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*Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)*

March 15, 2013

LETTER TO POPE FRANCIS I

ETHIOPIA EXPECTS AN APOLOGY

We would like first of all to congratulate you for your election as the Pope of the Catholic Church. We hope your Beatitude would usher a new and socially concerned era of the important church.

We address this letter to you, respected Pope, to call for the rejection of a historical error made by the Vatican when it backed and endorsed the brutal invasion of Ethiopia by Mussolini's troops. More than one million Ethiopians perished in that war waged by Mussolini with his war planes and mustard gas. For many years we had asked the Vatican to utter a simple mea culpa for endorsing the fascist invasion of Ethiopia and the brutal massacre of Ethiopians without getting any reply. Is time to remove this error and for the Vatican to utter an apology to the people of Ethiopia.

Respected Pope,

The Vatican apologized to Jews and more for errors made in the past. Refusing to declare a simple apology to Ethiopia (and Libya too) would inevitably push us all to conclusions that may not be nice to hear. Racism is not a nice epithet to pin to a church when millions of its members are black Africans. This is why we insist on apology from the Vatican that blessed fully the invading fascist troops that caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians. Ethiopians expect a mea culpa, an apology. Please start your papacy with a sincere apology to the victims of the fascist invasion that was praised and backed by the Vatican.

The Ethiopian people demand and expect an apology from the Vatican. Give them satisfaction, Respected Pope Francois I.

We thank you.

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