

Att.: EMNETU TESFAY.

TELEA

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN PREPARED, BASED ON A REPORT FROM TORE SAMUELSSON, THE TANZANIA-BASED LWF WORLD SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING OFFICER FOR AFRICAN DROUGHT RESPONSE PROJECTS, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LWF WORLD SERVICE FIELD OFFICE IN ETHIOPIA:

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"NO CHURCH TRUCKS WERE DESTROYED IN AN ERITREAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (EPLF) ATTACK RECENTLY 25 KILOMETERS OUTSIDE MASSAWA, BUT ALMOST 173 TONS OF GRAIN WAS SPOILED," SAID ABBA PAULOS, COORDINATOR FOR THE ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT AND THE CHURCHES' JOINT RELIEF PARTNERSHIP (JRP) IN ERITREA. IT WAS A MIXED CONVOY OF COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT TRUCKS THAT WAS ATTACKED ON JANUARY 15, ON ITS WAY FROM THE PORT OF MASSAWA TO ERITREA CAPITAL, ASMARA.

TELEA

THE EPLF DESTROYED 17 TRUCKS WITH MILITARY SUPPLIES, ACCORDING TO THE GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION. BUT THE CHURCHES' RELIEF HEADQUARTERS IN ETHIOPIA CLAIM THAT SOME 173 TONS WAS GRAIN INTENDED FOR THE DISTRIBUTION IN ERITREA AND TIGRAY.

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"SINCE OUR VEHICLES WERE NOT INVOLVED, IT DOES NOT AFFECT OUR OWN TRANSPORT CAPACITY. BUT WE ARE NOT ABLE TO TRANSPORT OUR FOOD BY OUR TRUCKS ONLY, IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO RENT COMMERCIAL TRUCKS. THEREFORE, THIS INCIDENT AFFECTS OUR DISTRIBUTION MUCH AS WE CAN NOT REACH THE NEEDY PEOPLE IN TIME", SAID ABBA PAULOS.

EKS

THE JRP HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABOUT 1.3 MILLION DROUGHT VICTIMS IN ERITREA AND TIGRAY AND RUNS TWO HERCULES AIRCRAFTS AS WELL AS ABOUT 60 TRUCKS. MOST OF THE FOOD SUPPLIES ARRIVE IN MASSAWA AND HAVE TO BE TRANSPORTED TO ASMARA BY ROAD FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION.

*See you in Hawaya in a few days*