



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



President Isaias Received the Credentials of Eleven Ambassadors

President Isaias Afwerki, on 18 April, received the credentials of eleven Ambassadors.



President Isaias with Ambassador Yang Zigang of the People's Republic of China

The Ambassadors who presented their credentials are:

1. H.E. Aykut Kumbaroglu of Turkey,
2. H.E. Yang Zigang of the People's Republic of China,
3. H.E. Joff Otieno Makowenga of the Republic of Kenya,
4. H.E. Raza Bashir Tarar of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
5. H.E. Karin Boven of the Netherlands,
6. H.E. James Kimonyo of the Republic of Rwanda,
7. H.E. Lee Kiseong of the Republic of Korea,
8. H.E. Amrit Lugun of India,
9. H.E. Japhet Isaack of the Republic of Namibia,
10. H.E. Bard Hopland of the Kingdom of Norway, and
11. H.E. Ma Yong Hui of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Contd. on page 2



President Isaias with Ambassador Aykut Kumbaroglu of Turkey



President Isaias with Ambassador Joff Otieno Makowenga of the Republic of Kenya



President Isaias with Ambassador Bard Hopland of the Kingdom of Norway



President Isaias with Ambassador Lee Kiseong of the Republic of Korea



President Isaias with Ambassador Dr. Karin Boven of the Netherlands

Vol 4. Issue 67

02 May 2017

Inside this issue:

Senior Eritrean
Delegation
Conferred with
Chinese Officials 3

Eritrea Urged the
UNSC to Lift the
Unjust and
Counterproductive
Sanctions 4
and End the Illegal
Occupation

23rd Commemora-
tion of Rwandan
Genocide Observed 5
in Asmara

Tour of Eritrea 6
2017: Pedaling for
Friendship

Contact Addresses:
Tel: +251-116620052
Fax: +251-116620011
Email: eritreanaumission@gmail.com
P.o.Box: 5527
[Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](mailto:eritreanaumission@gmail.com)

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President Isaias Received the Credentials of Eleven Ambassadors (Contd. from page 1)



President Isaias with Ambassador Amrit Lugun of India



President Isaias with Ambassador Japhet Isaack of Namibia



President Isaias with Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



President Isaias with Ambassador James Kimonyo of the Republic of Rwanda



President Isaias with Ambassador Ma Yong Hui of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In the meeting with the Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Yang Zigang, President Isaias pointed out that the bilateral relations between the two countries that has existed for over 50 years now, is being strengthened and expanded through solid cooperation in various sectors.

In his discussions with the Indian Ambassador, Mr. Amrit Lugun, President Isaias expressed Eritrea's profound appreciation for India's significant contribution in the country's human resources development drive, and underlined the Government of Eritrea's desire for its continuity.

President Isaias intimated to Pakistan's Ambassador, Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, that Eritrea fondly recognizes Pakistan's historical stance as one of the few countries that staunchly supported Eritrean independence in the 1940s. The two countries can build on the historical relations to further strengthen their bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation, President Isaias underlined.

Speaking with the Ambassadors of Kenya, Rwanda and Namibia, President Isaias pointed out that existing ties with those countries has not developed as expected. The President emphasized that frameworks of integration and mutual cooperation were imperative to secure regional peace and stability.

In the meeting with Ambassador Aykut Kumbaroglu of Turkey, President Isaias expressed Eritrea's readiness to reinforce the existing good relation with Turkey in the economic, political and diplomatic domains.

Similarly, President Isaias referred to shared values, prevailing opportunities for cooperation and the imperative to stand on the side of justice and legality as a basis for cultivating bilateral ties with all the other Ambassadors.

After the credentials handover ceremony, the Ambassadors were given a tour of Asmara's art-deco buildings including cinemas, Fiat Tagliero, Mosques, Churches and the central post office.

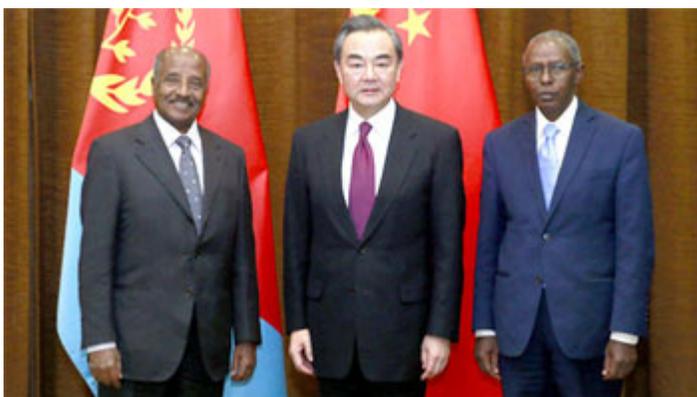
Senior Eritrean Delegation Conferred with Chinese Officials

A senior Eritrean delegation comprising Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Presidential Advisor Mr. Yemane Gebreab conducted a five-day working visit to the People’s Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi.

