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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION REITERATES ITS DEEP CONCERN REGARDING THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI AND CALLS FOR AN INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS

Addis Ababa, 12 December 2015: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, is deeply concerned by the escalation of violence in Burundi, illustrated by yesterday's attacks against military camps in the capital, Bujumbura, and in the Bujumbura Rural area, as well as by the subsequent acts of violence.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates the AU's rejection of any recourse to violence and its strong condemnation of violations of human rights. In this respect, she notes, with dismay and horror, the loss of many human lives and the reports on the summary execution of a number of people, whose bodies were recovered today. She recalls that the AU, working with the larger international community, will spare no efforts in ensuring that the perpetrators of atrocities and those behind them are held accountable for their acts.

The Chairperson of the Commission stresses, once again, that the situation in Burundi carries with it the risk of generalized violence with devastating consequences both for the country itself and the entire region. She reiterates the AU's conviction on the need and urgency of a truly inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, based on the respect of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, as the only way to resolve the serious crisis facing Burundi. Against this backdrop, she reiterates the AU's support to the mediation efforts of President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda on behalf of the East African Community (EAC). The AU is in contact with the Ugandan-led Mediation to facilitate the urgent re-launching of the inter-Burundian dialogue with the participation of all concerned stakeholders. The AU continues to work to that end with other members of the international community, including the United Nations and relevant bilateral and multilateral partners.

The Chairperson of the Commission urges all Burundian stakeholders to demonstrate the spirit of responsibility and utmost restraint required by the situation and to place the interest of their country and its people above all other considerations.

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The Africa union reiterates its deep concern regarding the situation in Burundi and call for an inclusive dialogue to find a solution to the crisis

Peace and Security

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