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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

MAY 29/2013

**PRESS STATEMENT
OPEN LETTER TO US SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY**

Mr Secretary,

This is to inform you the shock and anger we felt when we read your May 28 letter.

You wrote:

“On behalf of the government and the people of the United States, I am delighted to express our congratulations and best wishes to the government and people of Ethiopia as you celebrate your national day on May 28. As you gather with family and friends on your national day, the United States wishes you a joyous celebration.”

First of all, May 28 (or Ginbot 20) is the day of disaster for Ethiopians as on this date (1991) the Tigrean controlled repressive group assumed power. Ethiopia has never celebrated a National Day and Ginbot 20 cannot be observed as one. From our point of view the insult is as serious as some quarters calling September 11, the day of your tragedy, the National Day of the United States.

Mr. Secretary, America's full backing to the repressive regime in Addis Abeba, a gross human rights violator, has been condemned by the majority of Ethiopians. Even the rulers in Addis Abeba observe this day as “their victory over the Derg regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam” and thus we and all Ethiopians are surprised at your giving us a National Day.

Mr. Secretary, we deem it is necessary to correct the mistake and the Ethiopian people deserve an apology.

The EPRP.

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