AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES’ RIGHTS

REPORT ON THE PROMOTIONAL MISSION UNDERTAKEN BY COMMISSIONER KAMEL REZAG BARA TO THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

(26 February – 5 March 2000)
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I. Introduction:

1. In accordance with its policy of establishing and maintaining a constructive dialogue with the States party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on human rights issues in Africa, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights decided, at its 26th Ordinary Session held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 1 – 15 November 1999, to undertake promotional missions to certain African countries, including the Republic of Djibouti. Following an exchange of correspondence between the Secretariat of the Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti, agreement was reached to undertake the mission from 26 February to 5 March 2000. The mission, which was conducted by Commissioner Kamel Rezag Bara, assisted by Mr. Robert Kotchani, Legal Officer at the Secretariat of the Commission, was accomplished under good conditions due to the assistance and helpfulness of the competent authorities of the Republic of Djibouti.

2. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' promotional mission to the Republic of Djibouti was aimed at initiating contact with the Djiboutian political, administrative, police and military authorities, as well as with civil and religious society, including the press, NGOs, labour unions and youth associations. This would allow the mission to discuss directly with the indicated interlocutors and to gather information and reliable assessments on the human rights situation, as stated in the mission's terms of reference.

II. Terms of reference of the promotional mission to the Republic of Djibouti.

3. The terms of reference of the mission to the Republic of Djibouti were as follows:

   a) Discuss with the Djiboutian Government on the overall human rights situation in the Republic of Djibouti;
   b) Draw the attention of the competent Djiboutian authorities to the need to respect their obligations deriving from the provisions of article 62 of the African Charter, which Djibouti ratified on 20/12/1991. In this regard, the mission was tasked with seeking to persuade the competent authorities as to the need to ensure the presentation, in the near future, of the Republic of Djibouti's initial report to the African Commission;
   c) Request information on the situation of certain human rights activists and, in particular, to raise the issue of Barrister Aref Mohammed Aref who is under a travel ban that precludes him from leaving the country, in addition to being debarred for life from carrying out his profession as a lawyer in the Djibouti Bar;
   d) Promote human rights in general by enlightening the mission's interlocutors on the work of the African Commission, through meetings with NGOs, trade unionists,
intellectuals and human rights organisations, towards the establishment of a partnership based on consultation and exchange of information;
e) Undertake field visits, including to prisons, with a view to assessing detention and prison conditions in the Republic of Djibouti.

III. Reception of the delegation and organisation of its work

4. A protocol officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was at the Djibouti international airport to welcome Commissioner Rezag Bara and his assistant on their arrival. Plans for the mission were discussed and a draft programme, comprising meetings and discussions and one visit, was adopted.

5. The mission team would like, hereby, to express its appreciation for the support and kind attention lavished on it, which greatly facilitated its task.

IV. Persons met and issues discussed:

Monday, 28/02/2000

6. Meeting with H.E. the Minister of Justice.
   The mission team was received by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Idriss Djibril, Minister of Justice, Islamic and Prison Affairs, and the official in charge of Human Rights of the Republic of Djibouti, in the presence of Mr. Hersi, DG of the Ministry.

7. After the exchange of courtesies, the Commissioner expressed the gratitude of the Commission to the Government of Djibouti for accepting the mission to be conducted. He then gave a brief explanation on the Commission’s composition and activities, after which he raised the fact that, since Djibouti ratified the Charter since 1991, it was important for it to effectively integrate the Charter’s provisions into the Djiboutian legislation. The Commissioner then raised the issue of the overdue periodic reports that the Government should prepare and submit to the Commission in conformity with article 62 of the Charter.

8. In reply, the Minister acknowledged that since human rights are the very foundation of human dignity, respect for them was fundamental. This is why, according to him, H.E. President Ismail Omar Guelleh, who shares this point of view, has made justice a priority. The Minister also acknowledged that the pace of change could do with some acceleration. He thus expressed the desire for enhanced cooperation between Djibouti and the Commission.

