

Newsletter

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PRESS RELEASE: Government of Ethiopia condemns killing of its nationals

21 April 2015

The people and government of Ethiopia are greatly saddened by the barbarous killing of innocent Ethiopian Christians in Libya.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia strongly condemns the killings, even more so when they were supposedly committed in the name of religion. Atrocities of this kind have nothing to do with religion: they merely illustrate the psychotic nature of terrorism and violent extremism. There is no excuse for such deliberate crimes against humanity.

Ethiopia has been in the frontline in the fight



Innocent Ethiopians executed by ISIS in Libya

against terrorism for a number of years now. Its determination to prevent terrorism taking root in Ethiopia and the region underlines why it has taken an active role in responding to the terrorist activities of Al-Shabaab in neighboring Somalia, elsewhere in the sub-region and internationally. Ethiopia will remain vigilant to ward off terrorism and extremism. The Government is ready to repatriate any and all Ethiopians in Libya. Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called on all Ethiopians residing in Libya to contact the nearest Ethiopian Embassies in Cairo and Khartoum for assistance. The Government is also contacting other stakeholders to help Ethiopian citizens leave Libya. The Ministry welcomes the strong condemnation of the killings by the AU, USA, EU, Canada and the international community at large.

Both the Ethiopian Muslim Affairs Supreme Council (EMASC) and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) have condemned Islamic State's barbaric acts. The EMASC strongly condemned the slayings as "genocidal acts". EMASC President Hajji Mohammed Aman Jemal said "the slaying committed by the terrorists is a shocking deed which stands contrary to the Holy Quran. Human beings are sacred," so says the Holy Quran. "This shows the respect it has for mankind, oblivious of their colour, ethnic origin and religion."

He added that the Prophet Mohammed explicitly ordered Muslims not to harm Ethiopia. The act perpetrated by extremists is therefore an atrocity that blatantly disrespects Islam and the Holy Quran. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church condemned the killings. The patriarch, His Holiness Abune Mathias, said the victims are Ethiopians and followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. The act does not represent any religious institution and faith, but is an act committed by terrorists that should be condemned, he said. The patriarch added that the EOC supports the efforts of the government to safely bring back citizens. He advised citizens to focus on earning their livelihood in their own country "instead of going to countries that do not guarantee their safety, religion and property". He affirmed that the church will extend support to those who come back from Libya.

Now it is confirmed that Ethiopian citizens were among the victims, while condemning this heinous act, the Ethiopian Government will continue its investigations. In respect for the victims, Ethiopia has declared a 3-day period of mourning, beginning today.

—ENDS—

Thousands of Ethiopians march in government rally over Islamic State killings

Tens of thousands of Ethiopians marched through the capital on 22 of April 2015 in a government-organized rally condemning the murder of a group of Ethiopian Christians by Islamic State militants in Libya.

The official rally appeared to be aimed at channelling public anger sparked by the killings, with a huge crowd beginning to gather shortly after dawn in Addis Ababa's Meskel Square.

"Our brothers were murdered, the government must do something," shouted Anteneh Tefera, a

The Islamic State video, released on Sunday, showed militants in Libya holding captives who they described as "followers of the cross from the enemy Ethiopian Church".

It showed one group of about 12 men being beheaded on a beach and another group of at least 16 being shot in the head in a desert area.

"We gather to commemorate the innocent children of Ethiopia butchered by terrorism and burned to death by xenophobia," said one speaker on the podium, also referring to the wave of violence



Demonstration against terrorism in Addis Ababa, Picture ©Zacharias Abubeker (AFP)

young demonstrator. "Their blood is not the blood of animals."

The murders have horrified Ethiopians and sparked global condemnation, including from Pope Francis who expressed his "great distress and sadness".

against immigrants in South Africa.

A large number of Ethiopians leave their country – Africa's second largest in terms of population with more than 90 million people – seeking work elsewhere.

Many travel to Libya and other north African nations for jobs, as well as to use it as a stepping stone before risking the dangerous sea crossing to Europe.

Protesters responded by singing, “Enough immigration! Change our country by staying home.”

Almost two-thirds of Ethiopians are Christians, the majority of those Orthodox Copts – who say they have been in the Horn of Africa nation since the first century AD – as well as large numbers of Protestants.

Islam also has an ancient history in Ethiopia, brought to the country by some of the earliest followers of the Prophet Mohammed, who were sheltered there by the Christian king.

