

MEDIA RELEASE

From:

**WORKING WITH
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AFRICAN THINK TANK OFFERS SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT TO TSUNAMI AND EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The African Think Tank today issued a statement of sympathy and support to victims of the tsunamis and earthquakes in Samoa and Indonesia.

“This is a horrific loss of life and destruction,” said Dr. Berhan Ahmed, Chairperson of the African Think Tank, “Our hearts go out to all who have suffered in these natural disasters and to those who are experiencing the fear of not knowing what has happened to their loved ones, friends and relatives.

“Our hearts and minds go to Australian families who lost loved ones in the disaster. The pain, shock and uncertainty are so terrible to bear. Members of our communities would like to support and if possible, try to raise funds and material aid for the victims.

“As former refugees, we have experienced the grief and loss of loved ones and belongings. I urge everybody to contribute in whatever way they can and help the relief effort. Even if you can only contribute one dollar to a charity, it has an effect. Please do whatever you can, even if it is only small.

“The last tsunami disaster and the Victorian black Saturday bush fire united people and nations from all over the world to help the victims. Let us hope that this will be so again. In the face of such tragedy, differences such as race, religion, gender and culture mean nothing. All human beings bleed the same colour. Let us all work together to do what we can to ease the suffering of victims and their loved ones, relatives and friends and help rebuild their life and homes.”

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