9. The Director General further explained that human rights was added to the Ministry’s responsibilities two years ago, and that the country’s new Constitution, adopted in 1992 refers in its preamble to the Universal Declaration as well as to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. He then gave an exposé on the constitutional and legal guarantees for human rights protection, at both the levels of jurisdiction and of the new Penal Code, which permits, for instance, the presence of the lawyer as from the moment a person is taken into custody. Extraordinary tribunals have been eliminated and the death penalty abolished since the 1999 Constitution was adopted.
10. The Commissioner drew attention to the Commission's approach, which does not consist of coming to dish out instructions, but rather establishing a constructive dialogue with States party. He then provided copies of the guidelines for the preparation of periodic reports and other documents, and called on the Government to send a representative to the Algiers session to address the Commission and the NGOs.

11. The question of communication 133/94 submitted by a Djiboutian NGO against the Government of Djibouti, and said to have been amicably resolved was raised and the Commissioner insisted on the need to have confirmation of this by personally meeting with the head of the NGO.

12. The Commissioner asked to be informed as to the situation of Barrister Aref Mohammed Aref and other prisoners of conscience.

13. Mr. Hersi replied saying that all prisoners had been released following the signing of the Paris accords between the Government and the FRUD-Armé movement in February 2000. As regards Barrister Aref, he was disbarred based on a sovereign decision taken by the Council of the Bar Association, which is currently being appealed in court and without any pressure from the authorities. While some of his lawyers had not been issued with entry visas for Djibouti, this was a matter of the country's sovereignty and the defence of the interests of the country. Without denying the confiscation of Barrister Aref's travel document, he concluded saying that there was no judicial decision prohibiting his exit from Djiboutian territory, and that he was in possession of a French passport for that purpose.

Meeting with Ms Abeba, President of the Supreme Court:

14. The Commissioner sought to know from this authoritative source what were the guarantees for the right to fair trial in the Republic of Djibouti. Ms Abeba replied saying that the country's penury makes the desire for justice of all and sundry seem rather utopian; while the organisation of the judiciary is good, it severely lacks judges to make it operational: slowness in hearing cases as well as dysfunction arising from the presence of the same judges to hear those cases at different stages, with the judges' status having meanwhile changed (an investigating judge who has become a trial judge, a lower court judge who has become a Supreme Court judge, etc.). To illustrate this situation, we were informed that the country has a mere 22 judges for a population in the region of 1 million inhabitants.

15. Ms Abeba also deplored the lack of a service code for the bench, and stated that the customary courts were still very active, due to the inadequacies of the modern courts. She also raised the issue of the special courts that apply the sharia and which deals with divorce, custody of children, though its decisions are monitored by the Supreme Court.

16. The Supreme Court President, finally, highlighted the disparity and contradictions between texts very often drafted within the narrowness of ministerial departments by people who are under-qualified or lacking in knowledge of the realities on the ground, on the one hand, and the demands of the country's socio-political evolution, on the other.

Meeting with Mr. Noël ABDI Jean-Paul, President of the Djiboutian Human Rights League, accompanied by two of his assistants

17. Mr. ABDI informed the Commissioner about the activities of his NGO, which has focused its activity on the resolution of the armed conflict between the government and the FRUD-Armé movement, the problems between the political opposition, the labour unions
and the government in place, and the effective implementations of the provisions of the 1992 Constitution.

18. He then referred to the difficulties met by his organisation, after which he decried the unfavourable atmosphere reigning in Djibouti: lack of press freedom, freedom of association (labour unions and political), exactions by the forces of law and order.

19. In practice, and regardless of the constitutional provisions, four political parties are authorised in Djibouti: Rassemblement Populaire pour le Progrès (RPP, Peoples' Progress Convention) in power, Parti pour le Renouveau Démocratique (PRD, Party for Democratic Renewal), Parti National Démocratique (PND, National Democratic Party), and Front pour la Restauration de l'Unité et de la Démocratie (FRUD, Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy). He accused the ruling party of using subterfuge to weaken and divide those parties that have not rallied to its side.

Meeting with Barrister Aref Mohammed Aref:
20. This first contact with Barrister Aref enabled the Commissioner to discover that the lawyer's passport had been confiscated since 1998, without this being based on any judicial order, that he was under a 5-year interdiction from practising as well as a removal from the Djibouti Bar, and a two-year suspended prison sentence. The foreign lawyers who had wanted to defend him in these various cases were not granted visas. Barrister Aref has appealed all the judicial decisions hanging over his head.

