



NATIONAL COALITION OF CLERGY AND LAITY

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Danylak, STL JUD +

Eternal memory!

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H. E. Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia
Apostolic Nuncio – Permanent Observer
Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
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Excellency,

Permit me please to amplify what surely has long received your compassionate attention in prayer and persuasion of authorities at the UN: the need to succor especially the Ge'ez faithful – but also the entire vulnerable populace of the Irob woreda [administrative district/county] between Tigray and Eritrea – who continue to suffer miserable conditions after two years of genocidal attacks and who remain threatened by violence from two hostile governments, one of them, Eritrea, still occupying and terrorizing the people.

Allow me to beg Your Excellency never to relent to defend the innocent, to bring to bear heaven on earth by raising the clarion voice of the Holy See, and in this instance to be the voice for the voiceless Irob people.

Would Your Excellency, for the love of God and neighbor, please urge the authorities of the UN to review its decision to divide the vulnerable minority population of Irob between aggressors Ethiopia and Eritrea? Have the Irob people not minority rights as recognized by the United Nations? Do they not deserve such consideration, since this tiny minority of 50,000 was never so much as consulted when their homeland was turned over to Eritrea without due consideration of the historical, cultural, and ethnic facts that never have they shared national identity or belonged legally to Eritrea?

As indication of the mistaken decisions of recent years by outside parties, the population of Irob – in particular the young – is fleeing their homeland in droves in order to escape the ongoing aggressions and other humanitarian violations. For if they remain, they starve or die from violence, since there is no humanitarian access to deliver aid there after the latest disruption of war. Indeed, Eritrean armed forces have continuously blocked transportation along the sole dirt-paved road that leads through the county.

I regret, Excellency, to be the one to bear this glum reminder of what you and His Holiness have surely too long had to bear with much sadness; namely, that the poor Irobs are perishing for want of the attention or compassion of worldly decision-makers to their plight since the outbreak of the genocide begun in November 2020 – and even since the outbreak of war prosecuted against them by Eritrea beginning in 1998.

Permit me to thank Your Excellency in anticipation of your kind attention and hoped-for reply. Until then, I am

Your obt. servant in Christ,

Gregory P. Lloyd

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enclosure: COPY letter 12 Dec 2002 to Abp. C. Pierre, Nuncio

*"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. xvi, 13-19*