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Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ref.: MO/ 346 /2011

**H.E. Dr. Jean Ping**  
**Chairperson, African Union Commission**  
**Addis Ababa**

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 concerning the letter you received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Djibouti.

Excellency, I appreciate your concern and offer. As one of the depositories of the Agreement signed by the Presidents of Eritrea and Djibouti on 6 June 2010, I am sure you are well aware that the parties have fully authorized the Emir of Qatar to undertake mediation efforts to solve all outstanding issues between the two countries.

In spite of Djibouti's repeated provocations and hostile diplomatic campaigns, in violation of the letter and spirit of the Qatari Agreement, the Government of Eritrea has conscientiously refrained from taking similar action. Eritrea is fully and strongly committed to the letter and spirit of the Qatari Agreement.

The issue of prisoners of war is part of the Comprehensive Agreement. **Article 3 of the Qatari Agreement stipulates that "the issue of POWs and missing persons will be settled under the auspices and supervision of the State of Qatar."**

Whatever compliant or problem that is raised by any of the Parties should be directed to the Emir of Qatar. There is no other parallel mediation modality or mechanism, and it should never be created.

Your Excellency, it is therefore Djibouti not Eritrea that should be urged to engage in good-faith and to respect the comprehensive Qatari Agreement, unless it has withdrawn from the mediation process it has committed itself to.

The AU and UN have already endorsed and supported the agreement, therefore, I appeal to Your Excellency to encourage and urge the Government of Djibouti to fully adhere to the Qatari mediation process and Agreement.

Accept, Excellency, the Assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Osman Saleh Mohamed  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Asmara, November 29, 2011