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**CORRECTION OF STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE
TO THE FORCE COMMANDER OF UNMEE**

UNMEE would like to clarify a statement, attributable to the its Force Commander, Major General Rajender Singh, which was contained in an article which appeared in the National News section of the website of the Eritrean Information Ministry web site "Shabait.com." The article is entitled "*Eritrea's Foreign Minister underlines the decisiveness of Afro-Asian strategic partnership.*" According to the report, the Eritrean Foreign Minister, while addressing the African Asian Summit in Jakarta, is purported to have quoted the Force Commander as follows: "*Unusual movements have been observed from the Ethiopian side, and these movements do not only imply that the regime in Ethiopia has fully rejected the EEBC ruling but seems like coercively changing the decision by which Eritrea and Ethiopia signed to abide.*"

UNMEE wishes to state that its Force Commander has made no such statement attributing motives of any kind to either of the Parties, as has been inferred by this article. Major General Singh remains impartial in his dealings with both Parties. What he has been reporting to the Press, has been based on the facts as they are on the ground. His main message has been the following:

"Ethiopia has moved additional troops since December 2004 to the border zone, after prior intimation to UNMEE. In all, Ethiopia has brought in seven additional Divisions and has located them at a distance of 20 to 45 km from the Southern Boundary of the TSZ. Ethiopia has been calling this additional deployment as defensive. While Eritrea, on the other hand has called it provocative and has severely criticised this additional deployment".

UNMEE hopes that this statement on what has been said by its Force Commander clarifies this matter.

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