



15 Years of Silence and Complicity

OEA asks UNSC to end occupation of Eritrean territory and lift sanctions

The Organization of Eritrean Americans, in a statement, has asked the UN Security Council (UNSC) to shoulder its responsibilities and force the minority regime ruling Ethiopia today to comply with international law and the UN Charter.

April 13, 2017 marks the 15th anniversary of continued occupation of Eritrean sovereign territory by the minority regime Ethiopia in defiance of international law. The world will also witness with consternation 15 years of continued silence by the Security Council and the other guarantors of the 2000 final and binding agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia in the face of flagrant violation of the law by the latter.

Here below is the rest of the OEA statement:

13 April 2017

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
S-3800, United Nations Secretariat Bldg
New York, NY 10017

Re: OEA Letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres about Ethiopia's occupation sovereign Eritrean territory in arrogant defiance of the U.N. Charter and international law.

Your Excellency,

Today April 13, 2017, the world will witness 15 years of lawlessness by the minority regime of Ethiopia in occupying sovereign Eritrean territory in arrogant defiance of the U.N. Charter and international law.

The world will also witness with consternation years of continued silence by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the other guarantors of the 2000 final and binding agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia in the face of flagrant violation of the law by the latter.

The original decision by the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) of 2002 affirmed Eritrean sovereignty over Badme, the town that sparked the 1998 border war between the two

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neighboring nations; however, Ethiopia in breach of the 2000 Algiers Agreement continues to illegally occupy Badme because the guarantors of the Agreement--the UN, the European Union, the African Union as well as the United State--have not been willing to shoulder their collective and individual responsibilities to force the intransigent party to comply. Following its delimitation decision of April 13, 2002, the EEBC tried to demarcate the border by placing pillars. However, the regime refused to allow the demarcation to take place on the ground, forcing the Commission to complete its work with a "virtual demarcation" instead. As a result, the issue today is not demarcation, but occupation of sovereign territory.

This has been part of an ongoing neglect by the international community of the flagrant violations of international law and the UN Charter by the dictatorial regime that has been ruling Ethiopia the last quarter of a century.

Some of the regime's enablers try to portray it as a bulwark against terrorism. However, Ethiopia today is the principal destabilizer of the Horn of Africa, making the region conducive for more terrorism by creating and perpetuating the local conditions for such extremism in the region. It has also been harboring terrorist groups, including the Eritrean Islamic Jihad, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, to use them in its ongoing effort to destabilize Eritrea.

Besides, does it matter that this minority regime is committing horrendous crimes against its own people? It is myopic to see the world solely through the prism of terrorism.

The Organization of Eritrean American (OEA) strongly urges the Council to break this cycle of continued injustice against Eritrea and its people by forcing the minority regime of Ethiopia to unconditionally comply with the U.N. Charter and international law. This has been part of an ongoing travesty against this young African nation, one of the latest being the imposition of sanctions in 2009 and 2011 based on proven fabrications orchestrated by the minority regime of Ethiopia and its enablers. Once again, we ask you to immediately lift these illegal sanctions and let the Eritrean people focus on their real enemies: poverty, disease and ignorance.

Enough is enough!

Sincerely,

Organization of Eritrean Americans

CC: UNSC Members

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