



PRESS RELEASE

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION STRONGLY CONDEMNS CONTINUED TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST AMISOM

Addis Ababa, 1st September 2010: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Jean Ping, received with sadness and regret, the news of the killing of 4 Ugandan peacekeepers serving the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). These peacekeepers died as a result of a mortar attack launched against their positions by the Al Shabaab, the same group which carried out last week's terrorist attacks that resulted in the deaths of members of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP). This latest attack also caused serious injuries to 17 other AMISOM peacekeepers.

The Chairperson of the Commission again strongly condemns the continued acts of deliberate targeting and killing of AMISOM peacekeepers by insurgents and foreign fighters, and reiterates the commitment and determination of the AU to stand by and support the people of Somalia in confronting and defeating these anti-peace elements.

The Chairperson of the Commission commiserates with the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the families of these gallant soldiers who have paid the supreme sacrifice on behalf of the African peoples in our collective search for a durable and peaceful solution to the Somali crisis.

The Chairperson of the Commission, once again, appeals to the international community to rise to the challenge and threats posed by the prevailing situation in Somalia and to render the requisite support to the ongoing efforts by the AU and the region, and lend greater assistance to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, to enable it effectively discharge its responsibilities. He appeals to the Somali leaders to demonstrate a unity of purpose to facilitate the attainment of peace and stability in their country and bring to an end the untold suffering being inflicted on the Somali people.