

Tripoli, 26 January 2010

Excellency and Dear Brother,

I am writing to ask Your Excellency to convey this message from the Government of the State of Eritrea to the 13th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

For over ten years, Eritrea's right as a member state of the African Union has been willfully violated. In contemptuous disregard of the Headquarters Agreement with the AU, Ethiopia has repeatedly refused to accept Eritrea's representation in the AU. We are without an ambassador to the AU for 10 years. Eritrea has also been denied its right to participate in African Union Summits and other meetings in Addis Ababa by Ethiopia's refusal to extend to us the basic diplomatic and safety prerequisites accorded to all the member states. Our repeated efforts with the AU Commission to resolve the matter have failed. We, therefore, urge the current Summit to ensure that our basic rights are respected. Until such time, it is only fair that any matter regarding Eritrea should not be discussed in our absence in Addis Abeba. They can meaningfully be addressed only in AU meetings and Summits outside of Ethiopia. Should, despite our community's efforts, Ethiopia continue to violate the AU Headquarters Agreement, we call on the African Union to stop holding any Summit meetings in Addis Ababa.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Osman Saleh

Minister

H. E. Jean Ping
Chairman of the African Union Commission
Addis Ababa