PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION-LED REGIONAL TASK FORCE CAPTURES A COMMANDER OF THE LORD’S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA) IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Addis Ababa, 22 April 2014: The African Union-led Regional Task Force (AU-RTF) troops in the Central African Republic (CAR), on 21 April 2014, captured a commander of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), Lt. Charles Okello, West of River Kotto, about 20km West of Bakuma in the South-eastern part of the country. During the battle in which Lt. Charles Okello was captured, the AU-RTF troops also rescued three women and seven children, and recovered one (01) sub-machine gun, three (03) hunters’ rifles, assorted ammunition and one (01) Walkie Talkie radio. The AU Forces are continuing to track other members of the group to which Lt Charles Okello belonged.

Elsewhere, the AU-RTF troops are conducting search and destroy operations in Ango Territory in north-eastern DRC, to rid the area of small scale LRA attacks aimed at looting supplies for survival.

The AU Commission commends the RTF for its successive successes against the LRA, as illustrated by a reduction in LRA attacks on civilians and the relative improvement in the security as well as humanitarian situation in south-eastern CAR and north-eastern DRC.