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Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali
Prime Minister, Federal Republic of Ethiopia
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.

Dear Dr Abiy,

Subject: Your Nobel Peace Award

I would like to sincerely congratulate you for achieving this huge milestone which puts you on a par with the likes of Nelson Mandela and Barak Obama. In moments like this, I feel emotional that in spite of the enormous difficulties that the African people face, we have a few that we can look up to. I cannot emphasise enough how much Nelson Mandela meant to me in a critical stage of my life and the hope I had in 1991 for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Eritrea and an equally peaceful, stable and prosperous Ethiopia.

Dear Dr Abiy, as you would surely know, winning a Nobel Prize is not an end in itself for you but, I hope, the beginning of a life time commitment to bring about peace and prosperity not only in your country but also to its immediate neighbours and beyond.

However, I would like to tell you honestly how I cringed when I read the citation of the Nobel Committee which said the award to you was because of your “decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict

with neighbouring Eritrea". Really, Dr Abiy, and how wrong the Nobel Committee was. By saying so it may have actually irretrievably degraded its own status. By all measures the situation in Eritrea has in fact become worse since you signed the 'agreement' with the illegitimate ruler of Eritrea. Yes, the border was briefly opened and gave a way to floods of Eritreans to leave the country, a situation that could have only made the Dictator smile as it fitted with his undeclared plan of depopulating the Eritrean people. Therefore, you have unwittingly fallen into his trap and we Eritreans know that it was not naivety but a sinister move on your side when you said that you will grant citizenship to those Eritreans fleeing their country.

Dear Dr Abiy, how would you like history to judge you? An immortal peace maker like Nelson Mandela and Mother Theresa or a con man who would do anything to get his way? I really hope you will choose the former and work to bring about real peace in the region.

I am a lot older than you and if I was to give you my piece of advice, I would say – a continued relationship with Isaias Afework, a dictator of the worst kind, will only besmirch your reputation as a peace maker. Stop it and help Eritrea to become a democratic and stable country which would bring mutual benefits for our peoples.

Sincerely yours,

Behave well.