



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 March 2012

Excellency,

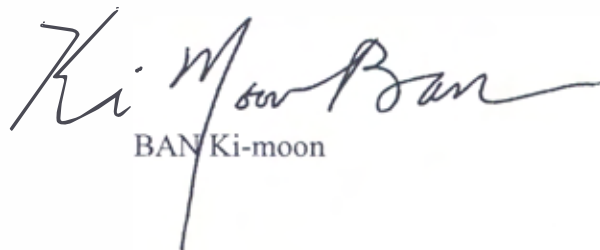
I would like to thank you for your letter dated 27 January 2012 conveying the request of your Government to establish “an independent, impartial and credible Monitoring Group to replace the current body”.

The Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea was established by the Security Council as an independent body to assist the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea.

The Security Council determines the scope of the mandate of the Monitoring Group, while its Committee concerning Somalia and Eritrea approves the composition of the Group. The Committee considers the findings and recommendations contained in the reports of the Monitoring Group, and after consultations, has the prerogative to decide what action, if any, is required to implement the recommendations of the Group.

I would like to encourage your Government to continue its engagement and cooperation with the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea. This would be the best way to continue dialogue on the issues raised in your letter.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Osman Mohammed Saleh
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
State of Eritrea
Asmara



12-01821/12-00983
POL/03/002 POL/06/001

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

2 March 2012

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the attached letter to His Excellency Mr. Osman Mohammed Saleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea.

A copy is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Nambiar'.

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Araya Desta
Permanent Representative of Eritrea
to the United Nations
New York



To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached for your approval and SG signature, a letter addressed to the FM of Eritrea related to the Government's request for the establishment of an "independent, impartial and credible Monitoring Group [on Somalia and Eritrea] to replace the current body".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Haysom', followed by a horizontal line.

Nicholas Haysom
2 March 2012

Cc: KWS

email

ACTION *NH*
COPY *VN* *(w/ encl.)*

FEB 24 2012

12-01821

ROUTING SLIP FICHE DE TRANSMISSION		<input type="checkbox"/> Routine	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate	<input type="checkbox"/> Most Immediate
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unclassified	<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Strictly Confidential
TO/A: Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet				
CC:				
THROUGH/WISE PAR:				
FROM/DE: B. Lynn Pascoe, USG/DPA				
Date: 21 February 2012		Ext: 3-5055		Room No. – No de bureau:
FOR ACTION			POUR SUITE A DONNER	
FOR YOUR ATTENTION			FOR VOTRE ATTENTION	
FOR INFORMATION			POUR INFORMATION	
FOR APPROVAL / SIGNATURE		X	POUR APPROBATION / SIGNATURE	
FOR COMMENTS			POUR OBSERVATIONS	
AS REQUESTED			SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE	
RETURN			RETOURNER	

DIVISIONS CONSULTED

Amer ☐ Eur ☐ Mewad ☐ APD ☐ Pal Rights ☐ Decol ☐

AF1 ☐ AF2 ☐ SCAD ☐ PPU/MSU ☐ EAD ☐ CTITF ☐ EO ☐

(Related coll log 12-00983)

SUBJECT/MESSAGE:

Please find attached a letter for the Secretary-General's signature, in response to a letter dated 27 January 2012, from H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea.

Thank you.

101 123/002

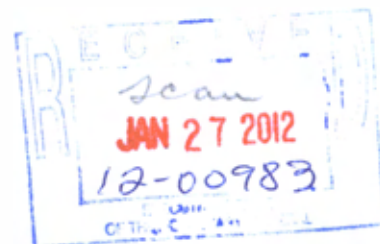


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وزير الشؤون الخارجية

Minister of Foreign Affairs

ACTION

COPY



MO/049/12

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
New York, N.Y.

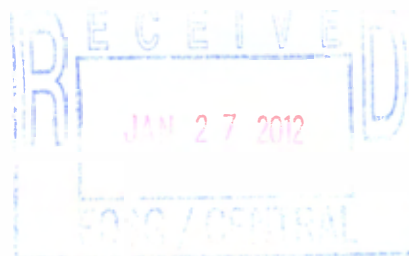
Dear Mr. Secretary General,

This letter is a sequel to my letters to the UN Security Council of 6 September 2011; of 5 December 2011; and of 4 January this year, that convey the express requests of my Government for the establishment of an independent, impartial and credible Monitoring Group to replace the current body. The January 4 letter to the UN Security Council (copy attached) further underlines the need to clarify, in a comprehensive and non-ambiguous manner, the ground rules of its operations.

