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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

February 13/2009

EPRP CONDEMNS DEFENSE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE MELES REGIME

The defense ministers of South Africa and the Meles Zenawi regime have signed a memorandum of understanding in Addis Ababa. Defense Minister Charles Nqakula and his counterpart in Addis Ababa, Siraj Fergesa agreed that both countries would work towards developing procedures for military co-operation including the exchange and training of military personnel, instructors and observers and promoting technical co-operation. Co-operating in the field of military medical services, knowledge and training would also be on the agenda. The agreement is said to be motivated by their “commitment to support peace efforts on the continent under the auspices of the African Union”.

The EPRP strongly condemns this military agreement and calls on South Africa to end or abrogate it without any delay. Military pact of any sort with the dictatorial regime in Ethiopia is counter to the basic interest of the Ethiopian people and to the search for peace in the region as a whole. It is not possible to imagine that South Africa does not know the predatory nature of the Meles regime. its carnage in Somalia, its massacres inside Ethiopia itself. The EPRP is surprised at this move on the part of South Africa while the Ethiopian people had through the years given their full support to the struggle of the South African people against Apartheid. There is little or no justification for the military pact and all claims of an AU peace mission is sham as the AU peace mission has not up to now served the interest of the African peoples.

The EPRP calls on the government of South Africa to stop any military pact or cooperation with the anti people repressive regime of Meles Zenawi. The EPRP calls on all democratic forces in South Africa to support the struggle of the Ethiopian people and to raise their voice against this military agreement.

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