

Djibouti Statement On COI on Human Rights Siutation in Eritrea

H.E Mohamed-Siad Doualeh, Ambassador and permanente representative of Republic of Djibouti to United Nations in Geneva.

25th June 2015

Mr. President,

At the outset, Djibouti wishes to commend the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea for the outstanding work undertaken despite the refusal by the Government of Eritrea to permit access into the country. We strongly deplore the continued lack of cooperation by the government of Eritrea.

The Commission objectively and transparently based its findings on reliable body of first-hand accounts by a large number of victims who delivered poignant testimonies of confidential interviews and through written submissions.

We are alarmed by the widespread and systematic pattern of a large array of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and inhumane prison conditions, violations of freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and belief, freedom of movement and forced military conscription.

Of particular concern to Djibouti is the situation of hopeless Eritrean migrants who resort to dangerous escape routes who risk capture, torture and death at the hands of ruthless human traffickers.

We, in Djibouti, continue to feel pain and anguish because of the lack of information about whereabouts and health of Djibouti prisoners of wars held *incommunicado* in Eritrea prisons.

We urge the Government of Eritrea to make available information pertaining to the Djiboutian combatants and to immediately release them.

On behalf of co-sponsors, Cameroon and Somalia, Djibouti has circulated a proposed draft resolution on the Human Rights situations in Eritrea which, inter alia, calls on the Government of Eritrea to take immediate and concrete steps to implement the recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry in its report and proposes to extend the mandate of the Commission to investigate the extent to which the human Rights violations and abuses identified by the Commission constitute crimes against humanity.

We call on Members of this council to support this African-led resolution.

Thank you Mr. President