Excellency,

My Government has been compelled to table this rather unusual request for the following reasons:

1. As extensively demonstrated in our response to its Report of 18 July 2011, the Monitoring Group has displayed an unwarranted propensity to criminalize and delegitimize the Government of Eritrea and the People's Front for Justice and Democracy. I do not wish to waste Your Excellency's time by repeating in this letter the overwhelming evidences and instances in the Report that corroborate this unacceptable conduct. The fact is the members of the Monitoring Group have gone to extreme lengths to wage a crusade against the Government of Eritrea, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), respectable and law-abiding members of the Eritrean community in the Diaspora as well as foreign friends of Eritrea including some Honorary Councils. As Your Excellency will agree with me, this mindset is not compatible with their mandate and cannot be shrugged off lightly.



PO4/03/002; PO4/06/001

2. The Monitoring Group has ventured, on several occasions, to probe on sensitive areas and issues that fall outside its mandate. In its November 2011 report, for instance, it announces that “it is in the process of deepening its knowledge of the Eritrean military intelligence services with a view to better understanding training and procurement activities that may represent violations of the arms embargo”. As we underlined in our letter of 4 January 2012 to the UN Security Council, this conduct clearly constitutes, albeit the flimsy caveat, an infringement of Eritrea’s sovereignty and is fraught with dangerous consequences to its national security for obvious reasons. This instance again accentuates the Monitoring Group’s lack of professionalism, poor judgment as well as disrespect of the sovereignty and institutions of the country.
3. There are credible indications which illustrate that the Monitoring Group has been taking its cue from, and working closely with, powers and countries that harbour hostile and bellicose agendas against Eritrea. Indeed, important members of the UN Security Council have underscored the need for the Monitoring Group to “... never be influenced by political considerations outside its mandate... to closely guard its independence and professionalism in the work it does to assist the Security Council with the implementation of those measures and ...to execute its responsibilities and mandate with professionalism, impartiality and objectivity. The Monitoring Group should never be influenced by political considerations outside its mandate. It is important for the Monitoring Group to closely guard its independence and professionalism in the work it does to assist the Security Council with the implementation of those measures. Equally, we call upon members of the Security Council to desist from any temptation to use the Monitoring Group for political ends”.
4. The Monitoring Group’s methodology of evidence collection and validation is another dimension of its work that provokes serious questions and which has corroded our confidence in its capacity to discharge its functions with integrity and impartiality. Almost in all instances, the Monitoring Group admits that it has relied on “foreign law enforcement agencies”; active Eritrean Government contacts”; “former government military or diplomatic officials. i.e. defectors”; and even “Eritrean individuals directly involved in people smuggling operations” for its information and presumptive conclusions. As we emphasized in our previous communications, we believe that the Monitoring Group’s ground rules of

information collection and verification should be robust and of such a standard to ensure that truth does not become a casualty of political manipulation which unfortunately has been the case so far with its various reports.

5. The Monitoring Group have almost routinely failed to rectify obvious errors that they had made in their premature official pronouncements and publications that indict Eritrea wrongly. As it may be recalled, the Monitoring Group had falsely asserted that Eritrea had deployed 2000 troops in 2006 when its mandate was then restricted to Somalia. In spite of Eritrea's repeated requests to the Monitoring Group to acknowledge the errors it had made, the Monitoring Group refused to set the record straight and take the appropriate remedial action. The pattern continues without meaningful correction to-date.
6. To-date, the Monitoring Group's Reports have never been conveyed to Eritrea formally and timely compromising its right and ability to respond to offenses of which it is accused of promptly and adequately. This may constitute a procedural flaw that cannot be attributed to the Monitoring Group alone. But we wish to take the occasion to seek remedial action.
7. We would also like to point out that a balanced composition of the Monitoring Group that draws its members from countries outside the narrow circle of those who have adversarial relationships with Eritrea will enhance its neutrality and credibility.

Let me conclude by expressing our profound hope that Your Excellency will address our requests adequately in the interests of justice and fairness.

Sincerely Yours

Osman Saleh
Minister

27 January 2012
Asmara

The seal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea is circular. It features a central emblem with a camel and a person, surrounded by a wreath. The text "ERITREA" is at the bottom of the emblem. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS" in English and its Amharic equivalent "የኢትዮጵያ ጉዳዮች ሚኒስቴር" in Amharic.

Permanent Mission of Eritrea
to the United Nations



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البعثة الأثرية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة

06 January 2012

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward a letter of H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, dated 04 January 2012, addressed to Your Excellency, in connection to the work of the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Araya Desta", written over a horizontal line.