Tuesday, 29 February 2000
Meeting with the Djibouti Bar Association
21. Five lawyers, including a former [BA] President attended this meeting. After briefly introducing the African Commission and its activities, the Commissioner emphasised the need for collaboration between it and practitioners in the legal field – Bar and Bench. He took time to give a clear explanation of the protection function of the Commission, after which he heard his interlocutors' impressions on the Djiboutian judicial system. All of them averred that the legislative advances would be better appreciated if they were given effective application on the ground. The prevailing situation makes ground for long periods of detention without trial, sometimes stretching to seven years.

22. Cases of torture have disappeared and the death penalty abolished, but the state of the prison system remains bothersome and the execution of judicial decisions is sometimes impossible due to political pressures.

23. Women are defenceless in the face of the refusal of their husband from whom they are seeking divorce. Meanwhile, lawyers do not generally appear at the Cadi's court, which follows the sharia. They only come in at the level of the Supreme Court, which takes the final decision. A Family Code is at the drafting stage, according to them.

24. The Commissioner provided his interlocutors with copies of the African Charter as well as documentation on the activities of the African Commission.

Meeting with Mr. Ali Mohamed ABDOU, Attorney General:
25. The institutional advances as well as other matters in progress were raised, as well as the need for collaboration between the Commission and Djibouti.
26. The A-G acknowledged that there have been human rights violations in the country, but noted that they have dropped significantly. The Ministry of Justice is also in charge of human rights. A National Human Rights Commission is in the process of being established.

27. Finally, he requested the Commission’s assistance in training police officers and auxiliaries as well as judges and lawyers, to the end that they may have a good grasp of the notions of human rights.

Visit to the Gabode prison

28. The prison Director explained that, like other sectors, the Djiboutian prison system is plagued by a lack of resources: of the four prisons in the country, only that of Gabode is functional. This leads to overpopulation, which is aggravated by the antiquated facilities.

29. The prison houses 463 inmates, sometimes up to 700, though it was constructed (in 1963) with a capacity for 350 prisoners. The mission team noted that there was separation between men and women, minors and adults, convicts and detainees, and was informed by the inmates that problems with health and promiscuity are the most worrisome, in addition to the slowness in hearing cases. Some inmates have been in detention without trial for over five years.

30. A notable characteristic of the prison population is that the majority are foreigners, in particular Ethiopians (2/3).

Meeting with Mr. Mohamed Souleh, President of the Association for the Defence of Human Rights:

31. After an exchange of greetings, the Commissioner sought confirmation of the amicable settlement of the situation that led to Communication 133/94, which was submitted by this NGO against the Djiboutian State. Mr. Souleh confirmed that the dispute had indeed been settled amicably and agreed to write a letter to the Commission indicating this.1

32. Mr. Souleh also gave a positive assessment of the overall evolution of human rights in the country, while noting that some NGOs, such as the Djiboutian League for the Defence of Human Rights, have not been recognised by the government.

33. Asked about the Aref case, he replied that he was an opposition politician who had had a run-in with the authorities. He added that Mr. Aref was the Secretary of a political party, the National Democratic Party.

34. Finally, he testified to the good relations between his organisation and the authorities. According to him, the problems of the press are due to the high cost of paper and other material, as well as the bans imposed on certain newspapers.

Meeting with Barrister Martinet, lawyer and former Bar President:

35. The case of Barrister Aref was the main topic of the meeting with Barrister Martinet. The former Bar Association president explained that Barrister Aref’s problems date back to the time when he was accused of getting involved in a coup d’état with his uncle, in a bid to topple the government then headed by President Hassan Gouled Aptidon. But his recent

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1 The said letter, written by Mr. Souleh, who handed it to the Legal Officer accompanying the Commissioner, has been delivered to the Secretariat of the Commission.
conflicts arose from a case involving a consignment of flour that Barrister Aref allegedly tried to sell at a very low price, though his clients had given him instructions to the contrary. This is what led to his life disbarment by the Djibouti Bar Association.

36. In reply to a question as to what could be done to have Barrister Aref restored to the Bar, Barrister Martinet stated that since his disbarment had been appealed, it would be necessary to await the judges’ verdict.

