

Communique Urging Prevention of Genocide and Balkanization of Ethiopia

To the Global Community, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopian Embassy From Concerned Ethiopians Across the Globe

Subject: Communique Urging Prevention of Genocide and Balkanization of Ethiopia

July 19, 2019

Ethiopia is on the precipice of civil conflict, and perhaps civil war and possible genocide that are triggered and championed by ethnic elites, fundamentalists and their foreign sponsors. For more than 40 years, the primary target of ethnic-demonization, killings, ethnic-cleansing, forcible evictions, abductions and recurring displacements has been the Amhara population. Predictably, the virus of identity politics has now spread far and wide affecting others and threatening the very existence of Ethiopia.

Ethnic suspicion, hatred, fear and division have been normalized and propagated primarily by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) that had issued a Manifesto in 1968 declaring that the Amhara people are "enemies of the people of Tigray. It labelled Amhara as criminals. It sent a chilling signal to all other ethnic elites to rise-up and target Amhara wherever they live. This is why so many were murdered in cold blood; and numerous bodies thrown over the cliff in Arba Gugu in the early 1990s.

Ethiopia's 1994 Federal Constitution divided Africa's second most populous country and the seat of the African Union as well as numerous UN agencies into 9 ethnic and linguistic antagonistic states and two federal cities. The intent was and still is to "divide and rule" and to pit one ethnic group against another. The consequence is a cycle of violence, instability and insecurity. For this reason, the signatories of this communique, other Ethiopians and the world community can no longer afford to remain indifferent and silent until Ethiopia becomes the next Cambodia or Rwanda or Syria. It is time to act now.

Ethiopia's ethnic and language based federal structure has aggravated ethnic tensions and polarized Ethiopian society. Ethiopians prefer a multiethnic federal and democratic system of government that is based on constitutional law that guarantees free and fair elections as well as the right to live and own property in any part of Ethiopia. The assertion by TPLF and its allies that Ethiopia's problems emanate from oppression by the Amhara is patently false and conflict prone. An illustration of the pitfalls of ethnic politics are the assassinations and alleged coup d'état of June 22, 2019 that vibrate to this day.

Following the horrific killings of Dr. Ambachew Mekonnen, President of the Amhara region; his colleagues Mr. Azez Wassie, Advisor to Mr. Mekonnen; Mr. Migbaru Kebede, Attorney General; and General Asaminew Tsige, Head of Security— members of the Executive Committee of the Amhara Democratic Party— and several soldiers in Bahir Dar, the seat of the regional government on June 22, 2019; as well as General Seare Mekonnen, Chief of Staff of Ethiopia's Defense Forces and his friend and colleague General Gezae Abera in Addis Ababa, authorities alleged the indefensible proposition of a "coup d'état."

Tragically, authorities compounded the tragedy further by arresting and incarcerating more than 1,000 Amhara youth, civic and human rights activists, journalists, military officers and business persons.

Appalled by the assassinations and wholesale incarcerations, concerned Ethiopians across the globe decided to issue this communique that contains a set of recommendations for action. A detailed annex in support of our recommendations is attached to this communique. Signatories commend the Amhara Support Association in South Africa for conducting a prayer vigil following the horrific assassinations, support their demand for the immediate release of political prisoners of conscience and for the immediate restoration of civil liberties and human rights in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is at a turning point. It isn't too late to prevent disaster, but if something isn't done soon, the situation could deteriorate quickly. For this reason, Ethiopia needs to transform itself structurally and constitutionally in order to overcome its self-inflicted pain of perpetual ethnic-elite "divide and rule" that keeps the country poor and technologically backward. Over the past 28 years of Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) rule dominated by the TPLF and currently by the Oromo Democratic Party (ODP), the Amhara, other ethnic groups and the entire society of 110 million people suffered from intolerable levels of crimes against humanity, crushing

theft, graft and massive illicit capital flight with lasting social and political impact.