Araya Desta
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. H.S. Puri
Chairman
Security Council Committee pursuant to
Resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009)
Concerning Somalia and Eritrea

c.c. Mr. Kiho Cha
Secretary, UN Security Council Committee



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وزير الشؤون الخارجية

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ref: OM 002/2012

4 January 2012

Excellency,

Recently, my delegation has been made aware of the contents of the November 2011 Report of the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group which was circulated to members of the Security Council Committee on 9 December 2011. I am obliged to write this letter to Your Excellency to address the issues raised in that report, and to protest against, the strident demeanor that the Eritrea Somalia Monitoring Group has chosen to assume in discharging its duties.

There are three items that merit serious examination in the section that concerns Eritrea.

1. In the opening paragraph (Page 4), the Monitoring Group openly admits that "it is in the process of deepening its knowledge of Eritrean military intelligence services with a view to better understanding training and procurement activities that may represent violations of the arms embargo". Eritrea maintains that this conduct, which does not only impinge on its sovereignty but is also fraught with dangerous consequences to its national security, cannot be within the purview of the Monitoring Group. Eritrea barely needs to mention that the "findings and reports" of the Monitoring Group are, almost invariably, first provided to Eritrea's avowed enemies and cannot, in any case, be kept "confidential or off-limits" to these forces. On a more general level, the statutory authority, structure, accountability and modus operandi of intelligence services are not matters that are indiscreetly available in the public domain in any sovereign country for reasons that are too obvious to merit clarification. In the event, the Monitoring Group cannot request Eritrea to provide it with, or collect through its own devices, such sensitive and classified information even with the flimsy caveats that it has invoked to burnish its wayward conduct.

H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
Chairman of the Security Council Committee
Concerning Somalia and Eritrea
United Nations, New York, NY, 10017

Furthermore, this strident conduct amplifies, once again, the lack of professionalism, impartiality and judicious judgment that has characterized the work of the Monitoring Group in its crusade against Eritrea.

2. The Monitoring Group accepts at face value the accusations made by the Government of Kenya and states that it is "seeking to independently verify" the information that "three aircraft, allegedly carrying weapons from Eritrea, had landed in the AI-Shabaab controlled town of Baidoa during the first week of November". The qualification notwithstanding, the bias of the Monitoring Group in this instance is again evident. The Monitoring Group cannot be oblivious to the fact that Eritrea has lodged a strong protest against the unfounded accusation by Kenya and expressly asked the UN Security Council to investigate the whole affair. It may also be relevant to note that the Government of Kenya has throughout maintained that its information comes from "secondary sources". The Monitoring Group omits this information as it is singularly obsessed with tarnishing the image of Eritrea and as it knows that first impressions tend to stick even if corrections are made later. In any case, it is not within the tradition of the Monitoring Group to acknowledge errors or the fallacy of wrong accusations in its subsequent reports.
3. The Monitoring Group also talks about new evidence that "Eritrea continues to host, train, and equip members of armed opposition groups from other countries in the region, notably Ethiopia". This assertion is presumably corroborated by "captured ONLF and OLF fighters ... in late October/ early November". The Monitoring Group states that it "has confirmed that these fighters were trained in and deployed from Eritrea by air and sea in violation of resolutions 1844 (2008) and 1907 (2009)". The Monitoring Group does not however indicate in its report when these presumed trainings took place and when and where these fighters were deployed. Furthermore, the Monitoring Group fails to mention, let alone investigate and fully report, terrorist attacks that two Ethiopian-based subversive groups (the "Eritrean Salvation Front ESF" and, the "Red Sea Afar Democratic Organisation (RSADO)" perpetrated in Eritrea at the end of November/early December. In the same vein, it keeps silent and ignores the "conference" of subversive groups that Ethiopia convened in Awasa in the same month in pursuit of its campaign of destabilization and "regime change" in Eritrea. In an address to the "conference" on November 22nd, Mr. Redwan Hussein, a member of the Political Bureau of the ruling Ethiopian party, the EPRDF, and an advisor to Ethiopia's Prime Minister, chastises the "opposition parties for not achieving much in the past years", welcomes "the timely convening of the conference to formulate new strategies of struggle to topple the Eritrean government" and

reassures them that "Ethiopia will provide them with all the support they need to achieve the goals of their struggle". All these activities and events which were widely publicized by Ethiopia and are in the public domain constitute violations not only of the United Nations Charter but also Security Council resolutions 1907 and 2023.

In view of these additional facts, the Government of Eritrea once again calls on the UN Security Council Committee to define in a more exhaustive and precise manner the ground rules that govern the functions of the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Osman Saleh
Minister

