



National Movement of Ethiopians

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Mr. Umar Hasan Ahmad Al-Bashir

President of the Sudan

Khartoum, Sudan

May 31, 2008

First, Ethiopian civic, human rights, professional, women, youth, labor, non-governmental, political organizations and associations as well as academic, business, media and religious leaders within and outside Ethiopia join the Ethiopian people in **appealing to** you and to the Sudanese people to restore the recently ‘ceded land’ negotiated by the leadership of the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) and its umbrella political organization, the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). The political leadership of the TPLF/EPRDF does not have any moral justification or legitimate authority to negotiate and ‘cede’ 1,600 Square Kilometers of Ethiopian land to the Sudanese Government. This act violates Ethiopia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and, will have lasting and adverse consequences on future relations between the brotherly relations of Ethiopia and the Sudan.

The TPLF/EPRDF government led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has taken this unprecedented decision that is detrimental to the geographical and territorial make up of Ethiopia, without the participation and knowledge of the Ethiopia people, and, with utter disregard to the economic, social, political and cultural interests of the legitimate inhabitants of the Gondar Region. The

'verdict' imposed on the Ethiopian people is an abrogation of international legal norms, protocols and diplomatic practices observed by the United Nations and the African Union.

We would like to remind you, Mr. President, that abrogation of Ethiopia's legitimate sovereignty and territorial integrity that serves only the short term interests of the current ruling party led by Mr. Zenawi, is null and void.

There are two other related matters that we would like to bring to your attention and to the attention of the international community as a matter of urgency.

Over the past few weeks, the Sudanese army has, repeatedly, **violated Ethiopian territory burning villages**, persecuting innocent inhabitants of the region and taking Ethiopians to prison camps in the Sudan. On April 27, it was reported by reliable sources that 24 Ethiopian farming village communities were burned and erased. This atrocity against the legitimate inhabitants of Gondar must cease without further delay.

Ethiopian and the Sudan have a long history of accommodating each other's refugees at a time of need. Refugees have basic and fundamental human rights that are protected by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and by legal provisions and norms governing the status of refugees to which the Sudan is a party. We are therefore appalled by the recent politically driven persecution and forced return of Ethiopian refugees from the Sudan to Ethiopia. We urge the Sudanese government leadership to respect the rights of Ethiopian refugees as it has done traditionally.

We believe that the long term interests of the Ethiopian and Sudanese people require that each country respects the sacrosanct nature of their sovereignty and territorial integrity. Regional

peace, mutual economic, social, cultural and trade ties that will benefit the Ethiopian and Sudanese people demand the Ethiopia's territorial integrity and the rights of its citizens be respected by the Sudanese Government.

Accordingly, we urge the Sudanese Government under your leadership to restore Ethiopian land to the Ethiopian people without further delay. We urge your army and security forces to stop the persecution, harassment and imprisonment innocent citizens and, the burning of Ethiopian villages. We urge your government to cease the forceful expulsion of Ethiopian refugees from the Sudan.

Sincerely,

Germaw Alemu

Secretary

Cc: Mr. Ban Ki-Moon

Secretary General

United Nations

Dr. Salim A. Salim

Secretary General

African Union

Ms. Louise Arbour

United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

Dr. Condoleezza Rice

Secretary of State

United States

Mr. Tim Clarke

Ambassador to Ethiopia, European Union

Mr. Zhou Wenzhong

Ambassador of China to the US