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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN NIGER

Addis Ababa, 3 July 2017: The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, is shocked by the attack by suspected Boko Haram terrorists at a village near Niger's southern town of Diffa, on 2 July, which left at least 9 people dead and as many as 40 others abducted, including women and children.

The Chairperson of the Commission offers his condolences to the bereaved families and calls for the immediate release of those abducted. He reassures the Government and people of Niger of the AU's commitment to work with the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

The Chairperson of the Commission also notes the efforts of the Joint Force of the G5 Sahel, and calls for enhanced coordination of the various regional and international efforts in combatting terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahel region. He also stresses the need for enhanced sharing of information, intelligence and data among relevant agencies in the efforts to defeat this scourge.