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## PRESS RELEASE

### THE AFRICAN UNION STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE PHYSICAL ATTACK AGAINST THE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

**Addis Ababa, 22 May 2012:** The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, strongly condemns the physical attack by demonstrators against the Interim President of the Republic of Mali, Mr. Dioncounda Traore.

This unacceptable act is a cause of deep concern for the AU, and undermines the internationally-supported ECOWAS efforts towards effective restoration of constitutional order and reestablishment of state authority in the northern part of the country.

The Chairperson of the Commission stresses the imperative of ensuring the security and safety of the transitional authorities and of creating conditions conducive to the full exercise of the powers entrusted to them, without pressure or interference by all Malian stakeholders.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates AU's commitment to the effective and unconditional restoration of constitutional order, as well as to the unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali.

