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Barbaric killings of Ethiopians in Libya: condolences and solidarity....

On April 19, the “Islamic State in Iraq and Syria” (ISIS) released a video showing the barbaric killing of 28 Ethiopian Christians who had been residing in Libya. Some were beheaded and others shot in the back of the head. This un-Islamic and un-civilized action provoked universal condemnation around the world.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn extended his deepest condolences and those of the Government to the families and friends of the victims and to all the people of Ethiopia. Expressing the strongest condemnation of the gruesome and barbaric acts of the ISIS terrorists, the Prime Minister called for the Ethiopian people to unite and stand firm in Ethiopia’s long fight against acts of terrorism wherever they might occur. Prime Minister Hailemariam said the brutality shown in the cold blooded executions of “our Ethiopian brothers by the Islamic State is only indicative of the fact that such terrorist groups want no more than to wipe out the human race from the face of the earth.”

The Prime Minister noted that although terrorist groups like the Islamic State targeted all of humankind, regardless of religion, color and race, they also often carried out their “acts of terror under the guise of religion.” He warned people to

be aware of their divisive tactics trying to set religion against religion, people against people. ISIS had executed Egyptian Christians in Libya in February and carried other barbaric killings of those opposed to ISIS, including both Muslims and Christians in parts of the Middle East and Northern Africa. Prime Minister Hailemariam said these underlined the need for resolution by both the people and the Government in the war against terror.

The House of Representatives held an emergency session on April 21, preceding discussion with a minute of silence for the victims of the atrocity. The Representatives decreed a period of three day national mourning Wednesday to Friday, (April 22-24) with flags to fly at half-mast throughout the country and in all embassies, consulates-general and trade offices abroad. This national mourning also included those Ethiopians killed in the troubles in South Africa.

There has been worldwide condemnation of the murders. Pope Francis, the head of the Roman Catholic Church and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, The African Union, The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AUPSC), The European Union, the US, Canada the Russian Federation and others also expressed their solidarity with Ethiopia.

Dr. Tedros Holds Discussions with US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs



Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom met with the US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ms. Wendy Sherman on Thursday (April 16) for talks on bilateral relations as well as on cooperation in the fight against terrorism and on the situation in the region including Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Eritrea.

Dr. Tedros said he appreciated Ms. Sherman coming to Ethiopia directly from the G77 meeting in Germany and said it underlined her commitment to deepen the excellent relationships that already existed between the two countries. The Minister briefed Ms. Sherman on the current situation in Somalia and on the progress being made politically and militarily. He noted that the al-Qaeda linked Somali terrorist Al-Shabaab had been weakened by the consecutive operations of AMISOM and Somalia National Army (SNA) last year, Operation Eagle and Operation Indian Ocean in which a significant number of towns in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Shebelle, Hiran and Juba

regions had been liberated, including the militant stronghold of Barawe port. He also emphasized the importance of the deaths of a number of Al-Shabaab leaders, including its former emir, Abdi Godane, by US drone strikes. Nevertheless, Al-Shabaab did still remain a threat, to Somalia, to the region and to the world. It might have been seriously weakened, but it still had the capacity to carry bombings wherever it wanted, including the Somali Ministry of Higher Education as well as recent attacks on AMISOM camps and hotels in Mogadishu. In addition, Al-Shabaab fighters were active in neighboring countries and the recent attack on the Garissa University in Kenya was Al-Shabaab's bloodiest ever massacre.

Dr. Tedros emphasized that Al-Shabaab has been dislodged from most of its urban and port strongholds, but it still controlled large rural areas in south-central Somalia. He said it remained imperative that all Somalia's partners should continue to exert their concerted efforts to ensure peace in Somalia. The Minister thanked Ms. Sherman for the role played by the United States of America, but he stressed that Somalia still needed more support from the international community, especially from donor countries, to help institute government and administrative institutions to ensure permanent victory over Al-Shabaab as well as provide continued backing for AMISOM. With regard to Vision 2016 and the elections due in September 2016, Dr. Tedros said there had been some encouraging developments from the Federal Government in moving forward the process of establishing federal states, including the Interim Juba Administration and the South West Administration. He said Ethiopia was fully supportive of the Federal Government on all levels and believed the election could be held as scheduled in September next year.