Our set of recommendations notwithstanding, our overarching recommendation is this. Crimes against humanity and recovery of the stolen billions of dollars must be investigated urgently by an impartial, competent and independent Commission of Ethiopians and world-renowned experts drawn from within the country, the Diaspora, Multilateral development agencies, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Union.

More specifically, the undersigned:

1. Express our grief and sorrow to the families of all those assassinated in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa.
2. Stand firm in solidarity with the Amhara cause, with all Ethiopians and with
3. Reject the TPLF blackmail and blame of the Amhara people and the Amhara unwavering resolve to defend itself and preserve Ethiopia's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
4. Condemn TPLF's coordinated campaign of suspicion, fear, hatred and division; and call on all Ethiopians to disavow TPLF's venomous attribution of Amhara and Amhara regional and other leadership as "chauvinists" responsible for the assassinations and alleged coup; and Oromo Ethiopians as "narrow "
5. Demand that the TPLF apologize for the atrocities it has committed and continues to commit against the Amhara immediately and
6. Demand that the TPLF stop warmongering and allow the people of Tigray to rejoin the peaceful change process
7. Demand that the TPLF, its surrogates and foreign governments cease making Ethiopia ungovernable and a potential blood bath
8. Commend the Amhara Democratic Party's principled position and urge
9. Call on the government of Ethiopia, regional and non-state actors as well as ethnic parties such as the TPLF and OLF to stop the coordinated and deliberate rounding up and mass incarceration of Amhara youth, activists, intellectuals

and military officers from many parts of Ethiopia immediately. These mass arrests have absolutely nothing to do with the assassinations in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa and with the alleged coup. We are deeply concerned wholesale arrest and incarceration are intended to pave the way for replacing one ethnic elite by another.

10. Call on all Ethiopian stakeholders to convene an all-party conference to discuss and change the TPLF imposed ethnic-political and constitutional structure; and in its place create a non-language and non-ethnic based constitutional and administrative structure that guarantees individual freedom, rights and liberties before Ethiopian society
11. Demand that the government of Ethiopia stop its coordinated and inflammatory campaign and harassment of journalists, human rights advocates and Amhara activists; release all prisoners of conscience; allow freedom of the press, movement and assembly; and restore the protection of the human rights of all citizens impartially and
12. Urge that the government of Ethiopia bring the ring leaders and assassins in Bahir Dar and in Addis Ababa to the highest court of the land; and hold them
13. Demand that the federal government allow the region's police and other units to defend citizens; and refrain from disarming regional defense
14. Demand that the federal government, the OLF, Qeerro, the city administration of Addis Ababa and surrogates of the TPLF cease and desist intimidating, frightening, harassing and arresting leaders and members of NAMA, independent media, the Addis Ababa Trustees' Council (የባለአደራ ምክር ቤት), Amhara entrepreneurs and businessmen; and cease selective disarmament of self- defense persons and units in the Amhara region
15. Demand that Prime Minister Dr. Abiy and his cabinet commit publicly that Ethiopia deserves national institutions staffed by high caliber and competent persons

that reflect its diversity; state publicly that dominance of national institutions by one ethnic group is anathema to Ethiopia's national unity and territorial integrity; and further demand that Prime Minister Dr. Abiy's government reconfigure the composition of Ethiopia's security, defense and federal police forces as well as the judicial system with a view of ensuring that no single ethnic group dominates the command and control structure of Ethiopia's federal

