

ERI-NEWS



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Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU and UNECA
Press Section



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President Isaias Attends Kenya's 50th Independence Day Celebrations

H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea attended Kenya's 50th Anniversary of Independence that was officially celebrated on 12 December 2013 at Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi.



President Isaias at the celebrations with other dignitaries

During his stay in Nairobi, the President also held talks on strengthening bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest with President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Presidents of the Democratic Republic Congo, Uganda and South Sudan.



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Nova Airways Launches Flights to Asmara

On 21 December, Nova Airways started flights to and from Asmara.

Nova Airways will fly Asmara-Khartoum twice a day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and to Kassala every Tuesday.

The Asmara-Khartoum-

Juba flight is scheduled on Wednesdays and Saturdays. To this end, the company has opened liaison offices in Asmara, Kassala, Khartoum and Juba.

Nova Airways will shortly expand its flights to Cairo, Dubai and Jeddah.



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!**

President Isaias Afwerki's Letter to the UNSC Calling for the Lifting of the Unjust and Illegal "Sanctions"

As will be recalled, the Security Council imposed unwarranted "sanctions" against Eritrea four years ago in 2009. This resolution was adopted almost stealthily during the Christmas holiday season, without any legal basis or factual evidence and through unorthodox procedures, including denial to Eritrea of its inalienable right of defence as the accused party.

Eritrea, which had remained a victim of, and which has relentlessly combated, declared terrorism since achieving its independence in 1993, could not, naturally, acquiesce to the unjust and illegal "sanctions". Indeed, the only proper and legitimate course of action for Eritrea was and remains the wholesale rejection of this unwarranted act.

The other irony in this sad episode was the Security Council's ill-advised decision to invoke an alleged border dispute and misconstrue it as an additional accusation to bolster the "sanctions" without ascertaining the facts or pursuing due legal processes. This lopsided decision was in spite of the Security Council's failure to shoulder its legal obligations in terms of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission award of 2002 and the continued occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories.

In the past four years, intensive efforts have been undertaken through the Monitoring Group to ensure that the "sanctions" resolution that was originally adopted through myriad baseless

allegations would not be reversed but would rather become an accomplished fact. However, all the fabricated accusations cobbled together by the Monitoring Group could not only not alter the true facts that prevail on the ground but have further accentuated, in unequivocal terms, that the allegations peddled to impose the sanctions were baseless from the outset.

To accept and acquiesce to these illegal, unjust and unfair "sanctions" as an accomplished fact and grapple with the consequences would be tantamount to buttressing and consolidating the suppression of the rule of law and injustices. As such, the Government of Eritrea has, beyond exerting determined efforts to ensure its rights and the respect of the rule of law, been incessantly appealing to the Security Council to redress this "error" for the last four years.

The Government and people of Eritrea again call today, after four years, upon the Security Council to re-examine the underlying motivations and evidences of all the original and baseless allegations in a transparent manner as well as to respect Eritrea's right of defence in accordance with the provisions of international law so as to rectify the "erroneous sanctions" resolution.

3 December 2013

(Signed)

Isaias Afwerki



One of the world-wide demonstrations held against the unjust and illegal sanctions

"In view of the absence of any intelligence, real or fabricated, linking Eritrea with Shabaab for over four years, the UN Security Council should terminate sanctions imposed in 2009 by UNSC resolution 1907."

Herman J. 'Hank' Cohen,
Former U.S. Assistant
Secretary of State for Africa

'Time to Bring Eritrea in from the Cold', posted on
www.africanarguments.org,
December 16, 2013



Ethiopia Must be Urged to Vacate Sovereign Eritrean Territories Including the Town of Badme

The Algiers Agreement of 2000 signed by the President of Eritrea and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, guaranteed by the AU and UN and endorsed by the UNSC clearly states that:

1. *“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*.”*
2. *“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 territorial integrity and sovereignty of the other party.”*

On the bases of the Algiers Agreement, the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EBBC) has delimited and demarcated the boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2002 and 2007, respectively. Final and Binding means Final and Binding. There is no longer a border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia. What we have is Ethiopia’s occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories.

The Guarantors and Witnesses of the Algiers Agreement should stop playing diplomatic and political games under the pretext of dialogue. They must urge Ethiopia to respect its treaty obligations and immediately and unconditionally vacate from the territories the EBBC has awarded to Eritrea, including the town of Badme.

Eritrea has consistently reaffirmed that if Ethiopia withdraws from the Eritrean territories it is occupying in the morning, dialogue between the two countries on issues of mutual concern could start the same day in the afternoon.

Team Eritrea Crowned African Cycling Champions for a Record Fourth Time

The Eritrean national cycling team won the African Championship tournament for a record fourth time by claiming gold in the team, individual and road race competitions at the 9th African Continental Cycling Championship that was conducted at the Egyptian resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh, from 1-5 December 2013.



Eritrean Tesfom Okbamariam stormed to the 2013 African Champion title by edging Namibian Dan Craven. Another Eritrean Merhawi Kudus stood 3rd.

The Eritrean team has also won the continental Championship in the tournaments hosted by Rwanda (2010), Eritrea (2011), and Burkina Faso (2012).

Eritrea Donates a Painting to the AUC

On 23 October 2013, the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the AU and UNECA donated to the African Union Commission (AUC) a painting with the title **Struggle→ Independence→Forward**.

The acrylic on canvas painting is the work of an Eritrean artist, Mr. Tesfai Ghebremichael. It depicts the Struggle of the

Eritrean People for Independence and their jubilation and bright future.

The painting is now on display amongst several paintings donated to the AUC by other African States.



Struggle→ Independence→Forward