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Eritrean Community Cultural Civic Center



April 13, 2012

H.E. Ban Ki Moon:

We, the members of the Eritrean-American community in Oakland, CA, are writing to your Excellency to express our grave concern over the acts of aggression committed by Ethiopia on 15 March, 2012, against the State of Eritrea and urge your intervention to stop further acts of aggression. Ethiopia has not only admitted to conducting such acts, but has also, through its spokespersons, hinted that it would and could commit some more. We are appalled by such brazen acts in violation of international laws and the UN Charter that establish the sanctity of the borders and sovereignty of nations. We are equally appalled by the little or no reaction to these acts on the part of the international community and the United Nations.

As you are aware, today, April 13th, marks exactly ten years since the Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission (hereafter referred to as EEBC) issued its verdict following a very thorough and long legal process. The international peace agreement of Algiers of December 2000, which contained the details and terms of reference for the EEBC, stipulated that the EEBC verdict would be final and binding. It was signed by the two parties, Eritrea and Ethiopia, in the presence of representatives of the following bodies and nations: UN, EU, AU, USA, Nigeria, and Algeria. These representatives were not just witnesses to that historic Algiers Peace Agreement. They also played the role of guarantors.

Subsequent to its April 13, 2002 ruling, the EEBC delimited and virtually demarcated the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia and provided both parties, as well as the UN, with the delimited maps. Regrettably, however, the actual placement of border markers has not been done yet due to Ethiopia's deliberate and unwarranted intransigence and ubiquitous non-compliance. The failure on the part of the guarantors to demand the non-compliant party, Ethiopia, to abide by the law and take whatever measures the agreement stipulated has definitely been a contributing factor to the impasse and continued state of tension and aggression that we witness today.

As expected the war-fatigued and peace-loving people of Eritrea and Ethiopia had immediately and enthusiastically welcomed the end of the tragic border war and the subsequent legal verdict reached by the EEBC. They had justifiably and rightly so began to look into a future wherein both nations would return to normalcy and co-exist peacefully. This hope has consistently been dashed by the subversive acts of Ethiopia as confirmed and evidenced by the recent acts of Ethiopian aggression. The status quo must be changed and the impasse caused by Ethiopia must be overcome sooner than later. Failure to act decisively at this juncture would lead to the further escalation of the current tensions into yet another avoidable, unnecessary, and unjustified disastrous war.

Thus, we kindly ask you to use your goodwill and good offices to see to it that the EEBC's border verdict is put into effect immediately and unconditionally. Furthermore, we call upon you to condemn Ethiopia's illegal occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories and its acts of aggression and impose punitive deterrent measures against it. Please accept our utmost respect and appreciation for your consideration of our letter.

Sincerely,

Eritrean Community Cultural Center Oakland