MEDIA ADVISORY

23rd COMMEMORATION OF THE RWANDA GENOCIDE

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

What: The 23rd Commemoration of the Rwanda Genocide at the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Theme: “Remember the Rwanda Genocide - Fight Genocide Ideology – Build on our Progress”

When: 7th April, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.


Where: Old Conference Hall of the African Union Commission

Objective:

- Genocide denial has been changing over time and it is an ultimate continuation of the Genocide Ideology, which in reality is the continuum of actions that characterize Genocide. The objective is therefore to discuss and bring out the dangers of ‘denial’; including highlighting the classic ‘Manifestations’ of Genocide Denial and how to fight it.

The expected Outcome:

- To remember the lives lost during the Genocide of 1994 in Rwanda, show solidarity with the survivors and unite to ensure it never happens in Rwanda or elsewhere in Africa and beyond.
- It is a chance of learn of Rwanda’s story of reconciliation and nation building.

Participants: The Event will be commemorated by the AU in collaboration with the authorities and members of the community of the Republic of Rwanda and AU Member States, members of the Diplomatic Corps, AU Organs, UN Agencies, Religious Institutions, Human Rights Institutions,
Intergovernmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and International Organizations in Ethiopia, Schools and Academic Institutions.

**Background:**

The commemoration of the Rwanda Genocide is annually organised by the African Union following the African Union policy organ decision to recognize the 7th of April as a day of remembrance of the victims of the genocide and reaffirmation of Africa’s resolve to prevent and fight genocide on the Continent. The decision was recommended by the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee during its special session on the Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, and later was adopted by the AU Policy Organs. The purpose of the commemoration is to continuously awaken greater awareness of the African peoples and the international community about the value of life and humanity, and to renew our collective commitment to protect and uphold fundamental human rights.

**JOURNALISTS ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT ON THE 7th OF APRIL, 2017 AT THE AU HEADQUARTERS, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

For more details on the meeting, please contact:

**Ambassador Salah S. Hammad**| Senior Human Rights Expert, Department of Political Affairs| African Union Commission| Tel: +251 913057711 | Email: HammadS@africa-union.org

**Mr. John Ikubaje**| Senior Governance Officer at the Department of Political Affairs | African Union Commission | Tel: +251 0923208041| E-mail: GbodiJ@africa-union.org / jikubaje@gmail.com

For media inquiries contact:

**Tankou Azaa Esther**, Head of Information Division/ Directorate of Information and Communication |Tel: +251 911361185 | E-mail: YambouE@africa-union.org | African Union Commission

**Sidonie Timah**, Youth Volunteer, Department of Political Affairs / African Union Commission/ Tel: +251 929 11 6520| Email: timah@africa-union.org

**Website:** www.au.int

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