



**Bi-Weekly Newsletter
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU
and UNECA
Press Section**



President Isaias Sent Message to Heads of State and Government

President Isaias Afwerki sent a message to several Heads of State and Government on the advent of the New Year once again drawing their attention to continued injustices meted to Eritrea. The President underlined that such indefensible acts not only contravene fundamental tenets of international law and morality but are also fraught with perilous threats to regional peace and security.

Recalling that 14 years have elapsed since the adoption of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission ruling on the border delimitation and demarcation, the President pointed out that sovereign Eritrean territories still remain under occupation. In this connection, he called on the leaders to ensure the respect of the rule of law.

President Isaias went on to underline that the Eritrean people have been wronged several times at the hands of

the UN in the past and as such they deserve redress and reparations for the wrongs done and not the continued unjustified punishment.

In regard to the illegal and unfair sanctions against Eritrea, the President noted that the unjustifiable sanctions were passed deceitfully on fabricated charges which had no basis on law or facts. President Isaias stressed that the main purpose of the sanctions was to deflect international attention from the occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories and thereby corner Eritrea from advocating its legitimate rights.

President Isaias underlined that the continued wrong doings against the Eritrean people, coupled with the occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories constitute harm beyond reparation and called on the UN Security Council to rectify its errors without further delay.

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**Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**



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President Isaias Held Talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince

During a three-day working visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), President Isaias Afwerki met and held talks, on January 2, with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed AlNahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. In the course of the meeting, the two sides discussed ways of reinforcing relations between the two countries.

President Isaias and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held discussion focusing on ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation in political, economic and other spheres as well as advancing bilateral ties to new heights. The two leaders also exchanged views on various regional and international issues of mutual concern to both countries.



President Isaias Received Kenya's Foreign Minister

President Isaias Afwerki received and held talks, on 10 January 2017, with Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Kenya's Foreign Minister and candidate for the post of Chairperson of the African Union Commission.



The President underlined the need for the enhancement and revitalization of the African Union to ensure that the African continent holds its rightful place in the world. President Isaias further emphasized the urgency for both the African Union and the regional organizations (RECs) such as IGAD to get their acts together to advance the widely shared objectives of the continent's economic integration.



President Isaias and Ambassador Amina Mohamed also discussed in detail the status of the bilateral ties between the two sisterly countries. In this regard, President Isaias underscored the need for Kenya to play its due role in the Horn of Africa.

Asharq Al-Awsat: Distorted News on Eritrea

In the past few days, the London-based Asharq Al-Awsat has published - in its Arabic and English editions - a number of distorted “news stories” on Eritrea.

To embellish and rationalize the TPLF’s continued flouting of international law and its occupation of sovereign Eritrean lands, the paper gullibly parrots mendacious pronouncements of the regime’s new Foreign Minister who claims, with a straight face, that his government “has long accepted the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission ruling on Badme”.

Asharq Al-Awsat could have easily checked literature available in the public domain that illustrate, without any equivocation, that the EEBC had announced its “final and binding” delimitation decisions in April 2002 and deposited the demarcation coordinates with the UN Cartographic Unit in 2007. Ethiopia’s rejection of these decisions and occupation to-date of sovereign Eritrean lands is thus a flagrant violation of international law and its peace treaty obligations as stipulated in the Algiers Peace Agreement. Mincing words or resorting to deceitful packaging cannot alter this reality.

In another lengthy but shallow “opinion piece” by a certain Abdulrahman Al-Rashid, Asharq Al-Awsat again goes out of its way to shower praise on the TPLF regime as a “dependable” errand boy to advance US military and political agendas in the Horn of Africa region. To highlight this point, the author claims: “Ethiopia has succeeded to contain Somalia by force, unlike Afghanistan, and it disciplined Eritrea”.

The mayhem that has afflicted Somalia since Ethiopia’s military invasion in 2006 is a matter of historical record and widely acknowledged by



knowledgeable observers of the region. As for Ethiopia “disciplining” Eritrea, the author is either oblivious to contemporary history or an avid apologist of failed aggressors.

More importantly, sustainable peace and stability in the Horn of Africa/Middle East region will not be achieved through a security architecture that exalts hegemony and “policing” by selected “anchor states” to carry out the bidding of extraneous forces.

Security and cooperation frameworks that promote enduring interests of all the countries and peoples in this sensitive region must indeed be predicated on legality and mutual respect of each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Asharq Al-Awsat can and should contribute to this objective through impartial and nuanced reporting and analysis of news and events in the region instead of propagating false narratives to whitewash the regime in Ethiopia that finds itself embroiled in a domestic quagmire of its own making.

Ministry of Information

Asmara

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