

ብሄራዊ ክልላዊ መንግስቲ ትግራይ

The Government of National Regional State of Tigray ቤት ዕሕሬት ርእስ ምምሕጻር

Office of the President

ዕለት 1 4 ሐምሌ 2012

Ref No 3 80 115 84

His Majesty Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Custodian of the two Holly Mosques Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Riyad

Your Majesty,

The people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia have a long history of cultural and religious affinity and a fraternal cooperation that emanates from deep and ancient civilizational relations. Our peoples have always had lent a helping hand to each other during trying times and coexisted cooperatively in better times. The story of Al Negashi reminds us that the two people are, since time immemorial, tied by both earthly and spiritual bonds.

In our recent history, the people and government of Saudi Arabia has always been a safe refugee to our people. When Ethiopians, especially the Tigray people, were persecuted by the heinous military dictatorship and our land was visited by famine, Saudi Arabia had given us security and protection. Even in peaceful times, our people have been flocking to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in search of a better life. In recent years thousands of young Tigreans have crossed the perilous route of the Red Sea and dared the civil war in Yemen to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As usual, your great country has welcomed them as their second home, sometimes at the risk of its own national security.

Your Majesty,

The COVID-19 Pandemic has, understandably, challenged our way of life and changed the way we relate to each other. We also know that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, like

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መኞስ Mekelle

Tigrai

ተግራይ

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ብሄራዊ ክልላዊ መንግስቲ ትግራይ The Government of National Regional State of Tigray ቤት ዕሕፌት ርእስ ምምሕጻር

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any other country, has made some changes with regards to the way it is managing refugees including Ethiopian refugees the majority of who are Tigreans.

Your Majesty.

For reasons that are not convincing to the National Regional State of Tigray, the Federal Government of Ethiopia has decided not to accept these refugees despite your generous offer to help them return back home. I would like to humbly inform your Majesty that the Tigray National Regional State is ready to accept its people and would like to request your Majesty's usual support in airlifting them directly to Mekelle Alula Aba Nega International Airport, situated at our capital, Mekelle. In case you find such a request logistically less preferable, I appreciate if your majesty's government takes the refugees to a camp where they can get the necessary facilities and enough space to protect them from the COVID-19 scourge until such time arrangements are made to bring them back home.

Singerely,

Debretsion G/michael (Phd) V/President

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