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Ethiopian Catholic Church
Society of the Missionaries of Africa
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**AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE
M.AFR COMMUNITY IN KOMBOLCHA/ETHIOPIA**

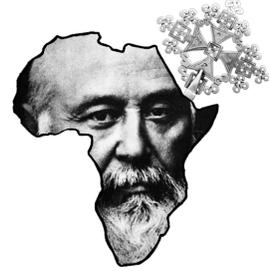
Dear Confreres

Dear Friends

- 1. Greetings from Addis Abeba where the Missionaries of Africa from Kombolcha community (Father Bonaventure Bwanakweri, Father Silas Nsabimana, Stagiaire Moses Ashango) managed to arrive after so many trials due to the war going on in our region.**
- 2. Father Bonaventure was the last confrere to leave the community on Sunday 31st October 2021 and managed to arrive in Addis on 4th November 2021. That is 5 days on the road with the “bad roads in villages” because the main road was closed.**
- 3. Before Father Bonaventure left the house, he had an encounter with TPLF soldiers who came to the community and asked him if he was “Abba Bona” (meaning they had some information before). During that tough encounter, these young soldiers took the white minibus which was on our compound and some properties from the community house. That is how during that traumatizing experience, Father Bonaventure managed to get out of the compound and run away. The way of the cross started around mid-day on**



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Sunday 31st October 2021. In the evening of that Sunday, one of our workers called Father Bonaventure to inform him that more things had been taken from the other houses on the compound. So in short our entire compound was heavily looted.

- 4. So, with this conflict in Ethiopia, the three communities of the Missionaries of Africa in Ethiopia (that is Adigrat, Wukro, and Kombolcha) become inaccessible and non-functional. Till when? We really don't know.**
- 5. What are some of the consequences of this situation on the Missionaries of Africa who were working in Kombolcha? First of all, the student who was doing stage with us (Moses Ashango from Kenya) has to go back to his country first and then we enter into dialogue with our General Council to see the possibilities for him to continue his formation elsewhere. Secondly, as we do not have a house in Addis Abeba, the other two confreres (Bonaventure and Silas) will also go back to their respective countries as they wait for the situation to be calm in Kombolcha and the country.**
- 6. We ask every one of you to keep Ethiopia and its people in our prayers.**

May the Good Lord bring peace to this beautiful nation of great people !

Mary , Queen of Africa, Intercede for us!

Fr Bonaventure BWANAKWERI

Superior of the M.Afr in Ethiopia

Addis Abeba, 5th November 2021