Second meeting with officials of the Djiboutian Human Rights League (LDDH), including the President, Mr. Noël Abdi Jean Paul.

37. This meeting, which took place in the offices of the NGO, provided the Commissioner with an opportunity to witness and discuss the organisation’s working conditions. The President of LDDH stressed that due to lack of official recognition by the Djiboutian Ministry of Interior, his NGO was working based on the provisions of a 1901 law.

38. Mr. Noël Abdi Jean Paul, in concluding, expressed his NGO’s desire to work with in consonance with the government for the consolidation of the advances in the field of human rights, by regularly putting forward its proposals.

Wednesday, 01/03/2000

Meeting with Mr. Yassin Yabeh GALAB, Chief of Staff of the National Police Force, accompanied three of his assistants.

39. Following a brief introduction on the African Commission and most especially the goals of the mission he was conducting to Djibouti, the Commissioner inquired from his interlocutor as to the current status as regards security, the place of human rights in the training of police personnel and how cases of abuse are dealt with.

40. The Chief of Staff acknowledged that the single-party system had encouraged human rights abuses, but that multi-partyism had brought about the end of many nefarious practices in Africa. He also added that the Djiboutian system followed the French security system, which constrained the public order forces to respect the traditional rules, that is, policemen were given training in human rights, and the “inevitable” excesses were dealt with in accordance with the law.

41. Mr. GALAB stressed that the main security threats were the foreigners, from neighbouring countries facing war, who see Djibouti as an eldorado and return every time they are expelled. In his view, African countries are victims of the international media that are very often ill informed or ill intentioned.

42. He further stated that there is a school which, in the course of the training of policemen and officers of the Judicial Police, gives them a six-month course in human rights. Whenever there is an abuse, the Inspectorate Department of the Police Forces takes note and the appropriate action is immediately taken against the wrongdoer. In fact, such action is currently being taken against a policeman. Finally, he applauded the initiatives taken in conducting seminars on justice and human rights, organised by the public authorities, and made the case for ensuring that more resources are made available to the forces of law and order.

Meeting with Colonel Cheikh MAHDI, Commander of the National
Gendarmerie, accompanied by his deputy and some assistants.

43. Colonel MAHDI assured Commissioner, saying that since Djibouti is a small country, it is very easy to know who is doing what and to take action in time, where necessary. In his view, his men, who undergo a rigorous two-year training, are well trained. Their activities are conducted in close collaboration with the judicial authorities (Public Prosecutor’s Office) and administrative authorities (District Chiefs), and always led by at least an officer of Commander level, which limits any excesses.

44. The Colonel further stated that his officers deal with cases of both political and armed opponents, and consider themselves auxiliaries of justice in regard to the former and men of forces of law and order vis-à-vis the latter. He concluded by stating that he refuses to act when a case is not clear-cut.

45. In his view, insecurity, criminality and begging in the country are the results of the wars and poverty existing in neighbouring countries. All these are beyond capacity of Djibouti, which is why their President works for peace among the neighbours.

Lecture on the African Charter and Commission by the Commissioner to an audience of lawyers, judges and journalists.

46. The Commissioner used this lecture, which was organised on the premises of the Ministry of Justice, for lawyers and judges, as an opportunity to introduce the African Charter and the activities of the Commission. He stressed the importance of the role of NGOs and, more recently, the national human rights institutions in these activities. He concluded by emphasising the need for constant collaboration between the Commission and the African Bar with a view to the development of human rights.

47. The Commission’s protection mechanism was dealt with, and the guidelines for the submission and consideration of communications as well as other documents published by the Commission were distributed to the audience.

Thursday, 02/03/2000

Meeting with Ms. Hawa Ahmed Yousouf, Minister of Women’s Promotion, Family Welfare and Social Affairs.

48. Commissioner Rezag Bara introduced the Commission and stressed the policy of proximity that it henceforth intends to follow with the member States, in order to gather first-hand information.

49. The Minister noted that Djiboutian women have fundamental rights guaranteed under the laws of the Republic, even if reasons of an economic nature prevent some of them from enjoying them, especially in the remote areas. She acknowledged that sociological biases favour boys over girls. Accordingly, Djibouti only has two women possessing doctorate degrees and two women lawyers.

