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Seyoum Urges International Community to Play Active Role in Somalia

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Seyoum Mesfin said failing to find solutions for what has been happening in Somalia doesn't affect only the African region but also the entire international community.



**Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin
Addressing Ambassadors of African Group**

Addressing the Ambassadors of the African Group to the United Nations in New York, Seyoum said the sources of threats of terrorism in various parts of the world have become so interconnected and thus “to assume that developments in places such as Somalia can be isolated and ignored with no consequences for other parts of the world is simply not true,” he said.

The Minister said many opportunities were lost for a political breakthrough largely because too many external parties chose to work at cross purposes while some who could have made a difference preferred to ignore Somalia.

The best chance that Somalia has ever had since 1991 for ending its statelessness came in 2004 when the Transitional federal Government (TFG) was set up in Nairobi.

Neither Ethiopia nor any other party did annoint Abdullahi Yusuf as President of Somalia, Seyoum added.

At this juncture, therefore, the Challenge in Somalia, and essentially in Mogadishu, is no longer military or security, but is rather political, Seyoum noted.

The international community has a major role in supporting the TFG in the efforts of realizing political breakthrough in Somalia.

Seyoum further stressed that the realization of a political breakthrough in Somalia, which is almost at hand, depends on effective international support which has so far been lacking.

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Ambassador Says China Committed to Strengthen Relations with Ethiopia

Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia Lin Lin, said the Chinese Government is committed to strengthen cooperation with Ethiopia bringing the bilateral relations to a new high.

Ambassador Lin told MoFA Newsletter that the bilateral relations will not be adversely affected by the massacre of Chinese and Ethiopian citizens.

He said the Chinese government condemns the atrocities committed on civilians and offered condolences to the families of the deceased.

China and Ethiopia enjoyed friendly cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and collective benefit.

The transaction between the two nations has reached 568 million dollars as of 2006 and there are about 50 Chinese enterprises in Ethiopia with an aggregate capital of 100 million USD.

Eritrea Supporting, Engaging in Terrorism in Horn of Africa

Ethiopia's State Minister of Foreign Affairs said the Eritrean government is engaged in supporting and promoting terrorism in the Horn of African region.

Addressing the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Ministerial Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Tekeda Alemu said Eritrea is not only supporting and promoting terrorism in the region, but it is actively engaged in terrorism.

UN reports on arms embargo violations in Somalia have implicated Eritrea in providing weapons and training to the former Union of Islamic Courts (UIC).

Somalia's former Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is now Minister of Education, Ismael Hurreh Bubah told the meeting " one can easily understand the destructive role the government of Eritrea is playing by giving material as well as other supports first to the

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UIC and now to its remnants."

Meanwhile the Ministerial Council of Intergovernmental Authority on Development /IGAD/ appreciated the Ethiopian government for all the sacrifices it has paid to promote the common position of member states.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the 26th Session of IGAD held in Nairobi, Kenya, it said the sacrifice is consistent with the commitment of the organization to support the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia /TFG/ and protect the region from terrorist and extremist groups.

It also expressed its profound appreciation to the Government of Uganda for contributing troops to African Mission in Somalia /AMISOM/ and urged those countries that have pledged troops to deploy them without further delay.

IGAD also called upon the international community to assist TFG and its institutions.

Ethiopian Ambassadors Submit Credentials

Ethiopia's Ambassadors to Oman and the Central African Republic presented their credentials to the heads of state of the respective countries.



The Yemen-based Ambassador, Dr. Tofik Abdulahi, presented his letter of credence to the Omani King, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Saeed.

Ambassador Dr. Tofik, on the occasion briefed the Omani king on the on-going economic activities in Ethiopia and spoke of the long-standing amicable ties Ethiopia and Oman have been enjoying.

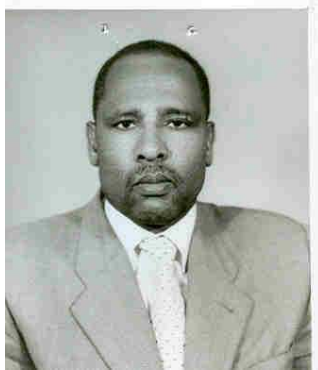
Dr. Tofik also called on Omani investors to invest in Ethiopia, where he said, prevails attractive investment climate and a range of opportunities.

Ambassador, Dr. Tofik Abdulahi

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The Omani king, on his part, said his country is desirous to bolster the existing bilateral cooperation with Ethiopia.

In a related news, Ali Abdo, the Ethiopian Ambassador to the Sudan and who is also accredited to the Central African Republic, presented his credential to President François Bozize.



Ambassador Ali Abdo said on the occasion that Ethiopia has been engaged in activities aimed at ensuring development and democracy.

President François Bozize on his part expressed his country's support to Ethiopia's endeavors towards durable peace in Somalia.

Ambassador Ali Abdo

Associations Condemn Massacre on Ethiopian and Chinese Citizens

Ethio-Somali Advocacy Council /ESAC/ condemned the terrorist act and massacre by the self-styled Ogaden National Liberation Front /ONLF/ on Ethiopia and Chinese citizens with the support of the regime in Asmara.

It said the carnage was a disgraceful and heinous crime which is unacceptable.

The Ethiopian Somali Advocacy Council called up on all peace-loving countries to condemn the killings.

In a related news the Ethiopian Somali Association for Peace and Development /ESAPD/ said the perpetrators have shown their utter disregard for peace and development.

Both US based civic organizations asked the Government of Ethiopia to bring the perpetrators of this cowardly crime to justice.

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Ministry Refutes Allegations

Ethiopian Foreign Ministry /MoFA/ rejects the allegation by the New York Times edition of April 2007, concerning what it said was arms shipment from North Korea.

It said Ethiopia acted in full compliance with the Security Council Resolution 1718(2006).

The shipment of arms from North Korea to Ethiopia on 22nd January 2007 was signed before the Islamic Courts Union /ICU/, extremists in Somalia, took control of Mogadishu and declared Jihad on Ethiopia.

The Ministry said "Ethiopia didn't and can't seek permission from any foreign government to circumvent binding United Nations Security Council Resolutions, in this case Resolution 1718 adopted on 14th October 2006."

Embassies in Addis Desirous to Celebrate Millennium

The Ethiopian Millennium National Secretariat said various embassies in Ethiopia are ready to colorfully celebrate the Millennium.

Director General of the Secretariat, Seyoum Bereded told MoFA Newsletter that the Embassies of US, Iran, Mexico, Cuba, Japan, Yemen and EU, among others, have shown keen interest to organize tree planting programmes, exhibitions and trade fairs in Addis Ababa.

Seyoum, who conferred with the ambassadors, said they are making preparations to take part in the festival.

The ambassadors firmly believe that the celebration would help strengthen the existing bilateral relations with the respective countries.

The ambassadors pledged to work with the Secretariat for the successful implementation of its plans.

The Secretariat is trying to reach out to Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin through Ethiopian Missions.