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THE ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO CHURCH ARCHDIOCESES HEADQUARTER MAIN
OFFICE IN NORTHERN AMERICA

"በእርሱ የሚያምን ሁሉ የዘላለም ሕይወት እንዲኖረው እንጂ እንዳይጠፋ አግዚአብሔር አንድያ ልጁን አስኪሰጥ ድረስ ዓለሙን እንዲሁ ወድሏል።" (ዮሐ3:16)

ቀን: 19/09/2013 ዓ.ም.
Date: 12/27/2021
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Open Letter to President Biden: Call to Reassess and Reconsider Your Policy on Ethiopia

Dear Mr. President,

We continue to have significant concerns regarding the trajectory and effect of the overall policy of the US Government with regard to Ethiopia. Based on our concerns, we write to request that the US under your leadership reassess and reconsider its position on the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, end its biased approach and sympathy towards the TPLF, cease sanctions and reverse the course of its destabilizing actions such as the delisting of Ethiopia from the AGOA.

The crimes and acts committed by the TPLF are against all established human rights and humanitarian conventions, and the principles of natural justice. They defy all established national and international norms and principles of morality, and international law.

The recent reports by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are harrowing. Yet, they are very much the tip of the iceberg.

We have taken the time to analyze recent reports from Ethiopian and international sources addressing the crimes committed by the TPLF, particularly in the Amhara and Afar regions over the past few months. There is verifiable evidence the TPLF committed grave crimes including but not limited to war crimes, crimes against humanity, violence to life and persons, torture, cruel and unusual punishment, serious physical assault and psychological abuse, rape, gang rape, killing and murdering of children, women, priests, religious leaders and the elderly, confinement and false imprisonment, looting and destruction of schools, hospitals and offices, animal cruelty and mutilation, use of child soldiers, destruction of life and property, burglary, robbery, and armed robbery.

While all of the injustice committed by the TPLF cannot be fully described in this letter, it displays an unspeakable horror beyond imagination and with epic proportions.

To hear, witness, and discover what happened in the Amhara and Afar regions and to not speak up or act or do nothing about it would mean to abdicate being human and to step outside humanity willfully and blindly.

In the entire history of Ethiopia since its foundation, it is impossible to find a perpetrator of atrocities like the TPLF. While all Ethiopians experienced the authoritarian rule of the TPLF regime for almost 3



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decades, no one predicted the extent of atrocities that it was capable of committing. The crimes committed by the TPLF in this conflict have shocked us all and our conscience.

Following a meeting of our commission and having assessed the evidence before us, we wanted to share with you a few questions we would like you to consider:

- How can a designated terrorist organization which has committed such atrocities not be subject to US condemnation or sanctions?
- Will the US support calls for investigations into the TPLF’s horrific crimes in the Amhara and Afar regions?
- Why was the US so quick to engage the TPLF leadership and attack the Ethiopian government in the early stages of this conflict?
- Why has the US consistently challenged the result of the elections in Ethiopia, despite the confirmation by the African Union that Ethiopia’s elections in June 2021 were free and fair?
- Why have you decided to delist Ethiopia from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) using your executive power, knowing fully that it would harm the most vulnerable Ethiopians?
- Why do you outline, in all statements made by your administration, a false equivalency between the actions of the TPLF and those of the Ethiopian government, which is harming the perception that all Ethiopians have about the US interference?
- Why did you perpetuate reports that the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa was coming under attack, and issue advisories to US citizens to leave Ethiopia, by failing to weigh the realities on the ground, while at no point Addis Ababa was at risk of capture by the TPLF?
- Now that the TPLF has withdrawn, will you support the Amhara and Afar regions devastated by war?

With these questions in mind, we call upon and urge the US government under your leadership to reconsider its policy towards Ethiopia and reverse its current course, in order to limit the serious damage it has already inflicted.



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We would greatly appreciate it, dear Sir, if you consider each of our questions precisely and challenge your relevant officials and Cabinet members to give you a full and fair picture of the conflict in Ethiopia.

You still have the opportunity to be a friend of Ethiopia and Ethiopians and be on the right side of history, but time is running out.

May God Bless the United States of America and Ethiopia.

Signed:

His Eminence Archbishop Fanuel – Archdiocese of Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland & Delaware

His Eminence Archbishop Ewostatewos (Dr.) – Archdiocese of Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa & Wisconsin

His Eminence Archbishop Yaekob – Archdiocese of Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee & Alabama

His Eminence Archbishop Sawiros – Archdiocese of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico & Hawaii

His Eminence Archbishop Selama – Archdiocese of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky & Illinois

His Eminence Archbishop Samuel – Washington, DC

His Eminence Archbishop Theophilus – Archdiocese of Northern California, Nevada & Arizona

His Eminence Archbishop Barnabas – Archdiocese of Southern California & Alaska

His Eminence Archbishop Markos – Archdiocese of Washington, Oregon, Wyoming & Idaho

His Eminence Archbishop Nathanael – Archdiocese of Colorado, Utah, Kansas & Nebraska

His Eminence Archbishop Peterose – Archdiocese of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine & Connecticut

His Eminence Archbishop Dimetrios – Archdiocese of Ontario, Canada