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Former Ethiopian Armed Forces Worldwide
Organization

P.O.Box 703913 , Dallas ,TX 75370-3913

USA Tel 469 432 2435



Date 03/21/2015

- TO- *TO- United State of America President H.E Barack Obama*
- *TO. His Holiness, Pope Francis*
- *TO- Canada Prime Minister H.E Stephen Harper*
- *TO-G.B, Prime Minister H.E David Cameron*
- *TO-Germen Chancellor H.E Angela Merkel*
- *TO- France, President H.E François Hollande*
- *TO- Australia, Prime Minister H.E Tony Abbott,*
- *TO- Sweden, Prime Minister H.E Stefan Löfven*
- *TO-United State of America Vice President H.E Joe Biden*
- *TO- United States Secretary of State H.E John Kerry*
- *TO- Secretary-General United Nations H.E. Ban Ki-moon*
- *TO- Chairperson of the African Union H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma*
- *TO- United States Senator H.E. John McCain*
- *TO- World Red Cross*
- *TO- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*
- *TO- International Criminal Court*
- *TO- Human Rights Watch*
- *TO-Amnesty International*



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Your Excellency

First of all we thank you for the opportunity to write you on an issue our concern on behalf of Former Ethiopian Armed Forces Worldwide Organization members, and hopping we can achieve our goal by appealing to you our concern.

Subject:-

- 1. Regarding the human rights violation and the in-human act being perpetrated against members of the former Ethiopian Army and Police Force illegally abolished.*
- 2. About the plea made by our members for an urgent rescue who are currently living in exile throughout Africa and the Middle East*

Your Excellency is well aware that the defense army of any country is enlisted from amongst the public and this makes it a part of the populace which it serves. Be it in an egalitarian or undemocratic state, not emerging from any political party and being impartial, its objective is to safe guard the territorial and areal boundaries as well as the sea port of its country.

Like any county, the Ethiopian defense army, from the time it was established as a modern army in 1927, and until the time it was illegally abolished in 1983 by the current Ethiopian Government, for the past 80 years, it was operating accepting the above stated principle functional in any country. It is essential to cite here that operating under different Ethiopian governments; we were maintaining the rights of our country and protecting it from foreign aggression as well as from internal secessionist elements and rebels. Further to this, under the UN command, it is evident that we have parted our international obligation in South Korea and Congo.

However, after the military government was removed from power in 1983, the current government which usurped power substituting it, in a manner not evident



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and purported previously in any country; by an entity that claims to be a government, it destroyed and abolished the defense force estimated to be more than half a million including the families of the members - an army that was bestowed with the responsibility of protecting the sovereignty and national interest of our country that discharged its obligation for more than eighty years by handing over this legacy from one generation to the other.

Further to this, the current government had committed grave atrocities against the former defense members estimated to reach five hundred thousand by detaining them, killing them, forcing them to flee from their country as well as barring them not to be employed and work at any place, denying them their pension rights - even though their pension contribution was deducted from the time they were enlisted until the time the army was abolished - forcing them to become homeless with their family members, and detaining and torturing some of them for many years, and causing some to commit suicide and others to face mental impairment, their family members to die of hunger and impoverished state of being, and the rest to suffer from an exiled life within Africa and the Middle East.

It had also inflicted further damage by closing down the center in an inhuman manner and expelling the members of the former army out of the center, who sustained physical damage while on duty to protect the sovereignty of the nation, were rehabilitated and supported. While many of them were not made to have access for aid and died as a result, the rest are forced to suffer from poverty and hunger having become beggars.

Further to the above, after the war came to an end; and after the current government controlled Ethiopia and the Eritrean government did the same with Eritrea, as per the Geneva Convention while swapping of prisoners should have been carried out between the governments, but this was not done. Instead, while the Ethiopian government handed over Eritrean army captives to the Eritrean government, in its part this was not done; instead more than 60 thousand former members of the army who surrendered and others who were ordered to handover their armaments by their bosses, including civilians are still under detention. After the conflict came to its



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end, and according to the Geneva Convention the swapping of prisoners should have materialized, but what is alarming if not surprising is the current Ethiopian government giving a deaf ear to the matter. Even though Eritrea is not a signatory to the Geneva Convention, the current Ethiopian government should not have kept silent; instead it should have voiced its concern at various international forums for the release of its citizens unnecessarily and illegally detained.

Our members of the former army, detained for the past 23 years by the Eritrean Government, are found suffering in the Eritrean deserts under a condition not conceivable in the 21st century. They are made to die, become mentally sick, denied their voices, made to be the bull's eye for the Eritrean trainee army as well as become the source of labor engaged in the construction of roads in the desert and hard labor all of which have forced them to languish under critical life and death condition.

Regarding this appalling situation our Association previously has contacted both the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments but so far we have not received a reply. The Ethiopian government is not putting an effort to resolve the problem; instead it is found collaborating, to the inhuman acts of the Eritrean government, pretending as if it doesn't have any knowledge about the situation. In the history of the world if there existed an entity that claims to be a government that is not caring for more than 60 thousand of its citizens arrested by an enemy and being killed is only the Ethiopian government.

Those few lucky ones who escaped from this are alive today around the world ; through the support provided to us by the UN Refugee Commission, the government of the USA, the Canadian government, the government of Great Britain, the Australian Government, the Swedish government, the German government etc. are currently living in Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya, Italy, Greece, Yemen etc. Most of us who are living in these countries have now established families our human rights being observed we are living in peace including having become citizens of the countries we are living in and being part of the society and contributing our dedicated share to the communities where we live.



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Your Excellency

Taking into consideration this opportunity for the contribution and support they provided we extend our heart-felt respect, admiration and gratitude to United Nations, the UN Refugee Commission, the government of the USA, the Canadian government, the government of Great Britain, the Australian Government, the Swedish government, the German government etc...

Your Excellency

The anguish and suffrage of the former Ethiopian Army members still persists. The members who are found in different parts of Africa and the Middle East particular those found in Sudan Djibouti, Kenya, Libya, Yemen and Saudi Arabia are living under critical conditions that threaten their existence. Therefore, taking into consideration the plights of members of the former Ethiopian army we plead for Your Excellency's interference in the matter that will end the anguish our members.

- 1. The Ethiopian government is under negotiation with the governments of the above stated neighboring countries to arrest these non-criminal army members or to take them illegally or if not to kill them. We are therefore, requesting your government to provide us its utmost support so that if not all but some of them can be provided sanctuary being provided to any third country and to live peacefully. When asked we are ready to provide their names and the places where they are found.*
- 2. To put pressure on the Ethiopian Government by denouncing the undemocratic actions of the Ethiopian government which claims to have stood for the well-being of the nation, but in a condition that did not prevail in any country, that is committing illegal, undemocratic, in-human act against more than 60 thousand former members of the Ethiopian army including their families so that they shall be released from the fetters of servitude they are*



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found in and their pension rights to be observed and the arrears of their pension to be paid.

- 3. Most of the army members who became physically maimed at the war front were previously being supported living in the rehab center established for this purpose. However, the current government has forcefully and illegally evicted them from the center ending the support they used to receive. As a result, most of them have died and those who are alive are leading a deplorable life as beggars living on abandoned verandas and dirty squatters. We plead for your government to condemn this atrocious and villain act of horror and to force the Ethiopian government to pay compensation for the families of the diseased and for those who are alive their pension rights to be observed and compensation to be paid for them as well as to be returned to the center*
- 4. Your government to condemn the atrocious act that the Eritrean government has been perpetrating for the past 23 years against former members of the Ethiopian army prisoners' of war so that they will be released as well as they shall receive aid through the international red cross committee, that have at the eleventh hour surrendered peacefully for the Eritrean government.*
- 5. In the same manner to condemn the detention, torture and killing by the Ethiopian government of former members of the Ethiopian army languishing under prisons till now without due process of law; and to put pressure so that they will be released. Further to this we request your government with respect so that officials and individuals of the current Ethiopian government to appear at the international criminal court for the brutal acts they committed against members of the former army members for detaining them in stark day-light without due process of the law, beating and torturing them as well as killing them*



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Ashebir Gebre
Asheber Gebre
Chairman

Former Ethiopian Armed Forces Worldwide Organization

CC

- Ato Hailemariam Desalegn
Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE)
- Ato Esayas Afewrki
President of the Government of Eritrea

