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PRESS RELEASE

AU EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH GLOBAL TRUCE 2012 INITIATIVE

Addis Ababa, 07 March 2012:

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, today expressed solidarity with the 'Global Truce 2012' initiative during a courtesy call on his office by Jeremy Gilley, an English actor, film maker and founder of the UK nonprofit organization, *Peace One Day*.



Jean Ping said the AU would do all it could to mobilize the African people to stand together in the name of peace on 21 September, the day of global ceasefire and non-violence. "As the AU celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, we hope that this day will see the largest reduction of violence the world has ever known," he said.

During his visit to the African Union Commission, Mr. Gilley also met the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Amb. Ramtane Lamamra. The Commissioner reiterated AU's support for the 'Global Truce 2012' initiative, adding that the AU would continue to exercise its leadership in advocating peace on the continent within the framework of the 'Make Peace Happen' programme, which was approved by the



Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union, following the successful implementation of the '2010 Year of Peace and Security' campaign.

As part of the ongoing 'Make Peace Happen' campaign, the AU has decided to institutionalize 21 September as the International Day of Peace. In many ways the objectives of the 'Global Truce 2012' campaign are similar to those of the 'Make Peace Happen' campaign, which is



promoting an Africa at peace with herself and the rest of the world. The organization, *Peace One Day* was behind the efforts that led to the United Nations unanimously adopting the first ever peace day on 21 September 2001.

Speaking during the meeting with the Chairperson, Mr. Gilley said, *"Peace Day is not just about ending the violence between countries, it is also about ending the violence in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities, therefore every individual has a role to play."*

Peace One Day plans to launch a three-month countdown to this year's *Peace Day* at the opening of the Cultural Olympics in London on 21 June.