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**Nov 3, 2020**

2nd letter (1st letter was sent on 3/26/20)

**António Guterres**

**Secretary-General United Nations**

**New York**

**Re: Crimes, Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing hazard against Amhara and Minority groups in Ethiopia**

Dear Secretary-General,

By way of introduction, our organization is comprised of citizens of Ethiopia-American that are now residing in the United States of America (the "USA"). We are all college educated professionals and of various religious faiths. We are reaching out to you, not in order to advocate for any particular religion or sect, but to bring to your attention several issues of concern, that we are aware of from friends and family that are still residing in Ethiopia. The government of Ethiopia failed to protect Ethiopian citizens from forced displacements, ethnic-based conflicts and religion-based violence.

In light of the current peril; we, the Ethiopia-American diaspora living in the USA, formed an independent, non-profit, and non-governmental corporation in the state of Washington entitled 'Fighting Terrorism and Hate against Ethiopians' (FTH-Ethiopia.ORG) committed in fighting crimes against humanity, genocide and ethnic cleansing.

The concerns, fears and worries that we have is as a result of the political instability and civil unrest that is going on since 2018 in Ethiopia. For instance, the crimes that are being committed routinely and repeatedly in many parts of Ethiopia, principally pointed at the Amhara ethnic group. Amhara and Orthodox Christians are being intentionally selected and singled out for persecution. Amhara university students are being forced to be offloaded from public transports, detained, persecuted, abducted, tortured and chased out of many schools in the Oromia region; Amhara are being brutally attacked and terrorized from certain areas which are controlled by extremist Oromo groups in Harar, Bale and Arsi. The extremist elements principally target both the Orthodox Church and the Amhara ethnic group.



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We, the Ethiopia-American diaspora living in the USA and members of the international community are following the current situation in Ethiopia curiously and we are recording all these crimes. Recently, the International Crisis Group, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International made almost similar statements and warned the government of Ethiopia and the international community on the worrying signals of civil war, genocide, ethnic cleansing and terrorism.

In the words of Dawit Wolde Giorgis, a famous political author, “The most critical is human security. States fail because they can no longer provide security to the people. When a state fails to provide security, it loses its legitimacy in the eyes of the public. Millions of Ethiopians have now started taking necessary steps individually or in groups, including taking the law into their hands. “

The Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, is currently on notice by those international groups, human right activists and politicians that if he fails to stop this carnage, he will be accused of complicity (the act of helping or encouraging another individual or group to commit a crime), crimes and persecution against humanity and for possible civil war and genocide as a result of his inactions. Ethiopia had the highest number of internally displaced people in 2018, in figure which was above 3 million. This figure increased in 2019 nearing 4 million mainly as a result of the current ethnic based conflicts.

The other factor that is exacerbating the ethnic based conflict and prosecution is the silence and inaction of the government of Ethiopia. This factor has been reflected on the crimes executed by individuals who preaches ethnic and religious extremism which is punishable both under international and domestic laws. The best example for this fact is Jawar Mohamed, an Oromo activist and demagogue who has been invited from the USA, Minnesota State, where he was based to operate legally. He was the founder and leader of Oromiya Media Network (OMN) which has millions of followers mostly Oromo youngsters. A nationwide violent protests and attacks on Amhara and Orthodox Christians, concentrated in the Oromia Region, broke out in Ethiopia starting on 23 October 2019, sparked when the activist and media owner Jawar Mohammed posted on his social media account alleging attempt to strip him of his security details in the middle of the night. He posted on his social media account a recorded voice of the police commander ordering Jawar’s security detail to leave Jawar’s residence. According to official reports from the government of Ethiopia, 86 people were killed and more than 400



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arrested as a consequence of Jawar's action. Jawar has been caught on tape telling his crowd threatening Christians. Like the 'Interahamwe' of Rwanda, Jawar has recruited young Oromos who call themselves "**Qeerroos**" to do the dirty work of killing, plundering and creating an atmosphere of fear in the nation. The world does not want to see again Rwanda's genocide and barbaric act nor the Holocaust in Ethiopia. For example, recently it was reported and verified that 36,000 machetes have been imported and stored in Oromia region specifically in Harar. Though the government claims that those machetes have been procured to be distributed to 24 Eastern districts to be used as agricultural tools, we do not believe it is the right time where the country is in a very critical and sensitive situation and it is not the right place to distribute such weapons where violent criminal gangs are operating freely. FTH Ethiopia believes as there is sinister agenda behind all these moves.

As published in Washington Post article on December 06, 2019, several churches were burned down along with their treasures. Those who instigated and carried out the attacks should face the law for their unspeakable acts of crime. However, the prime minister of Ethiopia and his government showed disturbing indifference toward the blatant violence and tragic losses. Persecution, killing and displacing continue against Amhara, Mursi and other ethnic minorities, by these "Qeerroos".

The current violence and instability creates a comfortable ground for the terrorists of Middle East and North Africa who are now consolidating in Ethiopia in Oromia Region. According to Africannews.com, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed himself has recently warned about attempts by the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab extremists to make inroads into Ethiopia.

According to The New York Times article published on January 30, 2020; Ethiopians were taking to the streets and to social media to protest their government's failure to find at least a dozen university students and five other people who were believed to have been abducted and kidnapped from a bus by masked men in a chain of ethnically driven conflicts. The students, most of whom are women who belong to the Amhara ethnic group, were studying at Dembi Dolo University in Oromia, a region populated by ethnic Oromos.

FTH Ethiopia.org believes as governments have the right and obligation to protect their citizens from terrorism and to conduct investigations into terrorist acts in order to identify those responsible and bring them to justice. In that effort, governments must defend the very principles concerning terrorism and violence assault. In prosecuting the alleged perpetrators,



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governments must themselves uphold the rule of law, including their international human rights commitments, many of which remain absolute even in times of the greatest national emergency. The government of Ethiopia shall never be an exception in light of these terms.

FTH Ethiopia.org believes the current situation in Ethiopia needs urgent attention of the international community as the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has failed to stop it. We are asking gravely that he is an accomplice to a series of criminal events that have taken place in the last two years since he took power. The silence and inactions of the Prime Minister on each criminal and persecution act including the burning of churches, the murder of many Amhara and minority ethnic groups, the abduction of Amhara students and the loss of protection and security in freely moving in the country, has made it difficult to understand his behavior and it makes the country on the brinks in a doomed terrorism, genocide, state-failure and disintegration.

We filed this complaint herewith to call to International Criminal Court (ICC), the US government and to UN Security Council to immediately investigate crimes against humanity, crimes on the abducted University students, crimes against Orthodox Christians, genocide and ethnic cleansing against Amhara, Mursi and other ethnic minorities in Ethiopia. In addition, we have a great concern on the coming 2020 Ethiopian national election for civil unrest, ethnic clashes, possible genocide, and so on. We have evidences that the northern part of Ethiopia, with well armed and ready civil arms organized by Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) for a possible war preceding the coming election. On the Southern side of the Amhara region, the same situation is happening currently by Islamic extremist groups and Oromo extremist groups. Hence, we sincerely request the UN and the UN Security Council to take proactive and preemptive measures including but not limited to deployment of UN peace keeping forces around the Amhara region, western Oromiya region and other potentially susceptible areas up to facilitation and support on the establishment of transitional government before it is too late.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”) sets forth in Article 12:

1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”) sets forth in Article 18:



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1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.
2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.
3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.
4. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions. Ethiopia has been a party to the ICCPR since September of 1993.

Respectfully,

**Yoseph Checkol**

President

FTH Ethiopia.Org