



April 23, 2015

Official Statement of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Churches (EOTC) in Minnesota:

Tserha Aryam Holy Trinity EOTC - Minneapolis, MN

Debre Genet St. Mary EOTC - St. Paul, MN

Debre Genet St. George EOTC - Rochester, MN

On the Martyrdom of the Church's faithful children in Libya

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Rev. 2:10

Christ is risen - He is risen indeed!

Christians have endured persecution since the very beginning of Christianity itself. Ethiopia, whose roots of Christianity dates back to the Apostle Philip, has many martyrs who are precious jewels of our faith. Each of our Lord Christ's apostles died a death of martyrdom and it remains an eternal honor for us Christians to follow the footsteps of the many martyrs before our time, who are clouds of witnesses to our faith.

It is with the utmost sadness that we received the news of the cruel deaths perpetrated on our fellow Ethiopian Christian brothers in Libya. This coming so soon after the deaths of our Egyptian Coptic Christian brothers; who also died in unimaginable cruelty. Such savage acts are absolutely beyond humanity's imagination. The Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in our homeland Ethiopia has released an official statement condemning the barbaric murders of its 28 (number still being verified) innocent and faithful children by ISIS. In the statement, the Holy Synod



declared seven-days of special prayer for the martyrs, world peace, and rights of human beings to live. Indeed today's martyrs are united with our Lord in heaven and the many other martyrs before their time. Our Lord's holy word assuring us of their eternal life remains very comforting to us in this dark age.

Although we are separated by distance and cannot be close to the families at this difficult time, know that we are one family in Christ's blood and we share the same sorrow and grief. Our prayers, along with the prayers of many are with you in asking our Lord to give you peace and solace during this dark time.

At this time, knowing that the true meaning of solace can only be found in Our Lord and Savior, Tserha Aryam Holy Trinity, Debre Genet St. Mary, and Debre Genet St. George Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Churches, along with several representatives from Churches in the Twin Cities will be joining together to hold '*Tselote Fithat*' or memorial mass prayer and a commemorative service on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 5:30 pm at Bethel Church (4120 17th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55407).

We pray for the souls of our brothers and for solace to their families. As Nations of the Cross, this only strengthens our unity and our faith in Christ our Lord.

May the blessings of the martyrs be upon us.

Yours in Christ,

Melake Aryam Abba Hailemichael Mulat (Qomos)
Melake Genet Abba Zera Dawit Berhane (Qomos)
Qesis Worku Habtemariam