



2023/cab/sap

The Ethiopian World Federation
105 West 125th st. #1095 New York, New York 10027-4444

RE: Unconstitutional Arrests of Private, Religious, Cultural and Traditional use of Cannabis

Dear President Civil Ramaphosa, The Ministry of Police and World Leaders;

It has come to our attention that on September 18, 2018 The South African Constitutional Court Western Cape Division, Cape Town (High Court) declared that the legislation criminalizing the use, possession, purchase and cultivation of cannabis was unconstitutional. However, we are still getting complaints that the unconstitutional behavior of the policing system in South Africa continues to harrass, abuse, blackmail, beat, criminalize, charge, jail, ticket, pull over and even kill people who enjoy their privacy, religious use, cultural practices and traditional freedoms in South Africa.

We have requested from several NGO's a list of victims who have suffered under the harsh policing systems that continue to violate Human Rights, Religious Rights as well as Cultural and Traditional Rights as it pertains to anything living including plants. As you know, police and the abuse of power is a deadly trend globally against mankind, especially Africans in the diaspora and it has become an International Emergency of ours; here in America as well as Africa and there aren't many places where melanated people can feel safe. In South Africa however, this is a Human Rights issue as well as a religious, cultural and traditional concern.

Whereas;

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights *Adopted 16 December 1966*

Entered into force 23 March 1976

Article 7. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

South African High Court ruled on September 18, 2018 that it would not be a criminal offense for an adult person:

(a) to use or be in possession of cannabis in private for his or her personal consumption in private; and

(b) to cultivate cannabis in a private place for his or her personal consumption in private.

The question remains, why are so many people still being arrested, held in jail, harassed, fined, criminalized and held in contempt, beaten by your police over
1. A natural non-modified plant 2. A religious right 3. A traditional right and 4. Private use.

We are living in a Global Hostile environment when Police decide they are abusing their power on a World scale. Please review your laws, including International Human Rights Laws, Religious, Cultural and Traditionally to assure that these changes regarding cannabis and the decriminalization are understood by The Ministry of Police and disseminated for fairness of use.

An investigation of unlawful arrests would be appreciated.

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