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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE BISSAU-GUINEAN LEADERS AND REITERATES THE IMPERATIVE OF RESPECT OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IN THE COUNTRY

Addis Ababa, April 13, 2012: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, continues to follow with deep concern the developments in Guinea Bissau.

The Chairperson of the Commission recalls the obligation of all elements of the Armed Forces of Guinea-Bissau to accomplish their mission in full respect of constitutional legality and under the authority of the republican institutions. In this context, he reiterates the AU's total rejection of any attempt at undermining the constitutional order and obstructing the completion of the ongoing electoral process.

Gravely alarmed by reports of the sequestration of the acting President of the Republic, Mr. Raimundo Pereira, and that of other political leaders, the Chairperson of the Commission demands their immediate and unconditional release, as well as the preservation of their dignity and physical integrity.