Dr. Tedros also briefed Ms. Sherman on the situation in South Sudan and underlined the necessity of the warring parties living up to their commitments and agreed principles. He said that the IGAD-mediation was expected to launch the IGAD-Plus process shortly. This would involve Nigeria, Algeria, South Africa, Chad and Rwanda as well other stakeholders. It would also be preceded by shuttle diplomacy. Ms. Sherman welcomed Ethiopia's efforts to help the mediation and expressed her hopes for success.

Dr. Tedros described the role of Eritrea in regional destabilization and in support of terrorist groups in the region. He said Eritrea had shown no indication of changing its policies in any meaningful way. Ethiopia, he said, had detailed evidence of Eritrea's involvement in supporting anti-government and terrorist activities in Somalia where it continued to support Al-Shabaab, and in Yemen.

The US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs welcomed the enormous efforts that Ethiopia was put into development internally as well as in its relations with neighboring countries. She appreciated the socioeconomic progress achieved so far and said Ethiopia's democracy is moving forward. She expressed her hope that the forthcoming election would be a fair, transparent, inclusive and democratic election. Ms. Sherman underlined the importance of the longstanding relationship between Ethiopia and the United States and said she hoped it would deepen and widened in different areas. She welcomed the fact that Ethiopia's troops had formally joined AMISOM, taking responsibility for the security in AMISOM's sectors 3 and 4, the southwestern regions of Gedo, Bay and Bakool, and liberating a number of towns from Al-Shabaab.

Ms. Sherman underlined the importance of Ethiopia and the United States are working closely together to fight terrorism. She said the US government was against all such groups that tried to assume political power through violence and terrorist activity. This included organizations and terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab and also groups like Ginbot 7 identified by the House of Peoples representative of Ethiopia as terrorist organizations. She emphasized that in such situations it was necessary to fully understand the complexities of terrorist actors and networks and to respond to these activities required internationalization of counter terrorist operations and increased provision of joint counterintelligence action, strategy and operations that could effectively disrupt terrorist networks and activities. Ethiopia is very strong and growing country, Ms. Sherman said. "We want to make sure the stability, the peace, the security, and the growing prosperity continues and we look forward to a very strong partnership building all the platforms that we need to meet these threats, meet these concerns with all of the seriousness, she added.

Korea is a True 'Blood Brother' of Ethiopia: President Mulatu

Ethiopian President Dr. Mulatu Teshome said that "Korea is a true 'blood brother' of Ethiopia." While visiting the Republic of Korea to attend the seventh World Water Forum, the president met with President Park Geun-Hye at Cheong WA Dae in Seoul on 15 April 2015, President Dr. Mulatu highlighted that Ethiopia was following the development path of Korea to bring about a real economic transformation, added that the two countries could bolster their bilateral cooperation in the future.



President Park who also referred to Ethiopia as the only "blood brother" of Korea in Africa, as it sent troops to aid South Korea during the Korean War (1950-1953), appreciated the continued growth of bilateral ties between the two countries. President Park recalled the completion of the construction of the Memorial Hall for Ethiopian Veterans in the Korean War and described the hall as a symbol of "the will of the Korean people, who will never forget the sacred sacrifices made by the Ethiopian soldiers who fought in the war." President Mulatu said that capitalizing on economic cooperation, coupled with expanding investment and exchange of ties would turn the bilateral relationship into a closer, mutually beneficial, partnership.

President Mulatu who gave a briefing on Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan II, which will start next year, said the plan would include large-scale development projects, including railways, power plants, heavy industries and facilities to process fertilizer.

The President urged the Korean government to provide support for these projects so Korean companies could participate and private sector investment be encouraged. President Park urged President Mulatu to provide detailed information about the investment market potential in Ethiopia.

She underlined the importance of sharing information and providing government support for private sector investor. 17 April 2015 (WIC)

News

World Bank Hails Performance in Basic Service Delivery in Half Year

Social service delivery programs in Ethiopia have been successful, according to the World Bank (WB). Ministry of Finance, Economy and Development evaluated a six month performance of the social service programs with development partners on April 28/2015.

WB Country Director for Ethiopia, Gunag Chen said the country is becoming successful as it has been giving due attention to the sectors in health, education, and water of the program. A delegation composed of representatives of different development partners was impressed by the livelihood the communities it visited in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regional states. Significant progress is also registered in child mortality, which fell from 72 in a thousand in 2006 to 31 in 2014.

Provision of water supply in rural areas has also jumped to 77.5 percent in 2014 from 46 percent in 2006.

