



Harar Interest Advocacy Group International

Incorporated In Victoria A0050667C

**To Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia**

Subject: Timely and right justice to victims of corruption ensures the success of the anti-corruption campaign in Ethiopia

Dear Commissioner

We are writing this to bring to your attention the investigation and prosecution of a corruption scandal which led to the premeditated murder of Mr Hashim Idris (1972-2011), chief of the Land Preparation, Resettlement and Compensation Unit with the Municipality of the Harari Peoples' National Regional State (HPNRS), on April 13th 2011. We are deeply shocked and disturbed by this cold-blooded and broad day murder of a public servant with many credentials for remarkable achievements for his services in public and civil societies with dedication, honesty and loyalty.

According to the reports we received from the HPNRS, on April 13th 2011 late afternoon Mr. Hashim Idris was shot in the head several times by private entrepreneurs in front of police station in the heart of the city, known as 'Feres Megala'. The report indicates that the assassination was carried out following Mr Hashim's resistance to harassment, intimidation and threats to fulfil illegal demands on his duties and responsibilities. He passed away on April 15th 2011 of the bullet wounds he sustained while receiving intensive medical care in Addis Ababa.

The overall circumstances that led to the murder of Mr Hashim Idris while he was pleading for help and taking refuge resulted in tremendous shocks, emotions and grieve to thousands of people in the HPNRS and Hararis world wide. However, in spite of these grievances and sorrows, our ultimate concern was to express our desire to see a comprehensive investigation and prosecution of this organised crime committed to promote a culture of corruption within HPNRS.

We understand that the Ethiopian government legal and law enforcing institutions, in particular, the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC) is the government authority endowed with the power and duties, among others to,

1. prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption;
2. "Freeze... the assets of **any person** who may be under investigation for corruption and forfeiture of any assets and wealth obtained by corruption;"
3. "protect witnesses and whistle blowers" from reprisal of corruptors" and
4. "reward persons or offices that are successful in fighting and preventing corruption"

We believe that Mr Hashim Idris is a victim of corruption in the HPNRS. Although the investigation and prosecution of corruption is under the jurisdiction of the respective Regional State, in view of the circumstances leading to the assassination, we are afraid in this case, the integrity of these processes could be compromised. For example, Mr. Hashim Idris, had repeatedly filed, with evidences, his genuine fears and concerns to the HPNRS authorities, notifying them of a continuous and impending attack by these individuals and sought for protection and refuge for himself and his family.

Regrettably, the HPNRS legal and law enforcing authorities failed to take effective preventative actions. In fact, the assailants had track record for attacking civilians and public servants including high ranking law enforcing authorities on duty but getting away with it because they had connections with and protection of some of the state authorities. These suggests, to us, that there is a break down in the functions of the legal system and law enforcing authorities; and more importantly a lack of commitments and honesty to the anti corruption campaign in Ethiopia.

Subsequently, Mr Hashim Idris was abandoned, betrayed and left in awkward, vulnerable and defenceless positions to face brutal murder and pay the ultimate sacrifice protecting the duties and responsibilities of his position. We join the thousands of people, political organisations, government agencies and civil societies in the HPNRS and overseas in condemning this heinous murder of Mr Hashim Idris, a family man supporting four children, two disabled siblings and an elderly mother. In our view the HPNRS authorities failed to protect him from being victimised and, so, we doubt that they have the courage, will and the integrity to see timely and the right justice are served in this particular case.

However, the process of investigation, prosecution and outcome of this case are the real test to the Ethiopian Government FEACC and the HPNRS to demonstrate the extent of their dedications to fight corruption in Ethiopia. It is also the real test whether they are serious and ready to protect the safety and security of victims of corruption. Unless timely and the right justice are served, no one would ever see that our governments are serious and ready to make anti-corruption campaign a success story in Ethiopia. It is in this context that we would request our government to take decisive, timely and necessary action to send a clear message that any forms of attacks on dedicated public servants is unacceptable and utterly and completely condemned in Ethiopia.

Therefore we request the Ethiopian legal and law enforcing institutions to conduct a comprehensive investigation and prosecution of this case and send tough message that this form of attack is totally unacceptable and condemned in Ethiopia.

Looking forward to hear your positive reply

Kind Regards

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1. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the heroic acts of civilians who have taken the risk of subduing and handing Over the offenders to the law enforcing authorities. We would recommend such Good Samaritan citizens for civilian citation.
2. Please note this is a joint statement released with the approval of the community association listed below. Harar Interest Advocacy Group International (HIAGI) was given the honour of spearheading of the joint statement to the concerned government bodies. Any interested party should be able to access information on the mission and vision of HIAGI @ www.hararianforum.com

Signatories

1. Dallas Harari Womans Association- Hayatach (USA)
2. Ethiopian Interest Advocacy Group Worldwide (Australia)
3. German Ahadnet Afocha (Germany)
4. Gursum Community Association (Canada)
5. Harar Interest Advocacy Group International (Australia)
6. Harar Revival Movement (Worldwide, USA)
7. Harari Community Association (Australia)
8. Harari Community in Edmonton (Canada)
9. Harari Community of Dallas Texas (Afocha) (USA)
10. Harari Community of Ontario (Canada)
11. Harari Heritage Centre (Canada)
12. Harari Sports and Cultural Federation (HSCF) (Canada & USA)
13. Harari Leqot wa Nerot Mugad Germany (**Harari Lemat Mehaber**) (**Germany**)
14. HARARI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, DALLAS, TX (USA)
15. Norway Harari Jemaa (Norway)
16. Switzerland Harari Community Association (Switzerland)
17. Sydney Harari Community Association (SHCA)
18. United Washington Hararis Association (USA)
19. Vancouver Harari Community (Canada)
20. Harari Media outlets

cc

Ethiopian Federal Minister of Justice (AA)
Ethiopian Federal Prosecutor's Office (AA)
Ethiopian Federal Police Commission (AA)
Harari People National Regional Administration (Harar)
Ethiopian Embassies abroad