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PRESS RELEASE

THE AU CHAIRPERSON WELCOMES THE RELEASE OF DJIBOUTI PRISONERS BY ERITREA

Addis Ababa, 19 March 2016: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcomes the release by the Eritrean authorities of four Djiboutian prisoners who had been detained in 2008 following the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea. She commends the State of Qatar for the role it played in this respect.

The Chairperson of the Commission considers that the release of the Djiboutian prisoners is a positive step in the right direction within the process of normalization of relations between the two countries and in this context, she calls on the parties to clarify the fate of any remaining prisoners and to also release them.

The Chairperson of the Commission recalls that the AU, notably through the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, has repeatedly urged for the full implementation of the Agreement of 6 June 2010 signed by the two countries under the auspices of the State of Qatar. The Chairperson underlines the need for continued and expedited efforts in this respect.

The Chairperson of the Commission pledges, once again, the AU's commitment to assist Djibouti and Eritrea normalize their relations and promote good neighborliness within the framework of the relevant AU instruments.