16. Urge the UN Security Council and the African Union Secretariat to convene emergency sessions and condemn the TPLF's July 10, 2019 shameful statement of warmongering and concerted campaign against the Amhara Democratic Party, the Amhara people and the Abiy reform program; use their leverage to compel the TPLF to cease its 'reign of terror' and; oblige the TPLF to rejoin the EPRDF change agenda immediately and
17. Urge the UN Security Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Union, the Congress of the United States and the European Parliament to side with the Ethiopian people and defend justice, peace, stability, unbridled ethnic and religious equality, respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights; and support the peaceful reform
18. Urge that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to dispatch a Special Rapporteur to Ethiopia to investigate the killings in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa, the alleged "coup d'état" in the Amhara regional state as well as the arrest and torture of an estimated 1,000 people without due process of law at the earliest opportunity; and disclose its
19. Recommend highly and urgently that, in its capacity as a strategic friend of Ethiopia, the government of the United States, including Congress, should send strong signals to the Ethiopian government that it must respect human rights, the rule of law and
20. Suggest that it is in America's national interest to demonstrate that the deteriorating situation on the ground in Ethiopia it sees poses risks for the country, the Horn,

Africa and the world; and that it cares. The Ethiopian government must be persuaded to respond to the hopes and aspirations of its

21. Implore the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, China, Russia, Japan, members of the African and European Unions and the Arab League, international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House and others to quickly apply their leverage on Dr. Abiy's regime to refrain from assaults on human freedom and selective persecution of Amhara and other ethnic
22. Urge members of the United States Congress and the European Parliament to look into the dangerous trend unfolding in Ethiopia before the country enters an unstoppable
23. Flag to Ethiopians and the world community that internal and external forces are deliberately manipulating and dividing people on the basis of ethnicity in order to achieve their
24. Urge all Ethiopians within and outside the country to stop the use of social and other media in fomenting and inflaming ethnic and or religious hatred, violence and division; and urge Ethiopians to learn, think and collaborate beyond ethnicity and advance the common
25. Ask Ethiopia's Diaspora, academia and others, especially Amhara and friends to come out of their ivory tower, dialogue and offer constructive alternatives to save Ethiopia and
26. Recommend that Ethiopians in the Diaspora and in Ethiopia convene all-inclusive forums and interject fresh and innovative approaches to solve ethnic conflicts and chart roadmaps, including an alternative transition that will lift the country out of its
27. Recommend that the Diaspora approach Prime Minister Dr. Abiy's government and administrative authorities to stop taking sides in the deliberate harassment of the Addis

Ababa “Trustees’ Council (የአዲስ አበባ የባለአደራ ምክር ቤት) led by Mr. Eskinder Nega immediately; and instead convene a public forum of stakeholders to iron out differences peacefully, amicably and

28. Recommend that the Diaspora anywhere reach-out to their local authorities, places of worship, academic institutions and foundations and promote Ethiopia’s case in a sustainable
29. Recommend that the Diaspora leverage its influence on opposition parties to take a principled position with regard to the assaults on Amhara and refrain from justifying gross human rights violations by federal and regional
30. Recommend that the Diaspora across the globe demand that Mr. Herman Cohn, an American, who took an active role in the dismemberment of Ethiopia and the establishment of the current ethnic federal system apologize for demonizing the Amhara people; and for provoking ethnic hatred of the Amhara that may lead to ethnic genocide and the Balkanization of
31. Recommend that the Diaspora send a barrage of tweets and letters to the government of the United States, the US Congress and academic institutions that Mr. Cohen’s inaccurate and irresponsible accusation and conclusion on the historical role of the Amhara will severely undermine the long term and strategic interests of the American and Ethiopian peoples; and will, instead embolden extremist and terrorist groups in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

Signatories urge quick consideration of our recommendations.

Signatories will be happy to respond to queries.

Global List of Signatories

1. **Amhara Support Association in South Africa (ASASA)**
2. Aklog Birara
3. Ambassador Imru Zeleke
4. Professor Getachew Haile
5. Ambachew Woreta
6. Yacob Hailemariam

