

The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 16 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea** to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, and its enclosures.

This letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2012/162.

16 March 2012

Permanent Mission of Eritrea  
to the United Nations



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البعثة الأثرية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة

16 March 2012

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward a letter from H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, dated 15 March 2012, addressed to Your Excellency, in connection to the official statement of Ethiopia that “its army has carried out an incursion 18 kms deep into sovereign Eritrean territory to conduct an attack on Eritrean army outposts”.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and I would be most grateful if the attached letter could be circulated and issued as a document of the United Nations Security Council.

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

Araya Desta  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

H.E. Sir Mark Lyall Grant  
President of the Security Council  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y. 10017



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Minister of Foreign Affairs

15 March 2012

Excellency,

As blatantly announced in the official statement of the regime, “the Ethiopian army has carried out an incursion 18 kms deep into sovereign Eritrean territory to conduct an attack on Eritrean army outposts”. The Ethiopian regime has further bragged that it “will continue to support ‘opposition’ forces to topple the Eritrean Government”.

This reckless conduct is not surprising. Nor is it a new development or an escalation of hostilities that is taking place for the first time. It is part and parcel of the numerous unlawful and provocative attacks that have been going on intermittently in the past ten years.

The timing of the attack however appears to have been deliberately chosen to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the arbitral ruling of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission. And in this sense, it amplifies acts of flagrant aggression that continue to be perpetrated by the Ethiopian regime with impunity against Eritrea for over ten years.

As it may be recalled, the Government of Eritrea had urged the UN Security Council, through its letter of 28 February last month, to shoulder its responsibilities and take appropriate measures against the myriad and unlawful acts of aggression and occupation. The attack that the Ethiopian regime launched today constitutes a malicious response to Eritrea’s pleas.

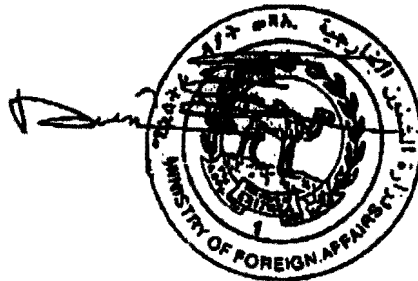
It is patently clear, that the Ethiopian regime could not have unleashed such a flagrant act of aggression with such audacity without the protection and succor of the United States in the Security Council. The Ethiopian regime indeed seems as if it is baiting the international community, and particularly the UN Security Council, to “condone” its unlawful acts that threaten regional peace and stability.

H.E. Sir Mark Lyall Grant  
President of the Security Council  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y. 10017

The people and Government of Eritrea shall not entertain and will not be entrapped by deceitful ploys that are aimed at derailing and eclipsing the fundamental issues. But how long will the UN Security Council continue to tolerate the flouting of the rule of law and the blatant violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of a Member State?

In the event, the Government of Eritrea urges, for the umpteenth time, the UN Security Council to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities and to take appropriate measures to rectify acts of aggression against Eritrea's sovereign territories and to ensure justice and the respect of the rule of law.

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



Osman Saleh