

December 2, 2011

H.E. Mr. Li Baodong

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Dear Ambassador,

I am glad for your principled stand against the US Ambassador's the vicious plan to place more sanctions against the people of Eritrea. Like the one in 2009, this latest push for sanctions is also politically motivated. It is not designed to serve the cause of peace in the Horn of Africa.

The allegations being thrown at Eritrea are pure fabrication. The charges, hatched by the US and concocted by Ethiopia, are groundless. For example, the Ethiopian accusation of a "bombing plot of an African Union session in Addis Ababa" like what a US embassy cable from 2006 exposed is a pure fabrication by the Ethiopia government. The Ethiopian government is known for committing acts of terrorism and blaming them on Eritrea. The SEMG report's main actor of the fictional plot authored by Ethiopia, Colonel Gemetchu Ayana, is in fact an Ethiopian army officer, not an Eritrean as the report falsely alleges.

As you know well the first draft of the resolution in your hands was authored and circulated by Ethiopia and those who want to prop up the lawless regime in Ethiopia at the expense of the people of Eritrea. I would like to remind you that Ethiopia is a country that had brought untold suffering on the people of Eritrea for six decades and it continues to do so. I hope you wouldn't allow it to do more damage. Enough is enough.

The Eritrean population, which suffered seven decades of repeated US injustices, shouldn't be made to suffer more injustices. All what the people of Eritrea want is to leave in peace and develop their country through their own sweat. Why should they be punished for standing up for their rights. Putting more sanctions against the innocent people of Eritrea will not bring peace to the war ravaged Horn of Africa; in fact, this is a reckless act designed to encourage Ethiopia reignite existing simmering conflicts and to create new ones. You are the only one who can block this from happening.

Finally, scapegoating or isolating Eritrea is not the solution. The solution is on constructive engagement. That is why I strongly urge you to continue your principled stand. Lift the sanctions that were imposed on this young nation on Dec. 23, 2009 and urge Ethiopia to implement the final and binding demarcation decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) without preconditions or further delay.

Ethiopia's refusal to implement this decision is at the heart of the entire crisis in the Horn of Africa. It is this issue that must be addressed first and foremost.

With my highest respect,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_