50. She also pointed out that female genital mutilation is a malady that the Djiboutian government wants to eradicate. The ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the signing of the Convention on the Rights and Welfare of Children, the promotion by the government of the creation of women’s NGOs and children’s rights NGOs are clear testimonies to its good will, which is also underscored by the ongoing preparation of a Family Code.
51. In his turn, the Commissioner mentioned the ongoing preparation of a protocol to the African Charter on women's rights in Africa and gave a copy of its draft to the Minister. She received it with delight, and also gave the Commissioner some documents prepared by her Ministry.

Meeting with H.E. Mr. Barkat HAMADOU, Prime Minister of Djibouti.

52. His Excellency listened with evident interest to the introduction on the Commission and the objectives of the mission, following which he clearly expressed his Government's desire to collaborate more closely with the Commission in the training of judges, policemen, lawyers and other senior officials of the country.

53. The Commissioner welcomed this openness and expressed the desire that the once constant relations between the Commission and Djibouti may resume, and he seized the opportunity to call on the government to send its representatives to attend the following session to be held in Algiers, Algeria. He placed particular emphasis on the need for Djibouti to submit its outstanding periodic reports to the commission and to send delegates to present them, for which they could count on the Commission's technical assistance.

54. Mr. Hamadou, in reply to all these proposals, gave assurances that his Government would reply in the positive, and that Djibouti would be present at the Algiers session.

Meeting with the Acting Minister of Interior, Mr. Yacin Elmi BOUH
(Mr. Y.E. Bouh, a lawyer by training, is the Minister of Finance of Djibouti)

55. The Minister listened with interest to the explanations of the Commissioner on the establishment and functioning of the Commission and the objectives of the mission. He then thanked the Commission for the initiative and gave assurances that Djibouti has ratified the principal human rights instruments and is implementing them in its day-to-day life, to the extent permitted by its meagre resources — witness the abolition of the death penalty and other advances, already achieved or in progress. Mr. Bouh acknowledged that not all is perfect and solicited increased collaboration between his country and the Commission, giving assurances that Djibouti would be represented at its 27th Session.

56. The Commissioner called the attention of the Minister to the fact that the democratic political opposition ought to be accepted and even encouraged and not be considered negative and banned, even if certain manipulations ought to be denounced.

57. Indicating his agreement, the Minister added that divergence of views is a cultural train in Djibouti and deplored the misdoings of un-professional politicians and journalists.

Meeting with the Minister of Presidential Affairs, Mr. Osman Ahmed MUSA.

58. The Minister highlighted the decentralisation process, the ongoing legislative reforms, which are aimed at bringing the administration, in all its forms, to the citizens, with the priority being on economic and social rights. In the Minister's view, some reforms and resource allocations have been retarded due to slowness attributable to the beneficiaries themselves.

59. He concluded stating to the Commissioner that the President of the Republic agreed to his mission because the country had nothing to hide.
Dinner meeting with Barrister Aref and Mr. Noël Abdi Jean Paul.

60. The discussion was essentially centred on the political situation prevailing in the country and how the Commission could help to defuse it.

61. Mr. Abdi and Barrister Aref both avowed that the Djiboutian opposition was facing all sorts of problems caused by the Government which seeks to split them and brings great pressure to bear on all form of divergent opinion. In their view, while the elite is present in the administration, they are often kept away from the exercise of power, which gives rise to anti-constitutional acts on the part of leaders who are very often ignorant of the laws.

62. While the Constitution guarantees multi-partyism, during the 1992 referendum, a constitutional text, which had also been voted on in a referendum, set a limit of four parties until 2002. The opposition, arguing that this law had never been promulgated, affirms that it has no validity. Nevertheless, the government bases itself on this provision to limit the number of parties to four and to control their creation.

Meeting with Barrister Wabat, President of the Djibouti Bar Association.

63. According to Barrister Wabat, the legislative corpus is good, but its application bad. Moreover, there is a lack of resources and a problem of personnel and competence. He thus proposes a re-evaluation of the resources allocated to the judicial system, the training and retraining of judges.

64. Barrister Wabat criticised the slowness in hearing cases, which lead to people being held in custody for up to seven years; he attributed this practice to the dysfunctional state of the administration of the detention system, and not to any political will.

