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October 13, 2021

To: His Excellency Mr. Filippo Grandi  
High Commissioner, UNHCR, Geneva

**Subject: An Appeal for the Protection of Eritrean Refugees in  
Libya**

The Eritrean Political Forces are deeply concerned of the wellbeing and safety of the Eritrean refugees in Libya. As it has been widely reported in the international media, Eritrean, and other African refugees, that include many women and children, have been put in great danger by the recent violence that has been perpetrated on them by the Libyan militias and government authorities. It has been reported that Libyan authorities have been rounding up and indiscriminately arresting the refugees under horrible conditions. It has also been reported that thousands of refugees have been put in detention camps and some refugees have been killed by the Libyan authorities during the roundup.

Your Excellency, we are particularly concerned about a substantial number of very venerable pregnant women and children that are under immediate danger for their health and safety and need urgent support and protection. We urge UNHCR to exert its full power to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of the refugees. Moreover, we ask UNHCR to work on resettling these refugees in Europe and North America where their safety can be guaranteed.

Furthermore, we are extremely concerned with the report by some social media that the Eritrean regime and its surrogates have been advocating for the return of the refugees to Eritrea to protect them from the violence in Libya. We would like to voice our strongest opposition to any efforts by the Libyan authorities or anyone to return any refugee to Eritrea. Such action would constitute an imposition of a death sentence on the returning refugees. In the first place, the cause for such Eritrean refugee crisis is the regime in Eritrea itself. It should be remembered that these refugees are in Libya by, under great danger, fleeing the forced military conscription and indefinite national service of Sawa, or the harsh political

persecutions and unjust imprisonments of themselves and their families. The Eritrean government does not have the moral right to even utter a word about the violence against the Eritrean refugee in Libya and advocate their return to Eritrea. The regime's sole interest would be to have additional Eritrean youth to forcibly enlist in its war adventures in Ethiopia.

Your Excellency, we would like to express our profound concern for the wellbeing of the Eritrean refugees in Libya and urge UNHCR to:

- Guarantee the safety and wellbeing of the Eritrean as well as all African refugees in Libya;
- Provide critical support, including food and shelter, to the refugees;
- Resettle Eritrean refugees in Europe and North America with the highest urgency;
- Encourage and stress on the governmental authorities and militia groups in Libya to ensure the safety of Eritrean refugees; and
- Ensure that no Eritrean refugee is returned to Eritrea from Libya forcibly or otherwise.

We hope and trust that Your Excellency will do everything within the power of your good office to help secure full protection for the Eritrean refugees in Libya.

Sincerely yours,  
***Eritrean Political Forces***

