

# Call for Peace

Join Our Planned Demonstration  
Against all extremism in Ethiopia

Against the Christian extremist that are terrorizing Muslims of Ethiopia  
Demanding Freedom of Religion and Worship for all  
Calling for tolerance and respect between all religious groups

Ethiopia is for all Ethiopians

Date: March 20, 2009

Time: 8:00 Am

In Front of the Ethiopian Embassy  
Washington, DC



**The First Hijrah Foundation (FHF)**

An Ethiopian Muslims Organization  
4324 Georgia Avenue — Washington, DC-20011

**ሰላማዊ ጥሪ ለሰላም ፈላጊዎች**

**ጉዳዩ፦ በግርኛ 20.2009 በኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ ፊት-ለፊት ከጠዋቱ 8:00-11:00 ድረስ ሰላማዊ ጥሪ ሰልፍ**

ሀዲስ ኪዳን ውስጥ የሚያስተራርቁ ብጽግን መሆናቸው ተገልጿል። ቁራናችንም ስለ ሰላምና ተቻችሎ መኖር ብዙ ያስተምራል። በመሆኑም እኛ ኢትዮጵያውያን ሙስሊሞች የኢትዮጵያ ኦርቶዶክስ ቤተክርስቲያን ተከታይ የሆነው የኢትዮጵያ ህዝብ ክርስቲያን ሰላምን ይኸል ብለን እናምናለን፤ ይህንን የሰላም ጥሪ የምናቀርበው ከዚህ ጽኑ ከሆነ እምነታችን ተነስተን ነው። በእስልምና በአረብ ዓለም ሳይቀር እንደ ኢትዮጵያውያን ኦርቶዶክስ ቀሳውስት ፊደል የሚያስቆጥሩት ብዙውን ጊዜ አረባዊ ቁሶች እንደነበሩ ታሪክ -ኢስላም ይነግረናል። በሀገራችንም ቤተክርስቲያን ፊደል ያስቆጠረችን ብዙ ሙስሊሞች አለን። በተጨማሪም ለቤተክርስቲያን የቅኔ፣የድርሰት፣የትምህርት፣የድርጅት፣የማህበረሰብ ወ.ዘ.ተ የዳበረ ይዞታ አድናቆት አለን።

ይህን የሰላም ጥሪ ለማስተላለፍ ያበቃን በቅርቡ በሀገራችን በጎንደርና በአዲስ አበባ ውስጥ የተጀመረው የአንዳንድ የኦርቶዶክስ ክርስቲያን አባላት ተብሎ ጽንፈኞች እኩይ ተግባር ነው። ይህ እኩይ ተግባራቸው ለሀገርና ለወገን ለሙስሊሙና ለአጠቃላይ ለክርስቲያኑ ወገን ብሎም ለሁላችንም የማይበጅ እንደመሆኑና አብሮ የመኖር ሃገራዊና እምነታዊ ድንበርን የጣሰ በመሆኑ ወደ ሰላም የሚጣሩ መፈክሮችን ይዘን ሰላማዊ ሰልፍን እንድናደርግና ህዝብ ክርስቲያኑም፣ ሙስሊሙም ፣ መንግስትም ሆነ ማንኛውም ሃገርና ዜጋውን የሚወድ በሙሉ ሰላማዊ ድምጽን አብሮን ያሰማን ዘንድ ይህን ጥሪ እንድናቀርብ ተገደናል።

“ሙስሊሞች ከሃገር ይወጡ” የሚሉና ሌሎች መፈክሮችን ይዘው ሃገርና ወገን ለይቶ የሚያጠቃ አደገኛ አካሄድ የጀመሩት ጽንፈኛ ወገኖች አንዳንድ ግለሰቦችና ድርጅቶች የሙስሊም ጽንፈኞች ሃገር እያወኩ ነው ሲሉ ይደመጣሉ፤ እንግድያው የክርስቲያንም ሆነ የሙስሊም ጽንፈኞች ለሀገሪቱ ሰላም ስለማይበጁ ማንኛውም አይነት ጽንፈኝነትን በመቃወም በምናደርገው ሰላማዊ ሰልፍ ላይ በመገኘት ሃይማኖታችን ያስተምረናል የምትሉትን ለወገናዊነት ሳይሆን ለፍትሃዊነትና ለሰላም ብሎም ለማስተራረቅ የበኩላችሁን ትወጣላችሁ ብለን እናምናለን። ጽንፈኞች የእምነት ቤቶችን፣ ጠቅላላ ምዕመናንንና መንግስትን በግልጽ የማይወክሉ ራሳቸውን የቻሉ ስርዓት አልበኞች እስከሆኑ ድረስ በጋራ ልንቃወማቸውና ልንታገላቸው ይገባናል የሚል እምነት አለን። ይህ ሳይሆን ቢቀር ግን ህዝብ ክርስቲያኑም ሆነ ሙስሊሙ በነሱ ተወናብዶ ይህ እኩይ ተግባራቸው ከቦታ ቦታ ይዛመትና የእርስ በእርስ ፍቅርንና መተማመን አጥፍቶ ወደ እርስ በርስ ግጭት ሊያሸጋግር ይችላልና በአጭሩ እንቅጩው።