65. Dealing with the specific case of Barrister Aref, he stated that his situation was worsened when he started to get involved in politics and on the opposition side, but that he had first committed a serious professional error. He was thus disbarred and the courts also imposed a special penalty suspending for five years from practising as a lawyer.

66. He promised that if Aref wrote him formally, he could work towards a resolution of his problems.

67. The Commissioner also discussed with Barrister Wabat his intention of organising a training workshop in human rights for senior officials.

\footnote{When informed of the BA President's remarks, Barrister Aref addressed a letter to him along the lines of what had been requested by the former.}
Meeting with Ms. Kimberley Clark Legal Officer with the International Republican Institute (IRI) and Ms. Lauren May, 2nd Secretary at the Embassy of the United States in the Republic of Djibouti.

68. The meeting with these two persons was at their request, after they learnt through the press of the presence of the mission from the African Commission in Djibouti. The main aim of the discussion was to consider the possibility of collaboration between IRI and the African Commission in organising a training workshop in human rights in Djibouti. To this end, co-ordinates were exchanged between the two sides.

Friday, 03/03/2000

Meeting with some labour leaders from the Djiboutian Workers Union and the (UDT) General Union of Djiboutian Workers (UGTD).

69. Problems in the area of freedom of union organisation formed the substance of this meeting. It emerges from the meeting that the unions, like political parties, are subjected to harassment by the government, which seeks to divide them in order to weaken them. Furthermore, some of them are still banned.

Meeting with journalists from Le Temps, Le Renouveau and Alwahda.

70. According to the journalists, only the Government newspaper «la Nation» is in circulation, since all the others have been banned. Prior to that, the private newspapers were frequently subjected to harassment and their journalists arrested. Press freedom is thus endangered.

V- Conclusions and Recommendations.

VI- Conclusions:

71. Following this mission to the Republic of Djibouti, it is quite clear that the authorities are demonstrating a genuine desire to integrate the human rights framework in their concerns and want to open a constructive dialogue with the African Commission. Nevertheless, the fragility of the socio-political situation resulting from the peace accords between the government and FRUD-Armé as well as the chronic instability and situations of open conflict existing in some of the bordering countries demand a high level of circumspection.

72. The following conclusions may be derived from the various contacts and meetings held by the mission:

- the government's desire to more adequately meet the expectations of the citizens is not open to doubt;
- the judicial system, though based on the French system, from which it is derived, and though it has a number of well-drafted laws, does not fit well with the aspirations of the citizens;
- freedom of association is not effectively guaranteed for the citizens;
- freedom of the press does not exist;
- labour freedoms are seriously constrained;
in these circumstance, human rights, especially as regards their civil and political aspects, are not sufficiently guaranteed;

V2. **Recommendations:**
73. Based on the assurances of good will that the government gave to the Commissioner, he would like to make the following recommendations to the government:

- Civil and political rights should be accorded more respect, in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights which the government of Djibouti ratified on 06/01/1992;

- The resources allocated to the judicial system and the prisons administration should be more substantial, and judges retrained. The process of preparing a more attractive service code for the Bench should be speeded. The African Commission stands ready to collaborate with the government in organising human rights training workshops for Djiboutian officials, and most especially judges, lawyers, security personnel and Ministry of Justice officials;

- Hearing of the cases of people who have been detained for many years without trial should be accelerated, in accordance with the demands of the right to fair trial;

- The government should give force to the provisions of article 62 of the African Charter by submitting and sending a delegation to present its initial report as well as the outstanding periodic reports. The African Commission stands ready to provides its technical assistance in this regard;

- The government should accept to further open the space for pluralism and press freedom and allocate resources for the training and retraining of journalists, with a view to enhancing their professionalism. Assistance to the press should be provided, depending on the availability of resources;

- Human rights activists should enjoy greater understanding from and cooperation with the government. In this regard, the African Commission reiterates its appeal for the lifting of all measures preventing human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and unionists from fully exercising their rights and freedoms within a peaceful and democratic framework;

- Finally, the mission of the African Commission would like to express it deep appreciation for the smooth conduct of its promotional visit to the Republic of Djibouti and expresses its gratitude to the competent authorities for their assistance and helpfulness.