According to the performance report, social accountability, capacity was measured in 223 woredas and their performance have reached 75 percent.

Budget utilization has, however fallen drastically due to the low level of awareness and the government plans to reverse this in the coming months.

Chinese Company to Build East Africa's Tallest Building in Ethiopia



The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) has signed an agreement with the China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) for the plan to build a 198-meter building for CBE's headquarters in Ethiopia, which is expected to be the tallest structure in East Africa.

A signing ceremony of the 46-storey building was held on Tuesday 28 April 2015 at CBE's head office in the capital Addis Ababa.

Speaking at the ceremony, CBE, President, Bekalu Zeleke, said CBE and CSCEC would be committed to the success of the project as "it reflects the image on both sides."

"Not only the height, but the overall quality of the building, we believe that this will be one of the best buildings in Africa," he said.

Song Sudong, general manager for CSCEC in Ethiopia, said at the ceremony that the company has successfully carried out such building projects in China.

Business and Economy

Ethiopian Among the Top 10 Most Dependable Airlines in the World



Addis Ababa, April 13, 2015 (WIC) **Ethiopian Airlines, among the top 10 most dependable airlines in the world.**

Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest and most profitable airline has been ranked as the 6th most dependable airline in the world according to CBS news. With a fleet size of 76 aircraft and more than 100 destinations, 81 of them internationally.

Ethiopia's flag carrier has an on-time record of 71% and is ranked as the 6th most dependable airlines in the world.

Ethiopian flies to more destinations in Africa than any other airline in the world and it is Africa's dominant airline in Asia, flying to 21 cities in Asia including the Middle East and Gulf.

The most dependable airline in the ranking is Qatar Airways followed by Emirates, China Eastern and Singapore Airlines are ranked 1st to

4th respectively, and China Southern Airlines 5th. You can see the complete list on CBS news.

Ethiopian Airlines

Fleet size: 76, Number of destinations: 101+, On-time percentage: 71%, Average age of fleet: 7 years

Africa's largest and most profitable airline has been in rapid expansion mode to capture the hot Africa-Asia market.

Ethiopia is building a massive airport to house the airline's home base. The country is looking to shed its image of famine and poverty, and showcase its booming economy. (CBS news)

Ethiopia Expecting this Financial Year to be a Record for FDI

Addis Ababa, (WIC) – Ethiopian Investment Commission on 29 April 2015 said that the Government expects this year to be a record for foreign direct investment, up 25 per cent from last year's US\$1.2 billion to reach a record US 1.5 billion, with successful efforts to attract overseas manufacturing companies.

The head of the Commission Fitsum Arega said that the figures do not include plans by China's Huajian, the world's biggest shoemaker, for an additional planned US\$2 billion to build its own industrial park and expand its existing Ethiopian workforce to 30,000 in the next few years. Seven year's ago FDI was no more than a little over US\$100 million, but recent years have seen the relocation of factories, attracted by low wages, cheap power and supportive government policies. Industrial zones have been set up to provide production facilities for textiles, leather and garments. Mr Fitsum said China was providing

the largest number of investments, although by value, the biggest investors were Turkey and India.

The country has now also seen investment from Europe and the US, he added. Ethiopia was continuing to make huge investments in electrical power, railways and industrial parks, providing substantial support for investors including tax breaks. Power and labor costs are low, security and political stability are good and the state-owned Ethiopian Airlines runs the biggest global network of any African airline.

Accountants Ernst and Young in Addis Ababa forecasts FDI will average \$1.5bn each year for the next three years at least and predicts the country will rank among Africa's top four manufacturing hubs by 2025.

Ernst and Young said there had been a big surge in deals since 2011, from the US and Europe as well as China, Turkey and India. It said "Ethiopia is fast becoming the 'must-visit' destination for virtually all private equity funds with an emerging market focus."

There are now more than half a dozen private equity firms operating in Ethiopia. Recent arrivals include Europe's Unilever currently building a factory and India's largest paint-maker, Asian Paints, entered the market through the acquisition of a local manufacturer last month.

Ethiopia's Old City Eyes Hosting Dozens of New Industries

April 28, 2015(newbusinessethiopia.com) - One of the oldest cities of Ethiopia, Debre Berhan, which is founded 1456 at a distance of 120 kilometers north of the capital Addis Ababa, eyes

40 new industries to start construction this Ethiopian Fiscal Year – before October 2015.

This is indicated by Getaneh Zeke, Mayor of the city, who said at the ground laying ceremony of seven industries, which have a total cost of \$125 million and will take 9.5 hectares to construct.

The event which was held on April 24, had initially planned to see the laying of cornerstone of 15 industries, but had to be scaled down to seven to fit in with the day's schedule.

“The 15 industries have registered capital of \$490 million, and will create 20,000 permanent employment opportunity” stated Zeke adding that this will fasten the city's and region's industrialization, and boost Ethiopia's aim to reach the middle income status.

The City reportedly has made serious changes in running the bureaucracy, with land being given in possibly as soon as one day if requirements are fulfilled.

Zeke also revealed that as some of the industries need significant electricity the city liaising with the federal government to secure uninterrupted power supply some of the seven industries whose cornerstone was laid.

Juniper Glass (Private Limited Company) PLC, which reportedly will cost \$50 million will need 10 Mega Watts (MW) to operate while; My Shoes factory is expected to need in excess of 8 MW.

The other industries comprising of metallurgy, PVC factory, pharmaceuticals, Tractor assembly, Pulp and Paper are also expected to need significant electrical power to operate fully once construction is completed.

Amhara region Chief Gedu Endargachew on his part stated as the agricultural led industrialization drive is starting to show fruition signaling the country's growth isn't just in some places, but throughout the country to include industries outside of Addis Ababa and its surrounding.

“The Awash-Woldiya rail line being built by Turkish firm Yapi Merkezi is just is 93 kilometers from Debre Berhan,” stated Andargachew adding that with a road being constructed from Debre Birhan- Ankober Awash, this will make it even closer to the rail line and eventually Djibouti port. (newbusinessethiopia.com)

Tourism and Culture

Abijatta-Shalla Lakes National Park



Situated in the Great Rift Valley, only 200 kilometers (124 miles) south of Addis Ababa, and in the Lake Langano recreational areas, the Abijatta Shalla lakes National Park attracts numerous visitors. Using Lake Langano as your

base, it is an easy trip to visit the National Park, which is 887 square kilometers in size, 482 of these being water.

The altitude of the park ranges from 1540 to 2075 meters, the highest peak being mount Fike, situated between the two lakes. The network of tracks in this park is always developing. At present you can enter at four different points, three of which are interconnected. Approaching from Addis you first reach the Horakello entrance, where the small Horakello stream flows between lakes Langano and Abijatta.

It was created primarily for its aquatic bird life, particularly those that feed and breed on lakes Abijatta and Shalla in Large numbers. The park comprises the two lakes, the isthmus between them and a thin strip of land along the shorelines of each. Developments have been limited to a number of tracks on land, and the construction of seven outposts. While attention focuses on the water birds, the land area does contain a reasonable amount of other wildlife.

Abijatta and Shalla are both terminal lakes, but very different in nature. The surrounding area is mainly acacia woodland, some of which is very degraded by man. Lake Abijatta is a shallow pan, only fourteen meters (46 feet) deep, and its level fluctuates periodically, caused in part by human activity but often by natural phenomena as yet not fully understood. The beaches are unstable and saline, and vehicles must not venture too close as there is a very real danger of sinking.

Lake Shalla, by contrast, is, at 260 meters (853 feet), Ethiopia's deepest Rift Valley lake, possibly the deepest lake in Africa north of the Equator. It is an exceptionally beautiful and still largely un-touched stretch of water, with several hot

springs that bubble up by the shore and flow into the lake.

The sides are steep and rocky — often right down to the shore. Although swimming is considered safe, it may feel strange: the water's colour is like cold tea and there is a high concentration of salts, making it feel soapy. Few fish are found in this lake.



The park was created for the many aquatic bird species that use the lakes, particularly great white pelicans and greater and lesser flamingo. Shalla's islands are used as breeding sites by many birds, and is home to the continent's most important breeding colony of great white pelicans. Because of the lake's lack of fish, the birds fly to Lake Abijatta — which has no islands — to feed. Other birds include white-necked cormorant, African fish eagle, Egyptian geese, various plover species, and herons. Although renowned for its bird life, Abijatta is now outclassed by Lake Awasa farther to the south.

Local mammals are not numerous, but include Grant's gazelle — the northern limit for this species — greater kudu, oribi, warthog, and golden jackal.