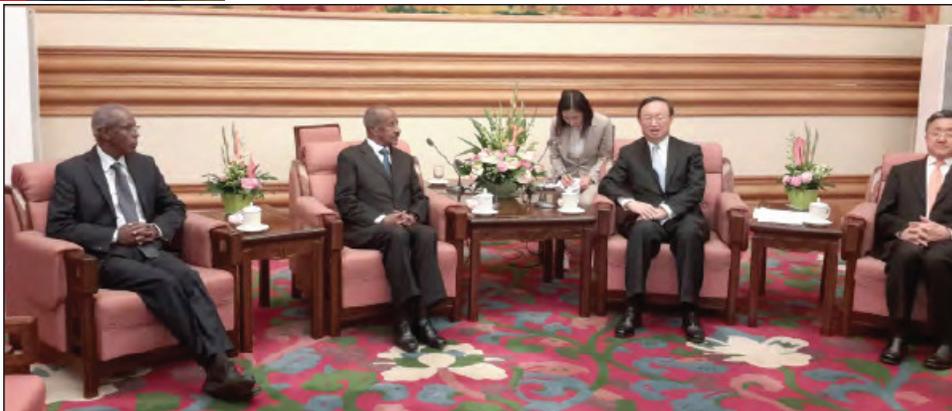
The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Yi on his part gave extensive briefing as regards the cooperation programs mapped out during the FOCAC Summit which was held in 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and expressed his country’s conviction to strengthen cooperation and partnership with Eritrea in all sectors.

Mr. Wang Yi also reaffirmed that his country will raise the issue of sanctions imposed on Eritrea in the UN and will stand alongside Eritrea on various sectors of cooperation.

The delegation met and held talks on 19 April with Mr. Song Tao, Minister of International Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, and on 20 April with Mr. Yang Jiechi, State Councilor,



On 18 April, the delegation held extensive discussions with the Chinese Foreign Minister on various issues and particularly as regards reinforcing the existing bilateral ties of cooperation between the two countries, strengthening China-Africa relationship and that of China and the Horn of Africa as well as on regional and international issues of mutual interest to both countries.



During the meeting, Minister Osman stressed on the final and binding EEBC ruling of 2002, the unjust and illegal sanctions imposed on Eritrea as well as on Eritrea-China economic partnership.

and Vice President, Li Yuanchao on bilateral relations and issues of concern to both countries.

In the course of the meeting with the Vice President of the People’s Republic of China, Mr. Li Yuanchao, Minister Osman handed a message of goodwill from President Isaias Afwerki to President Xi Jinping. Commending the country’s impressive achievements, Mr. Osman called on the PRC government to play due role towards putting an

end to anti-Eritrea conspiracies. He further expressed Eritrea’s readiness to enhance the existing relations between the two countries and China’s role in realizing regional peace and stability.

Eritrea Urged the UNSC to Lift the Unjust and Counterproductive Sanctions and End the Illegal Occupation

During the 7925th Meeting of the UN Security Council held in New York, on 13 April 2017, Eritrea called on the UNSC to Lift the Unjust and Counterproductive Sanctions and End the Illegal Occupation

The full text of the Statement Delivered by Mr. Amanuel Giorgio, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations, during the meeting is presented below.

Madam President,
Distinguished Members

I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of April. I would like to thank the Chair of the Committee H.E Ambassador Kairat Umarov for his briefing as well as for his efforts to enhance constructive and genuine dialogue. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your responsibility.

Madam President,

As a matter of coincidence this open briefing of the UN Security Council is taking place on the very date the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission gave its final and binding ruling 15 years ago, on 13 April 2002. To the regret of many who worked hard to realize peace, Ethiopia to this date continues to occupy sovereign Eritrean territory, including the town of Badme, in violation of its treaty obligation and international law. The hope of achieving peace and security for the people of the region has been dashed and the opportunity of building a common front for common challenges has been postponed indefinitely.

It would indeed be remiss of its duty of maintenance of international peace and security for the Security Council to ignore the failure and refusal by one of the parties to implement a mutual agreement that it had solemnly signed; particularly when we recall that this Agreement was guaranteed and witnessed by the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the United States and Algeria.

Madam President,

The Security Council is actively seized at the present time on all regional issues – the Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen etc. where intra-State or inter State conflicts have or continue to rage. But it continues to studiously avoid the Eritrea/Ethiopia conflict. **The UN Security Council cannot continue its fifteen years of inaction in the face of destabilizing acts of occupation and aggression that threaten regional peace and stability.** This is not only morally and legally unacceptable but it is increasingly evident that the simmering tension is untenable and fraught with perilous escalation.

In the event, **Eritrea reiterates its call to the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities of maintaining international and regional peace through ensuring immediate and unconditional Ethiopia's withdrawal from sovereign Eritrean territories, including the town of Badme.**

Madam President,

The sanction, which has been imposed on Eritrea has entered its 8th year. Its negative impact on Eritrea and the Horn of Africa region cannot be minimized. Clearly, the time has come, in fact it is long overdue, to lift the sanction on Eritrea. In this regard, I would like to avail this opportunity to highlight few facts:

1. The sanction on Eritrea has never been justified nor motivated by a genuine desire to promote regional peace and security. **If its imposition was unjustified its continuation can only be viewed as a desire to spread crises in a region that is already suffering from conflicts.** We need less conflicts, not more.
2. The two justifications for the imposition of sanction were namely Eritrea's alleged support to al-Shabab in Somalia as well as Eritrea's alleged refusal to resolve its dispute with Djibouti. **For four years the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group has found no evidence of any Eritrean wrong-doing in Somalia.**

Contd. on page 5

Eritrea Urged the UNSC to Lift the Unjust and Counterproductive Sanctions ...

