respond positively to such a call the first time that it has disregarded the call of the Security Council. It is a matter of regret that Ethiopia has so persistently maintained a position of non-compliance with its obligations in relation to the Commission.

You again put forward Ethiopia's contention that the Commission's procedure "does not conform with international practice and does not allow sufficient consideration of anomalies and impracticabilities as between the lines set out in the April 2003 Delimitation Decision and the realities on the ground". (The Decision was actually rendered a year earlier than the date you give.) The Commission has met this contention in detail in its Observations of 21 March 2003. There the Commission explained that it was not empowered by the Algiers Agreement to vary the line of delimitation that it had determined on the basis of the evidence before it. Indeed, the Commission is expressly prohibited from doing so by the provision in the Algiers Agreement that "the Commission shall not have the power to make decisions *ex aequo et bono*" (Article 4 (2)). The prohibition of recourse to *ex aequo et bono* can only mean that the Commission must implement what it finds to be the strict legal position in accordance with the terms and procedures clearly prescribed by the Parties.

You complain of the conduct of Eritrea, saying that it "has refused to heed either the Commission's requests or the Security Council's demand" and you observe that "under the circumstances, I cannot imagine that appeasement of Eritrea is the appropriate step". There is no basis for the suggestion that the Commission has been appeasing Eritrea. Nor can such a suggestion, however unfounded, obscure the fact that Ethiopia has itself been in breach of its obligations under the Algiers Agreement in several important respects. It is sufficient here to mention one serious

one, namely, Ethiopia's continued failure to comply with the Commission's Order of 17 July 2002 requiring Ethiopia forthwith to arrange for the return to Ethiopian territory of those persons in Dembe Mengul who were moved from Ethiopia pursuant to an Ethiopian resettlement programme since 13 April 2002 and to report to the Commission on the implementation of this order by 30 September 2002. Ethiopia has made no report to the Commission. A more detailed account of Ethiopia's lack of cooperation and breaches of its obligations is set out in today's Statement of the Commission.

You state that "it is impossible to understand or accept the Commission's plan to issue a Demarcation Decision, notwithstanding the clear understanding by the Parties and Witnesses to the Algiers Agreement that the final demarcation would be impossible without a cooperative process with a view to understanding and dealing with anomalies and impracticabilities". A "cooperative process", it is true, is important if it can be achieved. What you do not mention is the fact that Ethiopia has by its conduct on many occasions repeatedly obstructed the Commission's field personnel and prevented them from carrying out the necessary investigations in the field and made a "cooperative process" impossible. Ethiopia's actions in this respect preceded the more recent episodes in which Eritrea's conduct, largely by making it impossible for UNMEE to provide necessary assistance to the Commission's field personnel, has contributed to the impasse.

The Commission does not contest the assertion that its approach to demarcation by way of setting out coordinates indicating precise Boundary Points was not part of its original intention. Its intention had been to go on the ground and, in consultation and cooperation with the Field Liaison Officers of the Parties, to establish the locations for the emplacement of boundary pillars. Despite repeated initiatives on the part of the Commission supported by requests of the Security Council that the Parties cooperate, Ethiopia, for one, has made this approach impossible. The Commission cannot be left in limbo as a body charged with a function that the very Parties creating it have prevented it from performing.

One of the elements in Ethiopia's complaints is that Eritrea is guilty of the same obstruction. Eritrea's non-cooperation with the Commission only really developed after Ethiopia insisted that the boundary should be altered to meet with what Ethiopia chose to call "anomalies and impracticabilities", despite the clear statements of the Commission that this could not be done. When asked to confirm its continuing acceptance of the Delimitation Decision, Ethiopia repeatedly qualified its position by saying that it wished negotiations to take place regarding such "anomalies and impracticabilities". Eritrea's insistence on strict adherence to the terms of the Delimitation Decision was a position which it was entitled to adopt in accordance with the Algiers Agreement.

You place great emphasis on "the need for dialogue and support by neutral bodies to help the two Parties make progress in demarcation and normalization of their relations". Of course, "the normalization of relations" is a desirable objective but that is a matter that falls outside the scope of the Commission's mandate, which is solely to delimit and demarcate the border. The scope for "dialogue" is limited to what is necessary between the Commission and the Parties to further the actual process of demarcation on the ground. There is no room within the framework of the Algiers Agreement for the introduction of "neutral bodies" into the demarcation process.

You ask “Why has the Commission abruptly and without notice chosen to abandon the process for demarcation embodied in its rules, instructions and decisions?” The answer is that the Commission has been unable to make progress, initially, because of Ethiopia’s obstruction and, more recently, because Eritrea has followed a similar course. Matters cannot be left in this uncertain condition. Something must be done. You will see from today’s Statement of the Commission attached to this letter that the Commission has not abandoned the idea of pillar emplacement. In that Statement the Commission again provides the Parties with an opportunity to cooperate with it in the pillar emplacement process. Only if no real progress is made during the next 12 months will the Commission resort to demarcation by coordinates alone to identify boundary point locations.

You complain about the Commission’s “engagement” with the Security Council. You disregard the fact that the Commission has since its inception been “engaged” with the Security Council by reason of the Commission’s quarterly reports to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which have then been annexed by him to his own reports to the Security Council and have formed the basis of numerous references to the situation and requests to the Parties by the Security Council. Moreover, the Security Council has repeatedly shown its concern with the process of demarcation by the adoption of a number of resolutions calling upon Ethiopia, and more recently Eritrea also, to comply with the terms of the Algiers Agreement.

Your letter seeks to blame the Commission for Ethiopia’s failure to meet its obligations under the Algiers Agreement. Such blame is entirely misplaced. The truth of the matter appears to be that Ethiopia is dissatisfied with the substance of the Commission’s Delimitation Decision and has been seeking, ever since April 2002, to find ways of changing it. This is not an approach which the Commission was empowered to adopt and is not one to which the Commission can lend itself.

I regret that it has been necessary to address you in such direct terms but your letter — and the publicity that you have given it — have left me with no alternative. It would be unacceptable for an international tribunal to be exposed to the kind of criticism which you have lodged without replying to it in necessary detail.

(Signed) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission
