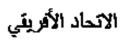
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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST THE AMISOM BASE CAMP IN MOGADISHU

Addis Ababa, 26 December 2014: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, has learnt with shock and dismay of the attack carried out yesterday, 25 December 2014, by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group against the Halane base camp of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), close to Mogadishu International Airport.

The Chairperson of the Commission strongly condemns this criminal and terrorist attack. She praises the AMISOM troops and police for their quick response and courage in neutralizing the assailants.

The Chairperson of the Commission commiserates with the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives during the attack. She pays tributes to the troop and police contributing countries for their continued commitment and sacrifices in support of the Somali people and leaders.

The Chairperson of the Commission once again commends the AMISOM personnel and leadership for their sense of duty and bravery. She stresses that yesterday's attack will only strengthen the resolve of the AU, notably through AMISOM, working jointly with the Somali security forces, to completely defeat the Al-Shabaab terrorist group and create the required security conditions for the successful stabilization of Somalia and the lasting restoration of peace and reconciliation.

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