7. Professor Mammo Muchie
8. Tadele Alemu
9. Professor Kebede Gessesse
10. Almaz Zewdie
11. Mekdesse Kassa
12. Zewge Gedlu
13. Abate Kassa
14. Tsigereda Mulugeta
15. Wesenyelesh Debela
16. Girma Teferra
17. Akalu Bekele
18. Negash Gabrie
19. Leiykoun Kassahun
20. Abebe Gelagay
21. Admassu Bezabih
22. Mulugeta Kassahun
23. Sheikh Mohammed Idris
24. Yeselamush Sendeku
25. Teodros Anley
26. Fekade Adera
27. Mulugeta Tessema
28. Liku Ejigu
29. Mesfin Mekonnen
30. Dagnachew Teshome
31. Mikael Wossen
32. Teklie Yeshaw
33. Mr. Kefelegn Asrat
34. Seyoum Zenebe
35. Asmmamaw Ejigu
36. Siena Asres
37. Alemayehu Abebe
38. Eskinder Eyob

39. Berhanu Alemu
40. Leulseged Mulushewa
41. Asegedech Mekonnen
42. Woubshet Tessema
43. Adane Negussie
44. Teferi Mekonnen
45. Zenebe Alemayehu
46. Seyoum Gelagay
47. Worku Aderajew
48. Nebiat Demissie
49. His Royal Highness Estifanos Matewos
50. Bezawet Mekonnen
51. Birhanu Yigeletu
52. Fasil Tadesse
53. Kirubael Abate
54. Temesgen Tarekegni
55. Tewodros Worku
56. Abraham Ambaw
57. Yeshiwork Abate
58. Eilsa Ezineh
59. Getnet Gedlu
60. Getachew Meteku
61. Abebe Mandefro
62. Serak Belayneh
63. Solomon Tadesse
64. Naod Solomon
65. Kone Feseha
66. Dereje Mekonnen
67. Tewodros Alemu
68. Alania Zeleke
69. H/Gabriel Ayalew
70. Teshome Mekonnen

71. Abel Asseged
72. Kirubael Aseged
73. Abel Aseged
74. Dereje Mekonnen
75. Tadesse Ferdawek
76. Tsedalu Gebeyehu
77. Ayalew Demesse
78. Gezaw H/Selassie
79. Major Tegest Sheneglegn
80. Eleni Alemayehu
81. Alemayehu Demeke
82. Daniel Bogale
83. Muluneh Zeleke
84. Elisabeth Sheferaw
85. Sara Tafesse
86. Tayuadis Tadesse
87. Eng, Zewdu H/Yesus
88. Asayetemariam Tquame
89. Wesenyelesh Besrat
90. Major Kumlachew Admasu
91. Teferi Abetew
92. Daniel Woube
93. Major Getahun Wedeneh
94. Yenealem Emeru
95. Tesfaye Aklilu
96. Tegenie Bandajaw
97. Genet Haile
98. Alemneh Abera
99. Eshetu Mulugeta
100. Alemayehu H/Selassie
101. Adera Werkie
102. Asrat Addis

103. Marta Alemayehu
104. Hirut Assefa
105. Tesfaye Beryehun
106. Gerum Teshome
107. Yoseph Wale
108. Getachew W/Amanuel
109. Abenet Akaleweld
110. Eng, Eshetu Dereje
111. Daniel Hailu
112. Ermias Shemelis
113. Zelalem Gizaw
114. Belen Girma
115. Jejaw Gashu
116. Fasil Abate
117. Alemshet Demelash
118. Getinet Gedlu
119. Getachew Meteku
120. Abebe Mandefro
121. Serak Belayneh
122. Professor Achamyeleh Debela
123. Kidane Alemayehu
124. Dejene Asaye
125. Teferra Demissie
126. Tsehay Demeke
127. Bruck Tadesse
128. Yeshe Wendemu Sehene
129. Elizabeth Gessesse
130. Tialhun Gelae
131. Negussie Nega
132. Mulugeta Feleke
133. Alazar Simeneh
134. Major Dehnahun Desta

135. Saba Belaye
136. Berihun Kebede
137. Asalefewe Wolde-Egziabhier
138. Elene Aragawe
139. Lekie Hailu
140. Solomon Gugsu
141. Walle Engidayehu
142. Fantahun Engidayehu
143. Teferra Demissie
144. Hailu Cherinet
145. Samuel Habte