በዚህ ሰላማዊ ሰልፍ ላይ ሃይማኖታዊና ሃገራዊ ሰላምና ወንድማማችነትን ለማስፈን፣ ተመሳሳይ ችግሮች ዳግም እንዳይከሰቱ አንድላይ ሆነን ለሰላምና ለሀገራዊ ወንድማማችነት ድምጻችንን እንድናሰማ ቤተክርስቲያናት፣ቀሳውስት፣ምሁራን ፣ኦርቶዶክስ፣ካቶሊክ ፣ፕሮቴስታንት ወይንም ሌላ ሳንል በጋራ ለሰላም እንድንሰለፍ በፍቅርና በአክብሮት እንጋብዛለን።

ፈጣሪ ኢትዮጵያ ሐገራችንና ሕዝባችንን ይባርክ !  
ፈርስትሂጅራ ማዕከል ዋሽንግተን ዲ.ሲ. 03.13.2009



In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

In the tradition and history of Ethiopia, a country that has been cited as a model of tolerance and peaceful coexistence especially between Christians and Muslims for over 1400 years, it is now alarming to discover that a simmering revulsion against Islam and Muslims is brewing beneath the surface. Recent events in Ethiopia have lent credence to this modern day shock-attack against Muslims by some churches wielding much power and influence in the country. If hate-mongering by ardent priests were any indication as to the weight of this dangerous phenomenon, it leaves little room for interpretation as to their source of inspiration.

Evidence is rapidly gathering against extreme forces that have galvanized these offensive acts of defamation, disparage and slander of the Islamic religion including its Holy Book (the Qur'an), the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), and even the Creator, Allah (Glory Be To Him), either for mere effect of subversion or to incite unrest and cause harm to persons and property. The constant barrage of verbal attacks against Ethiopian Muslims is tantamount to declaring war on the sanctity of Islam and its followers, which comprise a world-wide population of over 1.5 billion people.

It is deplorable that the Muslims in Gonder and across Ethiopia be terrorized by few extremist groups that wish to see Gonder cleansed of its native Muslim residence as they succeeded in denying the traumatized Muslims of Axum their basic human and citizenship rights to freely practice their religion as per the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. As we applaud the actions taken by the authorities to safeguard the lives and properties of Gonder Muslims, we urge the Ethiopian government to seriously look into the root cause of the problem and the instigators behind it. A recently published book of hate by a high ranking church official and the faulty census report are some of the examples that we suspect have incited the extremists in the church to lob their salvo of hate and intolerance towards the Muslims of Ethiopia. If manipulating the recent census figures were aimed at marginalizing Ethiopian Muslims into second class citizens, that effort will meet an utter defeat. The Muslims of Ethiopia will no longer allow the marginalization of their citizenry by curbing their rights to full freedom whether in the practice of their religion or in the construction of their institutions or centers of worship.

We believe that these desperate tactics possibly sanctioned by some in the church hierarchy were meant to register a political masterstroke in a bottom-feeding attempt to distract from the growing number of Muslims that are asserting their rights and freedom in their birth land of Ethiopia. Especially, after the 1991 revolutionary change in Ethiopia. Although the recently reported skewed census count inflated the rank of one religious group beyond their wildest dreams and exaggerated their claim of a majority in the country, it cannot alter the facts on the ground. Muslims like any full citizens of the country are guaranteed equal rights under the law and would not budge an inch to concede to these fringe fanatics or their veiled masters who may be operating behind the steering wheel.

The few extreme forces of evil that we are sure do not represent the decent majority Christian population of Ethiopia, are now glowing in their affluence and arrogance and are attempting to strike a bonfire of vanity across the religious fault line by employing pontificating priests as their foot soldiers in order to create unrest and destruction. These "hired guns" are now bold enough to speak in public squares and domains spewing hate messages against Islam and Muslims without fear of retribution from the government. They wish to shred the constitution and impose their twisted sense of superiority over all other faiths and traditions. Irrepressible acts of belligerence like these will ultimately lead to chaos and boisterous turmoil in the country.

Therefore, this letter is as much a reminder to these reactionary forces as it is a notice to the authorities in Ethiopia about events unfolding under their watchful eyes. The moral hazard of doing nothing is equivalent to fanning the flame of this verbal aggression that may result in the demise of peace and creation of a religious conflict that may never see the end of time. To see this onslaught on Muslims as an unworthy propaganda destined for failure on its own merit belies the history of other nations embroiled in a similar diatribe. The incident in Gonder is a prescreening procedure to strike fear in the hearts of the resident Muslims and to sound the alarm as to the eminent demise of the democratic rule and a return to status quo. The hostility was also used to gauge the level of response from the government. This is the nexus point for what will likely happen in the future. The lack of legal actions against the perpetrators and their accomplices will only embolden them and expose our country to a logistical nightmare that it may never recover from. This will forestall development and progress the country is witnessing, breed resentment and preclude lasting peace that would be a huge setback for our country. The road to equanimity is not paved with good intentions alone. The government's swift hand of justice is now needed to douse the simmering fire in progress.

The Ethiopian government has to be decisive and shoulders the responsibility to protect the rights of all its citizens irrespective of their religion, ethnicity or economic status. The Ethiopian people are also responsible to live and operate by the rule of law and in compliance with the constitution of the country. We urge the government of Ethiopia to engage in due diligence in prosecuting those

individuals or groups that are bent on inciting violence and fomenting hatred between religious followers. Law and order can only be maintained if the rule of law is respected and justice is implemented in the land through mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence among the various religious and ethnic communities that make up the unique Ethiopian mosaic.

We, the Ethiopian Muslims in Diaspora, are preparing to hold our first public demonstration to denounce the behavior and actions of extremist groups from any faith. To urge the ever tolerant and peace-loving Muslims of Ethiopia not to react to the violence perpetrated against them and their religion by the few extremist Christian groups and encourage them to allow the law of the land to take precedence. We also urge the ever powerful and influential Ethiopian Orthodox Church to engage in constructive development using the teachings of Jesus (Peace be upon him) as a vehicle to promote peace and prosperity. It is the responsibility of all religious establishments in Ethiopia to urge their followers to adhere to the rule of law, to respect others and preach tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Ethiopia cannot afford to add religious conflict to its arsenal of national problems that include poverty, hunger, and disease. Ethiopians of all strikes and traditions are joined at the knee and the fate of the country is dependent on the growth and advancement of its entire people. This is only possible if genuine peace and justice can prevail in the land.

1. We abhor all sorts of extremism by any group
2. We denounce the fringe Christian extremist groups that are espousing hate and violence against Muslims
3. We urge the Ethiopian government to equally apply the freedom of worship and religion enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
4. We urge the lifting of the ban of freedom of worship including the building of mosques in places like Axum
5. We urge the leaders of all religious establishments in Ethiopia to work toward peace and tolerance
6. We urge the government of Ethiopia to form an independent body that is comprised of all religious groups to investigate and analyze the methods employed to engender the faulty census results
7. We urge the government of Ethiopia to facilitate the venue in which Ethiopian Muslims can freely and democratically elect their religious leaders.

Peace and progress to Ethiopia  
Peace on Earth

The First Hijrah Foundation

# የጣርች (ግንቦት) 20 ሰላማዊ ሰልፍ መፈክሮቻችን

1. ኢትዮጵያ የሁሉም ኢትዮጵያውያን ደሴት ናት!
2. ያላንዳች የእምነት ልዩነት ሁሉም ኢትዮጵያውያን በህብረት ኢትዮጵያን ይገነቧታል!
3. በኢሰላምና በሙስሊሞች ላይ የሚደረገው ጥቃት ይቁም!!
4. ነብዩ ሙሐመድን (ሶ.ዐ.ወ.) እና ቅዱስ ቁራንን የሚሳደቡ እና የሚዘልፉ በአስቸኳይ ለፍርድ ይቅረቡ!!
5. አዲሱ የህዝብና ቤቶች ቆጠራ የተጭበረበረ በመሆኑ አንቀበለውም!!
6. የአክሱም ሙስሊሞች መብት ይከበር!!
7. በህገ የተደነገገው የሐይማኖት እኩልነት ተግባራዊ ይሁን!!
8. ሙስሊም ኢትዮጵያውያን መስጂድ የመገንባትና ሐይማኖታቸውን በየትኛውም ቦታ የመተግበር መብታቸው ይከበር!!!
9. ኢትዮጵያን ወደ ኋላ የሚያስቀሩ አመለካከቶችንና አስተሳሰቦችን እንቃወማለን!!
10. ሙስሊሙ ህብረተሰብ የሐይማኖት መሪዎቹን በነፃነት የመምረጥ መብቱ ይከበር!!
11. የሐይማኖት ፀብ በመጨር የኢትዮጵያን ህዝብ ለእልቂት የሚገፋፋ ቡድኖች ለፍርድ ይቅረቡ!!
12. ሐይማኖትን መዘለፍ ፀብ አጨሪነት እንጂ የመናግር መብት አይደለም!!
13. እስልምና የሚያዘውን መተግበር አክራሪነት አይደለም!!
14. ፅንፈኝነትን በማንኛውም መልኩ እንቃወማለን!!
15. እስላም የሰላም ሐይማኖት ነው!!

Siltie Network