(Contd. from page 4)

3. On Djibouti, **Eritrea remains committed to the mediation of the State of Qatar, and has resulted in the release of all Djiboutian prisoners of war.** The last Monitoring report made it clear that all its interlocutors, including the released Djiboutian prisoners of war only mention seven prisoners of war in Eritrea. These are all accounted for—two escapees, one who passed away and four who were released through the efforts of Qatar. Eritrea has confirmed that there are no more Djiboutian prisoners in its hands. Moreover, Eritrea cannot be asked to second guess the whereabouts of persons missing in action as claimed by Djibouti. The burden of proof squarely lies on the accuser, the Government of Djibouti. On its part, Eritrea is committed to resolve any outstanding issue with Djibouti under the mediation of Qatar.
4. Failing to find substantive evidence to continue the sanction, some countries have resorted to procedural pretexts, by singularly and inordinately focusing on the inability of the Monitoring Group to visit Eritrea. It must be recalled here that the Monitoring Group had actually visited

Eritrea twice in previous times. The Monitoring Group also maintains, without any hindrance, extensive meetings and contacts with relevant Eritrean officials. And as Your Excellencies are aware, **the Monitoring Group has itself ascertained the absence of any indication of Eritrea's support to al-Shabab. In these circumstances, Eritrea does not see any real value in a visit by the Monitoring Group to the country.** Eritrea's primary preoccupation is in fact the public stance of certain countries who have openly stated that they will not support the lifting of the sanctions even if the Group were to visit Eritrea.

Madam President,

Eritrea will continue to make its positive contribution towards regional peace, security and integration in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea area. It calls to the UN Security Council to constructively contribute to peace, cooperation and amity in our region by lifting the unjust and counterproductive sanction against Eritrea and ending Ethiopia's illegal occupation of sovereign Eritrean territory.

I thank you Madam President.

23rd Commemoration of Rwandan Genocide Observed in Asmara

The 23rd commemoration of the genocide in Rwanda was observed in Asmara on 25 April. At the event in which high level Government and PFDJ officials, Ambassadors as well as the Rwanda National Cycling Team took part, Ms. Christine Umutoni, UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, said that this year's commemoration of the Rwanda genocide is observed under the theme "Walk to Remember", and commended the Government of Eritrea for its cooperation to mark the event.

Mr. Yemane Ghebremeskel, Minister of Information, pointed out that the somber event accentuates two crucial messages, which include humanity's collective apology, to the survivors of the genocide and the

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23rd Commemoration of Rwandan Genocide Observed... (Contd. from page 5)



Mr. Yemane added that the people of Eritrea have been subjected for almost seventy years to atrocities by external forces. The people and Government of Eritrea can easily identify with the victims of genocide in Rwanda and will say, with a loud voice, no to injustice of any kind anywhere in the

people of Rwanda, for allowing the excruciating but preventable massacres to occur under the callous watch of various multilateral and bilateral institutions on one hand and to renew the moral commitment and resolve never to repeat such atrocity against humanity on the other.

world, Mr. Yemane stressed.

At the event, a film on the development achievements registered after the genocide in Rwanda was featured and testimonies by the genocide survivors was presented.

Tour of Eritrea 2017: Pedaling for Friendship

Tour of Eritrea 2017 cycling competition was held from 15-23 April 2017 in various parts of Eritrea.

The national teams of Eritrea, Rwanda, Sudan, Kenya and South Africa as well as Eri-Tel, Sembel, Asbeco, Bike-Aid, Amore-Vita and Global teams took part in the competition.



Propelled by its strong performances during the Tour of Eritrea and other recent competitions, Eritrea continues to top the Nations' Ranking in Africa.

Men • Elite • UCI Africa Tour Ranking 30 Apr 2017		
Rank	Nations	Points
1 (1)	ERITREA	1413
2 (2)	MOROCCO	1378.5
3 (3)	SOUTH AFRICA	853
4 (4)	ALGERIA	625
5 (5)	RWANDA	487
6 (6)	ETHIOPIA	438
7 (7)	TUNISIA	391
8 (8)	NAMIBIA	143
9 (9)	IVORY COAST	126
10 (10)	BURKINA FASO	103

<http://www.uci.ch/roadranking/>

Team Eritrea won the race, while Zemenfes Solomon from the Team won the General, Youth and Mountain classifications. In the General Classification, Jean Claude Uwizeye from the Rwandese National Team and Amanuel Tsegay of Team Eritrea finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Apart from the 5-stage race covering 670 kms, the competition included Fenkil Northern Red Sea Challenge, Massawa Circuit and Asmara Circuit.