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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

September 7, 2011

**To. H.E. Mr. Mustafa Abddel Jalil
Chairman,
Libyan Transitional Council
Benghazi/Tripoli
LIBYA.**

Your Excellency,

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (formed in 1972 and still struggling against dictators) is addressing this letter to you to bring to your attention the sad and terrible plight of Ethiopian refugees in Libya. As if the inhuman suffering they had to endure under the Khadafi regime was not enough (beatings, rape, detention in containers in the desert, etc.), we have come to know that many of these refugees (and for that matter black African refugees) are suffering in the hands of rebels. Using the color of one's skin as a prima facie evidence of one being a mercenary is very wrong and has caused the loss of life to many Ethiopian and other African refugees. Many of the refugees are staying indoors in fright and trepidation, many others have been rounded up and jailed and are being held in conditions worse than that meted out to the captured soldiers of Khadafi. Allegation of anti African racism on the part of Libyan Arabs is, alas, not to be brushed aside. It is a stain on the claim that the struggle is being waged for democracy.

Your Excellency, the EPRP calls upon you to come out publicly to condemn this brutality against Ethiopian and all African refugees and workers who are being considered as mercenaries just because they are black, the color of skin more than one third of Libya's own population. The EPRP and many democratic Africans have expressed their solidarity with the people of Libya. It is time for the NTC and fighters to express their respect for the lives of Ethiopian/African refugees and workers in your country. Libya should give our compatriots protection and not hunt them down as criminals. The image of an Ethiopian young woman burnt by the cruel wife of Hannibal Khadafi should not be accompanied by the shocking photos of summarily executed or brutally raped Ethiopian/African refugees/workers.

We thank you for your attention.

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