“ISIS doesn’t Represent Islam,” read one banner held by protestor.

Source: Daily Mail

International institutions condemn the murder of over 30 Ethiopians in Libya

The UN Security Council on 20 April 2015 strongly condemned “the heinous and cowardly apparent murder” in Libya of more than 30 Ethiopians by an affiliate of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. “This crime once again demonstrates the brutality of ISIL, which is responsible for thousands of crimes and abuses against people from all faiths, ethnicities and nationalities, and without regard to any basic value of humanity,” said a statement issued to the press here by the 15-nation UN body.

Ethiopia has confirmed many of the Christians shown being shot and beheaded in a video purportedly made by the Islamic State (IS) group, or Daesh, were its citizens. Militants claimed the victims were killed in Libya. The 29-minute video released online on 19 April 2015 showed about 12 men being beheaded on a beach, while a further approximately 16 people were shot in the head in a desert area.

The victims were identified in the video as “followers

of the cross from the enemy Ethiopian Church,” reports said, adding that it was claimed one group had been held by an IS affiliated group in the east of the country, while the second group was with an IS ally in Libya’s south.

“The members of the Security Council stressed again that ISIL must be defeated and that the intolerance, violence and hatred it espouses must be stamped out,” the statement said.

On the same day, the EU also denounced the massacre as a “criminal’ effort to create religious divisions. “This not a clash of civilizations, this not a fight between Islam and the West,” an EU spokesman said in a statement. “This is a criminal misuse of a noble religion to perpetrate terrorist attacks in a struggle for power.” “The EU stands together with the growing number of countries in Africa, which are battling terrorism and radicalization,” the statement further said.

Source: Xinhua

Ethiopian Muslims dedicate Friday prayers to ISIL victims

Ethiopia’s Islamic Affairs Supreme Council has called for dedicating weekly prayers on Friday 24 April 2015 to condemning the purported murder of around 30 of their countrymen by ISIL in Libya.

“This Friday’s prayer is dedicated to the innocent Ethiopians killed and executed in Libya,” council

chief Sheikh Mohammed Amin Jemal told a press conference on Thursday.

“This massacre violates all religious doctrines, including that of Islam,” he added.

“The killing of humans is the most despicable [act]; it has no place in Islam,” Jemal said, going on to urge

Muslims to pray for the victims.

“The mosque imams will teach the doctrines of Islam that promote peaceful co-existence with followers of other religions and describe the killings as a barbaric act,” he added.

Council deputy chief Umer Yimam, for his part, called for promoting religious tolerance.

“Friday will be a big day for us as we pray for the victims,” he said. “We are deeply disturbed by the inhumane incident that happened in Libya. We will not let this barbaric act, made under the guise of Islam, erode our culture of religious tolerance. We need to educate our citizens to help them better understand the genuine doctrines of Islam,” Yimam said. Source: World Bulletin / News Desk

Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels pays tribute to the victims



The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Brussels opened a Book of Condolence at its premises on Thursday 23 April 2015 for the victims of the massacre. European Union representatives, European Embassies in Brussels, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Embassies of ACP countries, Embassies of African Union and IGAD members countries and many other Embassies residing in Brussels, as well as other members of the international community paid tribute and expressed their deep sorrow to the Government and the People of Ethiopia by signing the Book of Condolence.

Since Wednesday, the Embassy’s flag is flying at half

mast.

Besides to this, on Saturday 25 April 2015, the Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels is going to organize a memorial ceremony for the innocent Ethiopian victims of ISIS. For this event, hundreds of Ethiopian diasporas living in the Benelux countries will gather to remember the victims and support the families together, and also to denounce this barbaric killing by the terrorist group ISIS and the xenophobic violence in South Africa. During the event, representatives from churches and diaspora communities will denounce these terrorist acts of violence and express their solidarity to the fight against extremism.

In the meantime, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Brussels and Ethiopian communities in Antwerpen (Belgium) will also pay tribute to the victims and their families.







EDUCATION

New impetus for the Ethio-Irish cooperation in education

The National University of Ireland signed a co-operation agreement with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University.

Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) was founded by the Ethiopian government in 2011 with a mission to become a leading force in higher education in Ethiopia, a country with one of the fastest growing economies in the world. It is part of Ethiopia's five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, aimed at developing Ethiopia from its reliance on subsistence agriculture to a capacity for market-led production and innovation.

