

Ethiopia
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ISRAEL'S AIRLIFT OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS MUST NOT BE STOPPED
WINS RELIGION COMMENTARY
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As if the tragedy of the Ethiopian famine were not great enough. Now, this weekend, there is a report that the Ethiopian Government condemns the life-saving airlift of the pitiful remnant of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

That condemnation really boggles the mind. Jews in America, Israel and elsewhere have been deeply moved by the devastating loss of lives in Ethiopia and in Africa. Like other people of conscience, the Jewish people have responded compassionately. In recent months, they have contributed several million dollars to African relief and have sent tons of food, clothing, and medicines that have helped save the lives of thousands of Ethiopians, regardless of religion.

But the Ethiopian Jews are a special case which cried out for the dramatic Israeli airlift.

Some 200 years ago, there were about a half million Ethiopian Jews. Today, there are less than 28,000. Tens of thousands of this once proud people were slaughtered through Ethiopian tribal warfare, intense conversion efforts by missionaries, and more recently by being sold into slavery. For decades, the Ethiopian Jews suffered unimaginable poverty.

Now in the face of the vast famine in Ethiopia, reasonable people would expect that the Ethiopian Government would be relieved that Israel is prepared at great expense to lift the burden by caring for this oppressed people.

The airlift must not be stopped. Ideology and politics must not be allowed to prevail over the saving of these human beings who have suffered more than enough.

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