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One Hundred and Twelfth Congress

## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Meles Zenawi  
Prime Minister of Ethiopia  
c/o Embassy of Ethiopia  
3506 International Drive, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Prime Minister Meles:

I am writing to express concern over reports that more than 50 Christian churches and dozens of Christian homes have been attacked and burned in Ethiopia since the beginning of March and at least two Christians have been killed. According to press reports, Christian churches and homes in the Jimma region have been targeted and attacked by militant Islamist mobs. An estimated 4,000 Christians have been displaced and have now sought refuge in shelters.

According to some of these reports, police—outnumbered by the mobs estimated in the thousands—were unable to stop many of the attacks. Your communications minister has reportedly downplayed the severity of the attacks. He has been quoted as saying, “No one had died” and “It’s a very minor, isolated incident.” As the number of attacks continues to escalate, it is increasingly apparent that this is no longer an isolated incident. I am encouraged by Voice of America reports today that 130 of the perpetrators of this violence have been arrested. I urge that you continue to take action to stop and prevent these attacks, to protect Christians who live in the Jimma region, and to restore an atmosphere in which the Christian and Muslim communities can live together in peace.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I will continue to carefully monitor this situation and look forward to your response. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf  
Republican Co-Chairman  
TLHRC

ELIZABETH HOFFMAN  
Republican Staff Director

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Democratic Staff

**THIS IS IMPORTANT -**