

***An Appeal to Ethiopians Worldwide: Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has started soliciting donations to support repatriation operations.***



More than a million migrant workers from several Asian and African countries, including over 115,000 Ethiopians, have been expelled from Saudi Arabia as part of the recent immigration crackdown targeting illegal foreign laborers in the kingdom. The forced deportation, which is designed to get more Saudis into jobs and reduce the high unemployment rate in the country were triggered after a tightening of labor regulations in March and the expiration of an amnesty period on November 4th.

Human Rights Watch points out that half of the entire workforce in Saudi Arabia—nearly nine million migrants—fill manual, clerical, and service jobs. Many suffer abuses and labor exploitation, sometimes amounting to slavery-like conditions.

The recent security clampdown was followed by clashes in the capital Riyadh, in which three Ethiopians were reportedly killed and several others were inhumanely treated by police and vigilante groups that included beatings, robbery, rape and torture, sparking outrage in Ethiopian communities across the world. Grueling reports of abuse and persecution were inescapably

shared on social media. And, various protests outside Saudi embassies have been held, while candlelight vigils continue in many countries.

According to Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom, the Ethiopian government has worked "around the clock [in] crisis management" mode trying to bring citizens back. As of December 8, 115,465 Ethiopians – 72,780 men, 37,092 women and 5,593 children – had returned from Saudi Arabia. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which is supporting Ethiopia in dealing with the unexpected influx of returnees, has expressed concern about the physical and mental condition of the returnees, describing them as being "traumatized, anxious and seriously sick".

In an effort to oblige – in the resettlement of fellow countrymen and women, the Diaspora community in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area has coordinated with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS). Ethiopians worldwide are encouraged to show solidarity in these hard times by donating directly to the Ethiopian Red Cross.

The official letter is attached (below) with the respective information on how to donate and help Ethiopian returnees resettle at home.

<[http://www.redcrosseth.org/news\\_pub\\_news.php?ENID=300](http://www.redcrosseth.org/news_pub_news.php?ENID=300)>.



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**ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY**



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**NATIONAL SECRETARIAT**  
**አዲስ አበባ ADDIS ABABA**

ቀን 11 DEC 2013  
 Date  
 ቁጥር: RC/12/10-06/13  
 Ref.

**To Ethiopian Community Worldwide,**

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has been working with the Diaspora on various occasions and recently Ethiopians living abroad have started to join Red Cross membership as well as assist ERCS technically and financially. Moreover ERCS has received numerous expressions of concern and offers from Ethiopians abroad and at home to assist those seeking repatriation from Saudi Arabia and resettlement in Ethiopia. ERCS has a well established corps of volunteers throughout Ethiopia and will be able to utilize both its own and various resources including working as an auxiliary to the Ethiopian government in providing assistance in this matter.

In order to discharge its humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable, our Society has set up a designated humanitarian account for this purpose only. We encourage all who wish to make donations to use the following information to do so.

Bank information:-  
 Commercial Bank of Ethiopia  
 Addis Ababa branch  
 Account No. 1000000902008  
 SWIFT CODE:CBETETAA

Lastly, though Ethiopians feel it is in fact their individual obligation to help their fellow countrymen and women ERCS would like to express its thanks for the concern and desire you have shown both during the crisis and now in providing assistance to those in need.

  
**Frohiwod Worku**  
 Secretary General  
**United We Can Change!**



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**UNITED WE CAN CHANGE!**

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