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ADDIS ABABA

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Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

HOLY SYNOD SECRETARIATE

**Our greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Subject: Information about illegal action committed against the Church

It is to be remembered and the whole world knows that the 4<sup>th</sup> (fourth) Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Abba Merkorios lost his position as a Patriarch on the basis of his letter of resignation written to the Holy Synod on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1991 stating that he was unable to remain at his position due to health problem.

As a result, His Holiness Abune Paulos, Patriarch of Ethiopia, Archbishop of Axume and Echegue of the see of St. Tekle Haimanot and President of WCC was elected and enthroned as the 5<sup>th</sup> (fifth) Patriarch and has assumed the position of the leadership of the Church from 1992 to date.

While the reality is that, Abba Merkorios, who is residing in North America betrayed his Church and claimed to establish illegal Synod against the canon of the Church, without having the mandate and called it "Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Legal Synod in North America" proclaimed in January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 consecrating episcopates. He continued his illegal work and planned to consecrate additional episcopates.

This attempt was made against the canon of the Church violating the decision of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Council of Constantinople adopted in 381 A.D. Therefore, the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church found this action to be condemned.

Hence the Holy Synod of Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church believed it is a serious crime committed against one Apostolic Church and decided to make aware the whole Christian community so that such action should be discouraged and not to be recognized, specially at this period, where all are working hard and striving for Church unity

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless us all.



Handwritten signature and name: **Abba Ermias Archbishop**  
General Secretary of the Holy Synod  
and Head of St. Mary Monastery  
of the General Patriarchate