

URGENT

Attn: Beyonce Knowles, Janet Jackson and 50-Cent

Aug. 20, 2007

We have heard a CNN report that you are coming to Ethiopia next month to participate in a government-sponsored Ethiopian millennium party. We are writing you this urgent letter to strongly advise you against doing that.

In case you don't know, the government in Ethiopia led by a crazy dictator named Meles Zenawi is brutalizing and terrorizing the people of Ethiopia. (Please refer to the various reports by the European Parliament, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders and other governmental institutions and independent human rights advocacy groups.)

Currently, the Meles dictatorship is committing a war of genocide against Ethiopians in the Ogaden region of eastern Ethiopia, as reported by the New York Times and other major newspapers, as well as human rights organizations.

In neighboring Somalia, the Meles government is committing war crimes, including indiscriminate bombardment of residential areas, opening fire on crowds of civilians, raping Somali women and torturing suspected opponents of the puppet regime. (Please refer to a detailed report recently released by the highly regarded international human rights group Human Rights Watch.)

In 2005, the Meles regime had lost an election, but overturned the election result, rounded up all the leaders of the party that won the election, gunned-down hundreds of pro-democracy protesters, and detained over 40,000 young Ethiopians in concentration camps in remote parts of the country.

The people of Ethiopia and Somalia are fighting back to defend themselves from these atrocities -- which are documented by all the major international human rights groups.

In light of all this, it was with great shock that we learned about your acceptance to perform at a grand party for the upcoming Ethiopian millennium organized by the blood thirsty dictator.

We, members of Tegbar League in Ethiopia, are preparing to carry out civil disobedience campaigns during the millennium "festival" to bring worldwide attention to our plight. As a pro-democracy group, our actions are always peaceful. But it seems that all the peaceful actions of opposition groups are met by the government's violence.

So, if for nothing else, for your own safety, please do not come to Ethiopia to party next month. Ethiopia currently is not a place for partying. It is a place where the people are being massacred, tortured, raped, and terrorized.

For further information on the current crisis in Ethiopia and the government's atrocities, please refer to these credible sources -- just to give you some idea on what we are talking about:

- www.ethiopianreview.com
- <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/08/06/somali16599.htm>
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6913363.stm>
- <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/07/21/africa/22ethiopia.php>
- <http://www.cpj.org/backsliders/>