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جبهة التحرير الاثريية
المجلس الثوري
مكتب الرئيس

Eritrean Liberation Front – RC
Chairman's Office

Date: 16 June 2008,
Subject: Protest against forced repatriation
of Eritrean asylum seekers from Egypt

H.E. the Egyptian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Envoy
to the African Union, and the UNECA,
Sidist Kilo, Addis Ababa

Fax: +251.11.1552722

Dear Ambassador,

At the moment of writing of this appeal, the Government of Egypt is engaged in forced return of Eritrean asylum seekers back to Eritrea where they will face risks to their lives. Reports had it that out of the 1,600 Eritrean asylum seekers who were in the hands of the Egyptian authorities by 10 June 2008, almost 800 have already been deported to Eritrea and that arrangement are reportedly underway to return the rest to Asmara anytime these days.

This inhuman action is being taken against the repeated appeals to countries by the UNHCR, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other international organizations to refrain from repatriating Eritrean asylum seekers because they face imminent danger upon return to Eritrea as had happened to the 342 young Eritreans who were expatriated from Malta and Libya in 2002 and 2004..

Your Excellency,

This appeal is addressed through you to all concerned highest authorities in the Government of Arab Republic of Egypt so that they could urgently rescind the decision of forced repatriation of about 800 Eritrean asylum seekers who are still in Egyptian prisons. This message is also being copied to the African Union, to the United Nations and to human rights organizations that are expected to extend a helping hand in this urgent matter.

All concerned know that the political and human rights situation in Eritrea under the current dictatorial regime of Isaias Afworki is appalling, and the fate of those whom the Egyptian Government has already expatriated to Eritrea is bad news to

their families, to Eritreans everywhere as well as to the international humanitarian community at large.

This urgent appeal by us in the ELF-RC, a mainstream opposition organization struggling for change and democratization in Eritrea, wishes to draw the most urgent attention of the Egyptian authorities to stop further deportation action of Eritrean asylum seekers in Egypt until Eritrea becomes a safe home for all of its citizens currently fleeing to escape from the abuses of the cruel one-man regime of dictator Isaias Afworki.

Respectfully yours,



Woldeyesus Ammar,
Chairman, ELF-RC
16.06.2008

Copies to:

CC. UN Secretary General: c/o Spokeswoman Michele Montas, Montas@un.org,

MontasM@un.org

CC: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), GUTERRES@unhcr.org

CC: UNHCR, North Africa/Middle East Desk, Osmanmanar@yahoo.com,

CC: High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Larbour@unhchr.org,

CC. Amnesty International, c/o Dr Martin Hill mhill@amnesty.org

CC. To Eritrean Human Rights organizations and websites