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August 25, 2015

**The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500.**

Dear President Obama,

Subject: **Appeal for Justice on Behalf of Ethiopia**

The Global Alliance for Justice – The Ethiopian Cause (GAJEC) presents its compliments to H.E. Mr. Barack Obama, the President of the United States of America and submits this letter of appeal for consideration.

We are writing to you, Mr. President, on behalf of GAJEC, which is a civic organization committed to research and advocacy related to issues of justice for Ethiopians. As you well know, Mr. President, most of the processes of humanity's historical transformation have occurred under domination and oppression of man by man. As the axis of time has pointed towards the present, however, more democratic political arrangements have proliferated, thanks in part to the efforts and goodwill of the US. This has encouraged former oppressors and colonizers to regret and apologize for their inhumanity and cruel misdeeds against their former subjects and victims. Some have offered compensation as well. Thus, Mr. President, the sponsors of apartheid in South Africa have denounced their "criminal system" against Africans. Even the stubborn Turkish state has started to reconsider its genocidal crime against Armenians a century earlier. The British have atoned and paid the victims of their crimes in Kenya. The French leader Hollande has regretted the inhumanity and barbarity of the French colonial system. The Pope had also condemned the complicity of the Vatican with right-wing dictators in Latin America. Given this trend and as the de facto leader of the democratic world and consciousness,

we appeal for your intercession with the Vatican during the upcoming visit of His Holiness Pope Francis I to the US. Fascist Mussolini's crime of genocide against Ethiopians and the Vatican's complicity in 1935-41 cannot be forgotten.

We believe, Mr. President, that it is precisely this willful silence on past atrocities in Africa that has given us the horrendous recent genocide in Rwanda under the watchful eye of the US and the rest of the world. Negligence promotes future impunity. In a bid to conquer the Ethiopian people, Mussolini with the Vatican's complicity, massacred over a million people using various war materials including illegal mustard poison gas. The details are gruesome. GAJEC is campaigning for an adequate compensation, restitution of Ethiopian properties as well as an apology by Pope Francis I and all concerned to the Ethiopian people for these war crimes and the removal of the monument installed for Rodolfo Graziani, "the butcher of Ethiopia", at an Italian town called Affile. To paraphrase your statement, Mr. President, authorities with human rights issues must be nudged to the right side of history with the rest of progressive humanity.

We have the pleasure to attach herewith our letter dated His Holiness Pope Francis I appealing for his apology to the Ethiopian people and are awaiting a response. A document written by Rev/Dr. Mikre Selassie Gebre Amanuel that clearly lays down the incontrovertible veracity as to the Vatican's complicity with Fascist Mussolini is also attached herewith.

We fervently hope that with your gracious support, Mr. President, justice will finally prevail on behalf of Ethiopia with the Christian action by His Holiness Pope Francis I by offering the long awaited Vatican apology to the Ethiopian people for its complicity with Fascist Italy.

Most respectfully,

Kidane Alemayehu
Executive Director

CC: The Hon. Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
US Senate

CC: The Hon. John Boehner
Speaker
US House of Representatives

CC: H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations

CC: The Vatican Embassy
Washington, DC

CC: The Ethiopian Embassy
Washington, DC