



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



Foreign Minister Delivered President Isaias Afwerki's Message to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi



President Isaias' message focused on strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries and regional issues of mutual interest.

At the meeting held in Cairo, President El-Sisi expressed his appreciation for the message of

Foreign Minister Osman Saleh, on 15 February 2016, delivered a message from President Isaias Afwerki to H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

President Isaias and reiterated Egypt's readiness to further deepen existing ties of cooperation with Eritrea.

President Isaias Afwerki Received the Letters of Credence of 14 New Ambassadors to Eritrea

President Isaias Afwerki received, on 21 February 2016, the credentials of fourteen new Ambassadors.

At the meetings conducted with each Ambassador, President Isaias briefed them on the situation in the country and the ongoing development programs, as well as discussed relevant regional and international issues. The President reaffirmed Eritrea's readiness to consolidate its bilateral ties with the respective

countries on the basis of mutual interest and respect.

In separate interviews conducted with ERINA, the Ambassadors expressed the desire of their respective countries to strengthen the existing bilateral ties with Eritrea and lauded the peace and stability that prevails in the country.

Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and other senior government officials were present at the ceremonies.

(Contd. on page 2)

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Inside this issue:

**Somalia Eritrea
Monitoring Group
Oversteps its
Mandate Again** 3

**COMESA
Conducted a Work-
shop in Asmara** 4

**Roundtable
Discussion on
Eritrean Natural
Resources Develop-
ment held in
London** 4

**Eritrea Reiterated
its Call for UN
Reform** 5

**Eritreans from
Across the Globe
Reject UN Commis-
sion of Inquiry's
Smear Job** 5

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 **Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**

 **@EritreaAU**

President Isaias Afwerki Received the Letters of Credence of ...*(Contd. from page 3)*

1. Ambassador Yasser Ali of Egypt,
2. Ambassador Fionnuala Gilsonan of Ireland,
3. Ambassador Dr. Georg Istillfried of Austria,
4. Ambassador Neil Hawkins of Australia,
5. Ambassador Veronika Kuchynova Smigolova of Czech Republic,
6. Ambassador Per Enar Enarsson of Sweden,
7. Ambassador Allou Eugene of Cote D'ivoire,
8. Ambassador Mette Knudsen of Denmark,
9. Ambassador Salah Bendzoud of Canada,
10. Ambassador Tarja Fernandez of Finland,
11. Ambassador Leslie J. Baja of Philip-pines,
12. Ambassador Brenda Muntemba of Zambia,
13. Ambassador Suchitra Durai of India, and
14. Ambassador Ruy Pacheco de Azevedo Amaral of Brazil



Egypt



Ireland



Austria



Australia



Czech



Sweden



Cote D'ivoire



Denmark



Canada



Finland



Philippines



Zambia



India



Brazil

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Statement
Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group Oversteps its Mandate Again

The Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group report, presented on February 18th by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009), is replete with the flaws and unsubstantiated allegations that have often characterized the behavior of the group in the past years.



1. The report states that "the Monitoring Group did not find any evidence that the Government of Eritrea had been supporting Al-Shabaab". But in the same breath, it reported that "Eritrea was supporting armed groups in Ethiopia in violation of paragraph 16 of resolution 1907 (2009)"
2. The report goes on to say, "The Group had received unconfirmed reports of the presence of Eritrean soldiers in Yemen fighting alongside the Arab coalition. If confirmed, this involvement could potentially constitute a violation of paragraph 6 of the same resolution"

Eritrea welcomes the Monitoring Group's acknowledgement of the fact, even if belated, that the principal, purported reason for imposing the unwarranted sanctions against Eritrea is untenable. This fact in itself must be sufficient enough to rescind the unjust sanctions imposed on Eritrea for the past seven years. At the same time, the Monitoring Group's tendency to resort to creative interpretation and extra-procedurally stretch the scope of the sanctions resolution must be dismissed as illicit, inappropriate and counter-productive under the terms of its mandate. The fact is Ethiopia continues to occupy sovereign Eritrean territories in flagrant violation of international law, the UN Charter, and the "final and binding" arbitral decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). It must also be underlined that Ethiopia's continued breach of international law and the provisions of the UNSC-guaranteed Algiers Agreement elicit appropriate punitive measures by the UN Security Council. Furthermore, Ethiopia's unabashed public pronouncements of its pursuit of "regime change" in Eritrea and support to subversive armed groups constitute violations of international law and acts of regional subversion that cannot be downplayed or glossed over. In the event, the SEMG's focus on alleged acts of Eritrea against Ethiopia is morally unconscionable and legally incompatible with its mandate.

