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دولة إرتريا
وزارة الشؤون الخارجية

The State of Eritrea
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Press Release

Quiet Confidence and Determination In the Face of US Instigated Sanctions

Eritrea categorically rejects the illegal and unjust sanctions resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council on Monday. The resolution is yet another injustice perpetrated on the Eritrean people and it will heighten tensions and stoke an already explosive situation in the Horn of Africa.

The resolution was not about Somalia or Djibouti. The Monitoring Group Report was incidental to the process, a mere fig leaf.

As it became evident to everyone at the Security Council, the sanctions were the result of undisguised United States hostility towards Eritrea. It was an attempt by the US administration to scapegoat Eritrea for its faulty and failed policies in the Horn of Africa. Wiki Leaks documents amply testify that this is part of a concerted US campaign to muzzle Eritrea and bring it under heel by intimidating the Eritrean people and imposing economic hardships on them. It is also aimed at protecting and covering the crimes of the aggressive minority regime in Addis Ababa.

The sanctions resolution on Eritrea reveals that despite the massive transformation taking place in the world, the United Nations and the Security Council are still dominated by the United States and underscore the need for radical UN reform.

The process that led to the resolution, during which the United States singlehandedly prevented Eritrea's meaningful participation and then turned the Security Council into a kangaroo court has further discredited the UN body. This has also violated Eritrea's inalienable and sovereign right to self defense.

The Security Council Resolution comes exactly a week before the 12th anniversary of the Algiers Agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Since then the Security Council, at the instigation of the United States has imposed sanctions on Eritrea twice, while at the same time refusing to take any measures against Ethiopia, which continues to occupy sovereign Eritrean territory in violation of international law and Security Council resolutions. This is a dereliction of duty and a cause of exacerbated conflict and instability in the Horn of Africa.

Back in 1950, in the month of December, the United Nations voted to deny the right of Eritrea as a former Italian colony to become an independent nation and decided to place it under Ethiopian yoke. The culprit then as now was the United States, with the then US Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles infamously arguing, "From the standpoint of justice, the opinions of the Eritrean people must receive consideration. Nevertheless, the strategic interest of the United States in the Red Sea basin and considerations of security and world peace make it necessary that the country has to be linked with our ally, Ethiopia." That decision led to a 30 year war between Eritrea and Ethiopia before the Eritrean people achieved their right to independent statehood at a heavy price.

Six decades later, the United States is once again seeking to thwart nation building and economic development in Eritrea. The peoples of Eritrea, Ethiopia and the region will undoubtedly pay a price for this continued misguided policy, but the Eritrean people will prevail, as they prevailed in the past. This is why on the morrow of the sanctions resolution, the overwhelming mood among Eritreans is not raging anger- although there is that as well- but quiet confidence and determination.

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