THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

Message of condolences from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill following the tragedy in the Arsi Zone of Ethiopia's Oromia region

DECR Communication Service, 30.10.2026.

His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus', has sent a message of condolences to His Holiness Abune Mathias, Patriarch of Ethiopia, and the Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Church following the brutal attacks on Christians in the Arsi Zone of Ethiopia's Oromia Region. In October, dozens of the faithful were killed, many others sustained serious injuries, and numerous people were left homeless. The message reads as follows:

HIS HOLINESS ABUNE MATHIAS
PATRIARCH OF ETHIOPIA

THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH

Your Holiness,

Beloved Brother in Christ!

Most Reverend Archpastors of the Ethiopian Church!

It was with profound sorrow that I received the news of the brutal massacres of Christians in the Arsi Zone of the Oromia Region. Dozens of believers have been killed, many have sustained serious injuries and have lost their homes. On behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church, I express my sincere sympathy to Your Holiness, the members of the Holy Synod, the clergy, and the entire flock of the Ethiopian Church, as well as to the families and loved ones of those who have perished.

Sharing with you the pain of this tragic event, I turn with prayerful hope to the Lord, who is *a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble* (Ps. 9:10). I believe that He will not forsake those who suffer and will grant them strength to preserve their faith and hope amid the trials they face.

Unfortunately, such crimes did not happen in Ethiopia for the first time, and many Christian families continue to live under the threat of violence. The Russian Orthodox Church deeply sympathizes with the suffering of Ethiopian Christians and steadfastly upholds their inalienable right to a peaceful and safe life and to the free practice of their faith.

I beseech the All-Merciful Lord to grant the wounded a speedy recovery and to strengthen all the faithful of the Ethiopian Church.

With love in Christ Jesus,

+KIRILL
PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUS'

Source: https://mospat.ru/en/news/94689/