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His Holiness Abune Mathias

Patriarch-Catholicos of Ethiopia

Your Holiness, beloved Brother in Christ,

With profound sorrow I have taken the news about extremists' armed attack and murder of believers of the Ethiopian Church in the Vallega region of Oromia state.

On behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church, I would like to express sincere condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the victims of this terrible crime. Kindly convey my words of consolation and spiritual support to all those who have been affected by this terrifying tragedy.

May the All-Merciful Saviour send a longed-for peace and accord to the blessed land of ancient Ethiopia.

With love in the Lord,

+ Kirill

Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia