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## *Press Release*

### **Chairperson sends a message of condolence to Prime Minister of Turkey on the sad occasion of the massive earthquake that struck the Van Province**

**Addis Ababa, 25 October 2011-** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr Jean Ping has sent a message of condolence to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, HE Recep Tayyip Erdogan , offering his condolences for the many casualties of a massive earthquake that struck East of Turkey, on Sunday 23 October 2011.

The following is the full text of the Chairperson's message:

**Quote** "Mr. Prime minister, I have learnt the sad news of a powerful 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the Van Province of Turkey on Sunday 23 October 2011, in which more than 300 people are reported to have lost their lives, with hundreds injured and over one thousand still missing, in addition to considerable damage done to properties.

On behalf of the African Union Commission and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to you, Mr. Prime Minister, and through to the government and people of Turkey, especially the bereaved and affected families, our deepest sympathies and condolences for the tragic loss of lives and properties.

Please accept, Mr. Prime Minister, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration". **Unquote**

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