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Ref. No.: **LF0306/25**

To:

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Subject: *Urgent Appeal: Intensified Action on the Severe Humanitarian and Human Rights Crisis in Ethiopia, Particularly the Amhara Region*

Dear Sir/Madam,

London Fano Community Interest Company (CIC) serves as a dedicated voice for the voiceless Amhara community in Ethiopia. We write to express our profound concern regarding the escalating and catastrophic humanitarian and human rights crisis engulfing Ethiopia, particularly within the Amhara region. This crisis, driven by a combination of ongoing conflict, severe drought, and economic instability, has tragically positioned Ethiopia as one of the world's most dire humanitarian emergencies.

The situation demands immediate and decisive action. Over **28.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2025 (UNOCHA)**, with widespread displacement, severe food insecurity, and critical health emergencies being major concerns.

The Catastrophic Situation in the Amhara Region:

Since April 2023, the Abiy Ahmed-led Oromo Prosperity Party (OPP) regime has launched a brutal military assault on the Amhara Region. This conflict, primarily between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the armed group Fano, disproportionately targets the ethnic Amhara population and has led to widespread human rights violations:

- ✓ **Civilian Casualties & Violence:** Between August 2023 and February 2025, there have been over **5,945 civilian casualties**, including **4,620 deaths and 1,325 injuries**. More than **174 deadly drones and airstrikes by the ENDF**, conducted between August 2023 and March 2025, resulted in over **1,152 casualties (880 deaths, 272 injuries) among Amhara civilians**. Allegations of **extrajudicial killings, torture, sexual violence (363+ women and young girls raped)**, and **abductions (944+ civilians)** are rampant.

- ✓ **Destruction of Infrastructure:** Critical civilian infrastructure, including schools, health centers, marketplaces, religious sites, and residential areas, has been systematically devastated. Many schools have been converted into military camps, and ambulances commandeered for military use.
- ✓ **Arbitrary Detentions & Suppression of Dissent:** Thousands of ethnic Amhara civilians, journalists, and activists have been subjected to mass arbitrary detentions in overcrowded informal centers without due process. A nationwide State of Emergency has been used to suppress dissent, criminalize "moral support" for armed groups, and restrict fundamental rights. Internet and telecommunications blackouts are frequently imposed, hindering independent reporting.
- ✓ **Ethnic Profiling & Persecution:** The Ethiopian government is perceived to be systematically targeting ethnic Amhara and those associated with or supportive of the Fano movement. This includes ethnic profiling, placing individuals at severe risk of persecution, torture, and imprisonment based on their imputed political opinion and ethnic origin. Civil society organizations explicitly allege a "genocidal war" and systematic ethnic cleansing targeting the Amhara people.

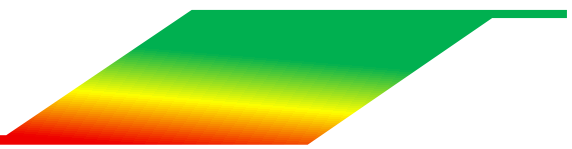
Deteriorating Humanitarian Conditions:

The conflict has exacerbated existing humanitarian needs, leading to a profound collapse of essential services:

- ✓ **Displacement:** Millions of people have been internally displaced, both within the Amhara region and across Ethiopia, creating an immense need for shelter, food, and basic necessities. Ethiopia also hosts over **1 million refugees**.
- ✓ **Food Insecurity & Malnutrition:** Over **20 million people are severely food insecure**, with many facing malnutrition. **The United Nations is warning that many are facing starvation**, and **1.5 million children are in urgent need of school feeding services (UNOCHA)**.
- ✓ **Healthcare Crisis:** Access to healthcare is severely disrupted. Critical health facilities are reportedly ransacked, raided, and repurposed. A recent **nationwide strike by Ethiopian health workers**, protesting severe pay disparities and government repression, including the **arbitrary arrest of over 121 medical professionals** (Amnesty International), has left hospitals operating at minimal capacity. Cholera outbreaks (since August 2022), malaria, and measles pose significant public health threats.
- ✓ **Education Emergency:** Over **8 million children are currently out of school** in Ethiopia, with **4.1+ million in the Amhara region**. Over **5,231 schools are shut down**, and **1,300+ schools reportedly occupied by armed groups**.
- ✓ **Restricted Humanitarian Access:** The delivery of much-needed aid to affected populations is severely hindered by ongoing conflict and government restrictions.

Our Urgent Call to Action for the UK Government:

London Fano CIC urges the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the Home Office UK to intensify efforts to address this catastrophic situation. We implore you to use **all available means to end the military assault on the Amhara people by the anti-Amhara Abiy Ahmed-led force and his Oromuma administration**. We request that this crisis be placed at the top of your agenda.



Specifically, we call for:

1. **Intensified Diplomatic Pressure:** Exert robust pressure on the Ethiopian government and all parties to the conflict to adhere strictly to international humanitarian law and ensure the protection of civilians.
2. **Unrestricted Humanitarian Access:** Demand and facilitate immediate, unfettered access for national and international humanitarian actors to deliver life-saving aid to all affected populations, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.
3. **Accountability for Violations:** Support independent investigations into allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing against the Amhara people. Ensure all perpetrators, including responsible regional and federal government authorities, are brought to justice.
4. **Support for Genuine Peace Efforts:** Continue UK leadership in supporting an inclusive national dialogue and genuine peace efforts that address the root causes of the conflict, and advocate for constitutional revisions to abolish divisive ethnic federalism.
5. **Review of Aid & Engagement:** Scrutinize all funding and engagement to ensure it does not inadvertently contribute to human rights abuses against the Amhara people or other communities.

The unwavering love and resilience of the Amhara people, amidst unimaginable suffering, call for decisive international intervention. We believe that sustained UK leadership and concerted global action are crucial to halting the violence, alleviating the humanitarian crisis, and fostering a path towards lasting peace and justice in Ethiopia.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,



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