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Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia LONDON

Grenfell Tower Block Fire

UPDATE: Friday, 16th June 2017

According to the latest update from the Metropolitan Police, at least 30 fatalities have been confirmed and they expect this figure to rise further. 24 patients are still in hospital, 12 of whom are in critical condition.

We can confirm that there are British nationals of Ethiopian origin who have been directly impacted by this tragic event, of whom eight are **still missing** including: mother and son Berikti and Biruk Habtom; five-year old Isaac Paulos; and Hashim Kidir, his wife and their three children. We continue to monitor the situation and will provide further information as soon as it becomes available.

The Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Dr. Hailemichael Aberra Afework, and diplomats visited the three families this morning (Friday, 16th June) to offer their support.

Following the visit, Ambassador Hailemichael said: *“I cannot imagine what these families must be going through right now. This has hit home, especially because we know these families. The Embassy and the Ethiopian community stands united at this difficult time and is providing ongoing support to them. I would also like to express my deepest sympathy to all those who have been affected and convey our thanks to the public for their messages of support and donations, and to all emergency services, volunteers and support workers who are working tirelessly to support the victims.”*

In a letter to his counterpart The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu said: *“It is with deep shock and utter disbelief that we learnt of the tragic fire accident at Grenfell Tower...On behalf of the Government and people of Ethiopia, I would like to extend to you, to the people of the United Kingdom, and in particular, to the residents of London and the families and friends of the bereaved, our heartfelt condolences.”*

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If you have any information concerning any Ethiopians or British nationals of Ethiopian origin in need of assistance, please contact the Embassy on one of the following numbers to speak to a member of staff: **0207 589 7212 / 0207 838 3882 / 0207 838 3884**

If you are concerned about a loved one, we also advise you to call the Metropolitan Police **Casualty Bureau on 0800 0961 233.**