



## **PRESS RELEASE**

(Washington, DC) June 5, 2007 – **The Re-erection of the Axum Obelisks Group** has forwarded an online petition of hundreds of comments to the Ethiopian Government requesting that the stolen Axum Obelisk returned from Rome be re-erected in Ethiopia in time for the Ethiopian Millennium. You can read the petition at the following link:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/Axum2000/>

It has been two years since the obelisk has been returned to Ethiopia by the Italian Government and the Ethiopian Government has yet to even produce a public timetable as to when the obelisk will be re-erected. As the Ethiopian Millennium fast approaches on September 11<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of thousands of people will be expecting to celebrate the long and rich history of Ethiopia's accomplishments. The re-erection of the obelisk (s) during such an historical event would definitely be the highlight of the Millennium celebrations.

The letters and signatures have been sent to the following officials:

1. His Excellency Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
2. His Excellency, Ambassador Mohammed Dirir ,Minister of Culture and Tourism Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
3. His Excellency Mr. Romano PRODI, Prime Minister of Italy,
4. His Holiness Patriarch Paulos, Head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and President of World Council Churches
5. His Excellency, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General,
6. His Excellency, President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Chairman of the African Union
7. His Excellency Mr. Tsegay Berhe, Tigray Chief Administrator
8. His Excellency, Mr. Seyoum Bereded, Ethiopian Millennium Council Secretariat Director-General,
9. His Excellency Dr. Samuel Assefa, Embassy of Ethiopia, Washington, DC Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

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