

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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Excellency,

I write to inform you that, on 2nd March 2007, during its 70th session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reviewed the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the absence of a report and adopted concluding observations which I attach to this letter.

The Committee is deeply alarmed by information about serious tensions that have erupted in Ethiopia between different ethnic groups and grave allegations of violations of human rights. Well-documented reports received by the Committee also include disturbing allegations concerning the engagement of members of State authorities in acts or practices of racial discrimination against certain ethnic groups. The Committee expresses its grave concern that inter-ethnic conflicts could be further exacerbated in the near future, thereby putting many ethnic groups at serious risk. The elements characterizing the situation in the State party are strongly indicative of possible systematic racial discrimination. The Committee stresses, therefore, the importance of adopting adequate preventive measures against racially motivated violence as soon as possible in order to avoid an escalation of existing tensions which could lead to a spiral of human rights violations with unpredictable consequences.

In order to resume a dialogue with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and as mentioned in **paragraph 31** of the concluding observations, the Committee wishes to receive urgently, and no later than **1 July 2007**, information on the concerns mentioned in **paragraphs 11 and 12** of the concluding observations, as well as on the recommendations included in **paragraphs 16 and 19**.

In addition to the request for written information to be provided by 1 July 2007, the Committee wishes to invite a delegation of the State party to be present at its 71st session with a view to holding a preliminary dialogue.

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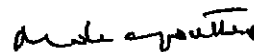
Following consideration of the written information requested and the oral dialogue with the State party delegation, the Committee will decide at its 71st session, to be held from 30 July to 17 August 2007, on any further action needed under one of the procedures at its disposal, including its early warning and urgent action procedures.

Furthermore, the Committee recalls that the seventh to fifteenth periodic reports of the State party, due from 1989 to 2005 and to be submitted in one document, are overdue. As also mentioned in **paragraph 32** of its concluding observations, it urges the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to submit its overdue report as soon as possible and no later than **31 December 2007**.

In the meantime, the Committee welcomes the ongoing technical cooperation of the State party with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, acknowledges the reports provided by the State party to other treaty bodies and the visits and dialogue by and with some Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

The Committee draws the attention of the State party to the availability of its members to conduct a mission to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, with a view to assisting the State party to honour its obligations under the Convention, as well as to assess the existing ethnic tensions within the Ethiopian society.

Yours sincerely,



Régis de Gouttes

Chairman of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination