



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



President Isaias Received Message from the President of Mauritania

On 02 April 2014, Mr. Camara Amedi, Minister of Environment of Mauritania delivered a message from President Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz to President Isaias Afwerki, and gave the President a briefing on the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI).

President Isaias, on his part, assured the Minister of Eritrea's readiness to boost its efforts for the realization of the goals of the Initiative. The GGWI comprises 13 African states including Eritrea, and has the objective of combating desertification. (*shabait.com*)

Advisor Delivered President Isaias' Message to President Beshir

On 7 April 2014, Presidential Advisor Mr Yemane Ghebreab delivered President Isaias Afwerki's message to H.E. Omar Hassan Al-Beshir, President of Sudan.

President Isaias' message focused on fostering bilateral relations between

Eritrea and Sudan, and key regional developments.

During his stay in Khartoum, Mr. Yemane also held discussions with the Sudanese First Vice President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Araya Desta Handed-Over His Credentials to the Chairperson of AUC

Ambassador Araya Desta presented his credentials to Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, on 9 April 2014.

During the occasion, Ambassador Araya conveyed to the Chairperson

the best wishes of President Isaias Afwerki for her personal well-being and for the strengthening of the African Union.

Furthermore, Ambassador Araya expressed his commitment to work for the betterment of the continental organization.

Dr. Zuma congratulated Ambassador Araya on his new assignment and expressed her availability to provide him with the necessary support in discharging his duty. The Chairperson also expressed her best wishes to President Isaias Afwerki, the people and Government of Eritrea.



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**Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**



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Eritrean Ambassador to Kenya Held Talks with the Vice President of Kenya

The Eritrean Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Beyene Russom held talks on 07 April 2014 with the Vice President of Kenya, Mr. William Ruto. The discussion focused on enhancement of bilateral ties, and regional as well as international issues of mutual interest.



During the meeting, Ambassador Beyene pointed out that Eritrea has been exerting efforts towards promoting peace and stability in the region, and that it would sustain its endeavors to this end.

Ambassador Beyene reaffirmed Eritrea's support to the people and Government of South Sudan and its desire for the South Sudanese people to solve their internal problem by themselves. Furthermore, he stated that the allegation by the Ethiopian Government claiming that 'Eritrea supports South Sudan's rebel group' is a baseless smear campaign.

Vice President Ruto, on his part, said that his country has clear understanding of Eritrea's active engagement in the endeavors being made to promote peace in the region. The Vice President further expressed the Kenyan Government's readiness to enhance bilateral relations with Eritrea.

During the meeting, it was stated that preparations are being made to launch flights to and from Asmara and Nairobi by Eritrean Airlines as well as Kenya Airways with a view to furthering trade and investment exchanges between the two countries. (*shabait.com*)

Ethiopia Must Withdraw from Sovereign Eritrean Territories for Peace to Prevail in the Horn of Africa

'Tolerating Ethiopia's occupation of Eritrea's sovereign territories is an affront to international law and a disservice to peace in the Horn of Africa.'

13th April marked 12 years since the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) delivered its Final and Binding Delimitation Decision on the common border between the two countries, fulfilling a major part of the mandate entrusted to it by the Algiers Agreement of 2000. Unfortunately, the day also marks 12 years that peace has been held hostage as Ethiopia refuses to abide by the Final and Binding ruling of the EEBC and still occupies sovereign Eritrean territories.

According to the Demarcation Directives adopted by the EEBC, the border would have been fully demarcated by November 2003. But Ethiopia's refusal to allow the Commission demarcate the

boundary by putting pillars on the ground dragged the process for 5 years. In the end, the Commission finalized its task by demarcating the boundary with coordinates in 2007.

The Final and Binding ruling of the EEBC cannot be reversed under any circumstances, and Eritrea has officially repeated time and again that if Ethiopia withdraws its soldiers and institutions from occupied sovereign Eritrean territories including the town of Badme in the morning, dialogue between the two countries would start in the afternoon.

The peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia deserve to live in peace, and they should be given the opportunity to dedicate their time and resources to their development agendas.

It is high time that the Witnesses and Guarantors of the Algiers Agreement, i.e UN, AU, EU and US, shoulder their responsibilities and urge Ethiopia to abide by its treaty obligations and end its occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories including the town of Badme. (*masterpiece.org*)

By Rahel Weldeab

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Araya Desta, Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea to the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa

at the
428th Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council
on the Situation in South Sudan
11 April 2014, Addis Ababa



Mr. Chairman,

Let me first introduce myself to the members of the PSC and other participants that I am the new Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea to the AU and UNECA.

I thank the Council for giving me and my delegation the opportunity to participate in this afternoon's briefing session on the situation in South Sudan.

My Government has been following the unfortunate situation unfolding in the sisterly Republic of South Sudan since mid-December of 2013. We are deeply saddened by the fighting which has led to the death and displacement of thousands of people.

Eritrea's stance and robust solidarity with the people and Government of South Sudan is a historical fact and continues unaltered. My country strongly believes that additional bloodshed and displacement must be avoided. To this end, it continues to make its humble contribution for the peaceful resolution of the problem.

Mr Chairman, on the way forward:

- ◆ It is imperative that there be consensus among all local and international stakeholders on the ways and means of achieving peaceful solution to the problem.
- ◆ A sustainable solution can only be achieved through an internal political process owned and led by the people and Government of South Sudan, the role of the international community should only be supporting this process.
- ◆ To expedite the arduous and long process of nation building, the legitimate and internationally recognized Government of South Sudan led by H.E. President Salva Kiir should be supported by the international community.

The people of South Sudan have suffered a lot, the suffering must end and they should be given the opportunity to resolve their problems and lay the foundations for building their nation and governmental institutions.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Eritrea's readiness to contribute to and collaborate with the AU and other bodies for the peaceful resolution of the problem.

Thank you!