



February 7, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Ethiopian Association in Toronto and Surrounding Regions has always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Ethiopians in the country and abroad by condemning arbitrary killings, and any other form of oppression causing sufferings and human right violations.

It's with disbelief and dismay that our Association witnessed and continues to witness inhuman and untold summary killings and burials, massive internal displacements, and flagrant human right violations, probably comparable to war crimes, in Ethiopia over the past few years.

In recent weeks, the whole world is witnessing a possible destruction at the worst, or balkanization at best, of the Ethiopia we have known for millennia through killings and displacements that the world has never seen before. The Association is deeply concerned and worried. Ethiopians across the globe are currently and literally in deep sorrow and mourning, and the Ethiopian Association is no exception.

In particular, we are saddened and dismayed by the Government of Ethiopia that has blatantly interfered in the internal affairs of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church, and seems to be actively participating in a campaign of terror, killings and destruction visibly aiming at the Church itself, its Clergy and its followers. This is a Church that literally built the country over millennia, a symbol for the liberation of all blacks around the globe, which, ironically, was once echoed by the prime minister himself. These are actions never seen in the history of this ancient, biblical and historical Country, and the Association firmly rejects and condemns these actions.

The Ethiopian Association in Toronto and Surrounding Regions calls upon the international community, including the UN and the African Union to strongly condemn and make their voices heard by calling on the Ethiopian Government to stop such deplorable action and demand it to restore the rule of law in the country, which seem to have been luxury over the past four years. We also ask the Ethiopian government to take its hands-off the internal affairs of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church, and to respect human rights. The Church's human rights have indeed been violated, if not squashed, as a constitutionally recognized legal entity.

Our Association will continue to do its share for the respect of holistic human rights in the country, including to stop mass killings, internal displacements, and the unalienable rights of the people to freely move work, and most importantly to believe in and practice the faith of their choice wherever they like. In this ancient nation of ours, people of all religions, including Islam, Judaism, and Orthodoxy have practiced their religion in unappalled respect to the faith of their neighbors', and very peacefully.



The recent interference of the Ethiopian government by denying its people of its century-old collective way of life is ignorance at best, barbarism at the worst, and which should be remedied swiftly.

Calling upon the Ethiopian government to restore peace, law and order, and take its hands-off the Ethiopian Orthodox Church once again, we express our deep sorrow and grief to the loss of precious lives of our Tewahido Fathers, brothers and sisters, and convey our most sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who, we believe, became martyrs of the Church during these atrocities.

The Ethiopian Association in Toronto and Surrounding Regions.