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PRESS RELEASE

The AU strongly condemns the massacre of civilians in Gatumba, Burundi

Addis Ababa, 20 September 2011: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Jean Ping, has learned with great sorrow about the tragic events which took place in Gatumba on Sunday, 18 September, in which 40 innocent people were murdered.

The Chairperson strongly condemns this barbaric act, and expresses his most profound condolences to the people and government of Burundi.

The Chairperson reiterates the AU's continued support to the efforts to consolidate peace in Burundi, and to promote reconstruction and democratization in the country.