



# Eritrean Afar State in Exile

*Restoring the Dignity of the Eritrean Afar People Democratically*

*"Eretriyah Qafarih Konnabna Demokraasil Daabisenno"*

November 10, 2014

Ref#: 0007

H.E. Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos

State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

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Subject: RSADO leadership calls for murder of Afar opposition

Dear Excellency Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos,

I'm writing to you to bring to your attention a serious threat of violence and an attempt to incite murder by the leadership of the **Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization** (RSADO), one of 13 Eritrean opposition umbrella groups who operate within your country.

I have recently come across evidence of a call to assassinate myself and my colleagues who make up the leadership of the Eritrean Afar State in Exile (EASE), by the Chairman of RSADO.

This evidence comes in the form of an audio recording (<http://youtu.be/AqpBm9dd550>) recorded on October 1, 2014 in Logiya, Ethiopia during a meeting with Afar elders organized by RSADO's chairman Mr. Ibrahim Harun and his deputy, Mr. Mohamed Shina. In the recording they can be heard trying to justify the murder of people who disagree with them, which prominently includes EASE.

Though they do not identify EASE by name, we believe the references to another group are clearly directed at us and are cause for grave concern. EASE has called for democratic reform and transparency within RSADO's ranks and we believe this is why we are being targeted.

I would like to bring to your attention that we have raised concerns about RSADO's ongoing behaviour of interference and intimidations of Eritrean Afar refugees to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and senior officials in your government in the past.

As I am sure you will agree, the use of violence or threat of violence is unacceptable in democratic discourse, especially in a burgeoning democracy like yours that's striving hard to restore democratic process, bring peace and security, and confront the threat of extremism in the region.

