

# Al-Nejashi Attack

## PRESS RELEASE

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3 January 2021

*In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious the Most Merciful*

### **ITMA CONDEMNS THE LOOTINGS AND VANDALISMS OF AL-NEJASHI MOSQUE**

*ITMA Demands Independent Investigation*

ITMA is deeply saddened and outraged by the attack on the Al-Nejashi Mosque, the lootings and destruction of its historical artifacts. The mosque is located a few kilometers away from the Wukro city, Eastern zone of the Tigray region, Ethiopia.

Although Al-Nejashi holds an important place in Islamic history and Muslims, it is more than a religious center. It is a world cultural heritage site that represents the hospitability of ancient Tigray, a symbol of religious peaceful coexistence and justice in Tigray that existed for ages, and it is also a world tourist destination. Destroying religious and cultural sites is a war crime.

Any acts of hostility against places of worship which constitute spiritual heritage of people and to use them in support of the military effort is prohibited according to Geneva Conventions of 1949 and amended, i.e., Protection of Victims of Non-international Armed Conflict (Protocol II), 1977 Article 16.

We strongly urge the government to immediately allow for an independent investigation on the matter and hold the perpetrators accountable.

On behalf of the Muslims in Tigray, we would like to express our gratitude to all those who are condemning this evil act and it is our hope that you will also join hands with us in the restoration of this historical Mosque.

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