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PRESS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

AU Special Representative for Somalia condemns today's killing of innocent civilians

Mogadishu-February 8th, 2012; The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra has condemned today's murder of innocent civilians in Mogadishu by suspected Al-Shabaab terrorists.

At-least ten people have been confirmed dead with scores injured following a Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) at Muna Hotel in Mogadishu.

Said Ambassador Diarra; 'It is regrettable to note that forces opposed to the peace process are still using cowardly and barbaric attacks on innocent civilians in their desperate attempt to convince the world that they still exist.'

He observes that while the Somali National Army with the support of AMISOM have made good progress in pacifying Mogadishu, the risk of suicide attacks from terror groups notably Al-Shabaab still remains in some parts of the city. He notes that AMISOM has been helping to build up the capabilities of the Somali Police Force who have managed to disrupt the majority of planned attacks in the city.

The AU Special Representative for Somalia condoles with the bereaved family and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and prays for the quick recovery of the injured.

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