



*Embassy of the State of Eritrea
United Kingdom*

Press Briefing Conducted in London UK

London UK, 13th December 2011

H.E. Tesfamicael Gerahtu, Eritrea's Ambassador to the United Kingdom & Ireland, began by addressing the UN Security Council discussions to impose additional sanctions on Eritrea.

The Ambassador said, Eritrea categorically rejects the illegal and unjust sanctions resolution 2320 (2011) passed by the UNSC on Monday the 05 of December 2011. The resolution is yet another injustice perpetrated on the Eritrean people and it will heighten tensions and stoke an already explosive situation in the Horn of Africa.

As it became evident to everyone at the UNSC, Ambassador Gerahtu said, the sanctions were the result of undisguised US hostility towards Eritrea. It was an attempt by the US administration to scapegoat Eritrea for its faulty and failed policies in the Horn of Africa. Ambassador Gerahtu noted, it is also aimed at protecting and covering the crimes of the aggressive minority regime in Addis Abeba. The Ambassador further indicated that, the UNSC resolution comes exactly a week before the 12th anniversary of the Algiers agreement between Eritrea & Ethiopia. Since then the SC, at the instigation of the US has imposed sanctions on Eritrea twice, while at the same time refusing to take any measures against Ethiopia, which continues to occupy sovereign Eritrea territory in violation of international law and SC resolutions. This is a dereliction of duty and a cause of exacerbated conflict and instability in the Horn of Africa.

On the Eritrea-Djibouti issue, Ambassador Gerahtu said that Eritrea has never had any territorial designs on Djibouti and that the 2008 incidents were exaggerations pushed by the US administration. Eritrea has duly accepted the initiatives by Qatar to bring the two countries to resolve any outstanding issues that may have contributed to the unfortunate developments of 2008. In answering questions about Eritrea's alleged support of the Al Shabab group the Ambassador said that Eritrea never provide any support to the said group and stressed that Eritrea had a moral obligation to help the Somali people.

He said that Eritrea believes it is best to leave the Somali people to resolve their problems by themselves without external interference. The Ambassador further reminded, that the briefing was meant to "shed light into the real image of Eritrea". It is anti-thesis of the perceived image created by the US and its collaborators though the distortion of reality, blackmail, campaigns, corruptive methods and intimidation. The real image of Eritrea is totally different and irreconcilable with the image created in the minds of hostile elements through a myriad of myths about the country.

Finally the Ambassador said Eritrea is in the right path of nation building but there is recognition that the goal will require time and space and commitment.

* Read the full Briefing Note by HE T. Gerahtu, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to the UK and Ireland.

Embassy Media

East Africa News, Middle East News Agency, The Times, Africa Confidential, Russia NTV, Al Hayat Newspaper, ANN TV, BBC World Service, Press TV, Al Sharq Al Awsat, BBC Focus on Africa, Al-Arabiya MBC, BEN TV, Diplomat Magazine, Egyptians Press, Okra Express, Mail on Sunday, China, Russia, Venezuela, Egypt, Qatar Embassies, representative of Mining Companies.

96 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF

Tel: +207713 0096

Fax: +2077130161

e-mail: emwg@erembauk.com