

AFRICAN UNION

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**PRESS RELEASE OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

***Addis Ababa, February 2, 2012:*** Concerned about the pre-election violence and loss of human lives in Senegal, the chairmanship of the African Union calls on the entire political class and all other stakeholders concerned in the country to remain calm and exercise restraint. It urges them to initiate without delay an inclusive political dialogue to ensure a peaceful and transparent electoral process that will consolidate the remarkable achievements made by Senegal throughout its contemporary history and on its democratic path.

The African Union will continue to monitor the situation, and reaffirms its readiness to do everything in its power to facilitate the successful conclusion of the electoral process and contribute to the strengthening of democracy in Senegal, in conformity with its relevant instruments, as well as to the maintenance of civil order and the cohesion of the Senegalese society.

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