# July 16, 2012

**No Evidence of Eritrean Support in Somalia,**

**UN Monitoring Group Admits**

Finally, the Somalia and Eritrean Monitoring Group has admitted that there is no evidence of Eritrean support in Somalia.

In its latest report, leaked to Reuters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before Eritrea had a chance to see it, as indicated in its July 6 press release, the group said, it “has found no evidence to substantiate allegations that Eritrea supplied Al-Shabaab with arms and ammunition by air in October and November 2011.” But it was this very accusation that was used to justify Resolution 2023 approved a month later, in December 2011. The Monitoring Group kept quite with this knowledge until the new sanctions were passed. It knows well Eritrea had no role whatsoever in the arming of the Somali group. History will also show that there was no evidence in 2010, 2008 or 2006 either.

That the Monitoring group handed the report to the media before the nation which is its primary target, Eritrea, was given a copy, is part of a pattern of excessive bias it has been showing since its inception seven years ago. Its charges against this young nation have been outright fabrications by Eritrea’s archenemy, Ethiopia, which this monitoring group has been trying to legitimize, with the help of the Western media.

Reuters tried to inject its own dose of bias to the principal conclusion of the report by saying that “Eritrea reduces support for al Shabaab” ignoring the exonerating conclusion that there was no evidence. Period!

Reuters said, “A report to the Council, seen by Reuters, that it had found no evidence of direct Eritrean support for al Shabaab in the last year." If there was “no evidence of direct Eritrean support” any honest report would have tried to reflect that. But, apparently, that was not the reason Reuters and its local stringers in Addis were given an advance copy the report.

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