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Dear [INSERT CONTACT NAME],

I am writing with extreme concern over the tragic death of dozens of Oromo-Ethiopian refugees on Sunday, March 7, in Sanaa, Yemen. At least 44 refugees died in a horrific fire at a migrant detention facility, where Houthi authorities were wrongfully detaining nearly 1000 refugees. In reality, eyewitnesses report the death toll is much higher, with some sources claiming that over 500 refugees actually died.

While the Houthi authorities say the fire's cause is unknown, eyewitnesses say that the Houthis themselves set the facility ablaze during a physical altercation with refugees.

The majority of refugees who died or sustained injuries were ethnic Oromos from Ethiopia. The Oromo have suffered a decades-long campaign of political repression by the Ethiopian government. Two years ago, this repression evolved into a full-blown conflict between government security forces and the Oromo population.

Background

Ethiopia is waging a regional conflict against the Oromo population within the Western Oromia, Guji, and Borana regions. According to a [monitoring report](#) by the Oromia Support Group (OSG), state security forces have extrajudicially killed at least 1,342 civilians since October 2018. Human rights observers estimate that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has imprisoned at least 50,000 people for political motivations, while his security forces engage in extrajudicial killings along with torture, rape, and house burning.

Yemen Atrocity

Thousands of Oromos flee Ethiopia each year for these reasons, crossing literal war zones in order to escape. Tragically, the journey to asylum for many Oromos cost them their lives last weekend in Sanaa.

Many international media outlets, including the BBC and Al Jazeera, have grossly undercounted the death toll and have failed to report eyewitness claims that the fire was intentional.

The Oromo diaspora community is in contact with families on the ground in Sanaa. We have evidence of an intentional mass killing by Houthi authorities, including video evidence.

In light of this evidence, **I urge you to undertake the following actions:**

1. Dispatch research staff to investigate this human rights tragedy and determine what happened.
2. Publish a report or public statement on the tragedy and highlight the ongoing conflict and persecution against the Oromo population within Ethiopia.
3. Support the UN and International Organization for Migration (IOM) in investigating this incident.
4. Contact members of the Oromo diaspora and migrant communities, who have collected evidence on this atrocity in Yemen.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]