While Ethiopia is regarded among African countries as one of the favorites to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for primary education, it has yet to catch up with the African average in terms of tertiary education expansion and student participation.

In 2013, through its Embassy in Dublin, the Ethiopian government approached the National University of Ireland (NUI Galway) to invite it to serve as a development partner to the new university.

NUI Galway will assist AASTU in developing its

institutional practices and programs, and will share its expertise in areas such as academic administration, quality assurance, program development, community outreach, industry engagement, and librarianship. There is also provision for staff and student exchanges.

NUI Galway's Dean of International Affairs, Professor Brian Hughes said: "We are very proud to sign this agreement with AASTU. NUI Galway has a long history, and we have benefited greatly from the assistance of our colleagues around the world. We are privileged now to provide assistance to AASTU as it establishes itself as a new university.

"Our engagement with AASTU will be very much a two-way partnership. Ethiopia is experiencing rapid social, cultural, and economic change and is embarking on an ambitious national development program. We feel we have much to learn from working with our colleagues in Addis Ababa as they enter this new and exciting phase of Ethiopian history."

Source: advertiser.ie

Belgo-Ethiopian University cooperation discussed in Ghent



this, it is well on target to meet one of the millennium development goals of achieving universal primary education coverage. The ambassador has also briefed the Rector that his country is planning to add ten more universities in the next growth and transformation plan and while greatly appreciating the support of Ghent University and other Belgian universities to the country, the government of Ethiopia would like to see the cooperation strengthen the academic institutional capacity especially in the areas of hard sciences and technologies for the newly established Universities of Ethiopia, preferably with a signing of memorandum of understanding.

Ambassador Teshome Toga & Rector of Ghent University, Pr. Dr. Anne De Paepe

Ambassador Teshome Toga met the Rector of Ghent University, Professor Dr. Anne De Paepe and Professor Luc Duchateau who is coordinator of the cooperation with Ethiopian Universities and officials and professors of the University in the afternoon of April 21/2012 at the office of the Rector. During the occasion, Ambassador Toga has explained the evolution of the education sector of Ethiopia that has witnessed an exponential expansion in general and higher education in particular. He explained to the Rector that the country embarked on a major expansion two decades ago and now has more than 30 public universities from just the two universities and an enrollment of about 26 million students throughout the country, which is equivalent to the population of Belgium and Netherlands combined. By doing

The Rector, in turn expressed her pleasure with the unique cooperation and relation her university built with Ethiopian universities, such as Jimma university since 2005 and stated that she is also interested to see this



Ambassador Teshome Toga exchanging with Professor Luc Duchateau

academic cooperation strengthened further. The Rector indicated that she is willing to see further collaboration between her university and Ethiopian Universities and in this context she is open to travel to Ethiopia to sign a memorandum of understanding with the ministry of education before the end of

this year. this was followed by a presentation of collaborative academic and research and related works the university of Ghent is undertaking with more than 8 universities of Ethiopia.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Matchmaking session: Spices, Herbs & Aromatics sector - Ethiopia

Within the framework of the Agri-Business Support Facility (ABSF), part of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce & Sectoral Associations, the Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC) will receive an incoming delegation of Ethiopian stakeholders from the spices, herbs and aromatics sector in the week of May 18th 2015. They will participate in a weeklong program of company visits to a.o. Verstegen, Intertaste, TEMA PROCESS, Nofalab, Lithos Spices, Euroma and J.S. Polak. They will furthermore attend several informational sessions as well as a matchmaking afternoon to get to know the partners, investors and other relevant contacts from the Dutch spices, herbs and aromatics sector.

All companies and organizations with an interest are cordially invited in meeting this delegation. After subscribing, participants can indicate which of the Ethiopian delegates they would like to meet, and through one-on-one meetings in

the afternoon (13.30-17.30) of May 18th business opportunities can be discussed. The afternoon will be closed with an informal networking reception. Please find the list of participants via this link:

<http://ethio.be/1z1uCWP>

If you have any questions, please contact Daphne Willems at daphne.willems@nabc.nl or 070 3043618.

ABOUT THE EMBASSY

Working Hours: 9:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00

Consular Service: Monday – Friday 09:00 – 13:00

Legalization and Power of Attorney: Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 13:00

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