This allegation is patently false. Once again, it is crystal clear that the SEMG is persisting in its longstanding tendency to dwell on malicious hearsay so as to maintain the harassment of Eritrea. Who are the sources and what are the underlying motives of this disinformation? Is this another version of the SEMG's false allegation in 2009 that claimed Eritrea had sent 2,000 soldiers to Somalia? As it must be recalled, this false accusation was floated in the SEMG's reports but never retracted thereafter. Thus, is this another replay of the 2009 episode of floating wild accusations to serve a specific purpose? In any case, if the reports are unconfirmed, what is the hurry? Why does the SEMG insert in its report unconfirmed innuendos to insinuate "potential" violation?

Eritrea has emphasized all along that the unjust sanctions resolutions were politically motivated instruments conceived from the outset to harass Eritrea and to deflect attention from Ethiopia's flagrant violation of international law and occupation of sovereign Eritrean territory including the town of Badme. The SEMG's recent report illustrates, rather vividly, the dynamics of this misguided scheme.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Asmara, 22 February 2016

COMESA Conducted a Workshop in Asmara

On 9 and 10 February 2016, Eritrea hosted a workshop on preventing illegal money transfers and the funding of acts of terrorism and piracy organized by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). About fifty participants from various Eritrean financial institutions as well as the Ministries of Finance, Justice, Trade and Industry and Foreign Affairs took part in the workshop.

The Head of Governance, Peace and Security of COMESA, Ms. Elizabeth Mutunga, and her team provided detailed presentations on the subject matter.

Addressing the workshop, Ms. Elsa Haile, Director of Regional and International Organizations in the Foreign Ministry, noted Eritrea's firm policy of combating all facets of terrorism and expressed Eritrea's readiness to work closely with COMESA Member States to achieve the set targets.



It is to be recalled that, in September 2014, the Government of Eritrea issued Proclamation No. 175/2014 - the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Proclamation.

Speaking at the conclusion of the Workshop, Ms. Elizabeth Mutunga commended Eritrea's efforts in combating illicit money transfer and piracy.

Roundtable Discussion on Eritrean Natural Resources Development Held in London



A Roundtable Discussion on natural resources development in Eritrea, organized by the Eritrean Embassy in the UK, was held in London on 11 February. The

discussion was attended by industry experts, representatives of financial institutions and investors; diplomats from South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Germany, Italy, Bolivia, and Venezuela; as well as Eritrean experts and journalists.

Chairperson of the discussion, Ms. Rudy Sandhu, a business ethics and human rights lawyer who has travelled to Eritrea on a number of missions, provided a detailed account of her experiences and travel to Eritrea.

Ms. Sandhu gave a briefing on the peace and stability inside the country, as well as the attractive environment for business. She also discussed the conducive atmosphere for investment within Eritrea, and noted that the media coverage of Eritrea is sensationalized and fails to accurately depict conditions on the ground. *(Contd. on page 5)*

Eritrea Reiterated its Call for UN Reform

The Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the UN, Ambassador Girma Asmerom, addressed the UNSC open debate held, on 15 February 2016, under the theme: “The Respect to the Principle and Purpose of the Charter of the United Nations as Key Element for the maintenance of International Peace and Security.”

In his address, Ambassador Girma stated that the UN remains thoroughly dominated by the powerful few and has marginalized the overwhelming majority. Although there has been universal call for the revitalization and restructuring of the UN, no progress have been made and the founding principles of the UN continue to be compromised and abused.

He indicated that Eritrea has in multiple occasions be-

en a victim of the working method of the UNSC. In 1952 the UN denied the Eritrean people their inalienable right to Self-Determination and independence for the geopolitical interest of the big powers. Once again today, the Eritrean people are subjected to unfair and illegitimate sanctions by the Security Council on the basis of fabricated allegations which are proven to be non-existent. Moreover, the Security Council continues to neglect the illegal occupation of Eritrean sovereign territory by Ethiopia.

Ambassador Girma underscored Eritrea strongly believes that there is no other international body better than the UN to handle regional and international issues. But it has to be reinvigorated, enhanced and reformed.

Eritreans from Across the Globe Reject UN Commission of Inquiry’s Smear Job

Eritreans from across the world have submitted more than 20,000 pieces of protest messages rejecting the politically driven agenda of the “UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea”.

The messages sent in response to a call made by the Commission debunk the grotesque image the three-person Commission tried to portray of the young nation in its June 2015 report.

Roundtable Discussion on Eritrean Natural Resources Development (contd. from page 4)

One of the presenters, Dr. Tim Williams, CEO of Andiamo Exploration, which has been operating in Eritrea since the early 90s, lauded the Eritrean Government’s track-record of honoring contracts and the existing good working environment and zero-corruption. He also commended the reliable machineries and operators available in the country.

Another presenter, Mr. Todd Romaine, Vice President for Corporate Social Responsibility of Nevsun Resources, elaborated on Bisha Mine’s operations and the priority given to protecting the safety and health of employees, mitigating environmental impacts from its activities, respecting the human rights of its workers and the residents of the communities in which it



operates, and contributing to the sustainable development of those communities.

Following the presentations questions and comments were raised by the participants.

