



Global Alliance For Justice – The Ethiopian Cause

4002 Blacksmith Drive, Garland, TX 75044; Tel: (214)703 9022

www.globalallianceforethiopia.org; E-mail: info@globalallianceforethiopia.com

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JUSTICE FOR ETHIOPIA **REGARDING THE FASCIST WAR CRIMES DURING 1935-41**

The conference is scheduled to be held in Washington, DC on September 26, 2015 under the auspices of the Global Alliance for Justice – The Ethiopian Cause (GAJEC).

BACKGROUND

In 1935 Fascist Italy invaded Ethiopia and during the course of the following five years it committed savage war crimes killing thousands of peaceful citizens and leaving the country in ruins. Italy's unprovoked invasion included:

1. The use of internationally forbidden mustard poison gas, as well as bombs, bullets, the hanging of Ethiopian patriots, the burning of peaceful citizens in their homes, and throwing out captured resistance fighters from airplanes. All told, one million Ethiopians were murdered including the massacre of over 30,000 residents in only three days in Addis Ababa during February 19 to February 21, 1937;
2. The destruction of 2,000 churches, 525,000 homes, and 14 million domestic animals;
3. The looting of numerous treasures including over 500 historical documents currently in the custody of the Vatican as well as the Emperor's only airplane known "Tsehay" currently exhibited at the Italian Air Force Museum;

4. As if to add insult to injury, in August 2012 a mausoleum was established for Fascist war criminal, Rodolfo Graziani, at the Italian town of Affile. The Lazio regional council has recently adopted a resolution that the Graziani name should be removed from the monument, even though the necessary action has yet to be carried out.

Although Ethiopia was a member of the League of Nations, the international community failed in its duty to stop the Italian aggression. However, with the valiant struggle of the Ethiopian patriots, under the leadership of Emperor Haile Selassie I, and the support of the British Government, the Italian Fascists were defeated and expelled from Ethiopia.

(For more details, please see www.globalallianceforethiopia.org as well as the sources provided at the end of this statement.)

The main objectives of the Global Alliance for Justice – The Ethiopian Cause include:

1. Adequate compensation by Italy for the Fascist war crimes perpetrated against the Ethiopian people;
2. Restitution of the looted treasures to the Ethiopian people;
3. Vatican apology to the Ethiopian people;
4. UN recognition of the Fascist war crimes in Ethiopia; and
5. The dismantlement of the Graziani monument.

GAJEC's main undertakings:

1. Letters of appeal for justice have been submitted to the UN, the European Parliament, the African Union, the Vatican, the Italian President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and the Governor of the Lazio Province, the US President, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, the Ethiopian Government, and the Ethiopian Patriots Association;
2. Yekatit 12 (February) annual events have been commemorated in 30 cities throughout the world with meetings, prayers, and public demonstrations;
3. Successfully campaigned against the Rodolfo Graziani monument encouraging the Lazio Provincial Council to adopt a resolution which gave the town of Affile a 15-day notice to remove the Graziani name from the mausoleum;
4. Won a wider public support of GAJEC's objectives along with the support of several media outlets such as VOA, DWelle, Ethsat, and radio stations.;
5. GAJEC is continuously striving to enhance its efforts through more effective strategies and action plans with the collaboration of supporters throughout the world.

Conference objectives:

1. To enhance awareness about Fascist Italy's war crimes/genocide committed in Ethiopia and the consequent losses in human lives as well as damages and looting of properties;
2. To demand justice that is still owed to the Ethiopian people;
3. To form coalitions with institutions and individuals interested in the achievement of justice on behalf of Ethiopia;
4. To achieve the recognition of the Fascist war crimes in Ethiopia by the UN as well as the international community in general.

Preliminary Conference agenda and list of speakers:

The Fascist Invasion of Ethiopia 1935-1941 and the Quest for Justice

Conference Program

Time	Activity/ Topics	Person in Charge	Remarks
Morning Sessions			
8.30 - 9.15AM	Registration	Coordinator	
9.15-9.30 9.30 - 9.45AM	Word of Welcome Opening Remarks	Dr. Getachew Metaferia, Chairman, Board of Trustees, St. Mary's Church Dr. Getachew Haile, Professor, Author and GAJEC Board Member	
9:45 - 10:05AM	Objectives and Perspectives of GAJEC	HHH Prince Ermias Sahle Silassie - Chair, GAJEC Board Chairman	
10:05 - 10:25AM	Perspective on Fascist Invasion of Ethiopia	Ambassador Imru Zeleke (TBC)	
10:205 - 10:45AM	Fascist Invasion of Ethiopia and the Harlem Protests 1936-1941	Honorable Charles Rangel, US Congress (TBC)	
10:45 – 11:05AM	Fascist Invasion of Ethiopia and the Quest for Justice	Dr. Girma Abebe, former UN Diplomat & GAJEC Board member (?)	
11L05 - 11:25AM	Fascist Genocide in Ethiopia and the Case for Reparation/Restitution	Professor Richard Pankhurst, Historian	
11:25- 11:45AM	Horrors of Fascism's War of Conquest	Mr. Ian Campbell, Author	
11:45– 12:05PM	Strategy for adequate reparations for Fascist war crimes in Ethiopia	Dr. Aklilu Habte, GAJEC Board member and former World Bank Executive	
12:05-1:05PM	Fascist Invasion of Ethiopia and the Vatican Complicity	Dr. Syoum Gebregziabher, Professor and Author; Dr. Astair Mengesha, Professor and GAJEC Board Member; Rev/Dr. Mikre Sellassie Gebre Amanuel, EOTC Clergy and Author	
1:05– 2:00 PM	Lunch break	Catering	

Afternoon Sessions			
2:00-2:20PM	Rodolfo Graziani and the Untried Fascist war crimes; New Graziani Mausoleum; and Introduction of the film: "If Only I Were a Warrior"	Mr. Kidane Alemayehu, GAJEC Executive Director and UN (retired); Mr. Valerio Ciriaci (Film producer) Mr. Isaak Liptzin	
2:200 - 2:40PM	UN Obligations for the Recognition and Acknowledgement of Fascist Genocide in Ethiopia	Dr. Jon Levy, J.D., GAJEC Board member and Legal Advisor	
2:40-3:00PM	Colonialism and Genocide in the Caribbean: The CARICOM Experience	Don Rojas, Human rights activist, radio host & former NAACP Director	
3:00-3:15PM	Coffee Break		
3:15-3:35PM	Presentation of Conference Draft Declaration	Dr. Jon Levy & Kidane Alemayehu	
3:35-4:35PM	Discussion on the Draft Declaration	Dr. Jon Levy & Kidane Alemayehu	
4:35-4:55PM	Closing Remarks	HH Prince Ermias Sahle Silassie	
4:55-5:25PM	Press Conference	HH Prince Ermias, Dr. Aklilu, and Mr. Kidane Alemayehu	