

Ethiopian American Civic Advocacy (EACA)



EACA Press Release

January 15, 2007

Georgetown University Insulting Dr Martin Luther King's Dream

Learning the Georgetown University President's announcement to bestow the "John Thompson Legacy of a Dream Award" on the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS for its leadership and service toward the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King was unbearably painful and very embarrassing to those men and women who are living every day the Dr King's dream at various African jails and in Diaspora.

Unlike the Georgetown University Presidents knowledge or perception of those who may have nominated those honoree, neither of the dictators' wife's has the courage and determination to promote "compassion and create social change" in the way Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned. Rather, the honoree played significant role to the misery of millions with and with out HIV, and contributed that many others end up in catching infections at various concentration camps that are owned by their husbands. The Georgetown University honoree and their husbands daily exercise their unlimited power to incarcerate their opponents, torture, and murder their fellow country men and women instead of bringing positive social change and promoting compassion.

For instance Azeb Mesfin of Ethiopia, who has taken the self-appointed first lady status in a country of 72 million people since almost two decades is Chairwoman of the Social Affairs Standing Committee, a Member of Parliament as well as a multi-million dollar monopolist in a country where opposition figures, civic society representatives and journalists are currently facing trial for treason and genocide for demanding democratic changes.

The nomination by the Gorge Town University to honor the self -appointed first lady of Ethiopia, Azeb Mesfin, who is a major player in escalating the destitution in the Horn and making Ethiopia to rank 170th out of 170 countries in development; 92nd out of 95 countries in poverty, and 137th out of 144 countries on gender-related advancement, and a center to harbor over 3.5 (5%) million people with HIV along over a million orphans, is a disgrace to the institution and an embarrassment to the Gorgetown University community.

Georgetown University action insults Dr King's legacy by supporting the social injustice, human rights abuse, the struggle for freedom in Ethiopia and Rwanda through honoring dictators' wives who are also self appointed first-ladies. If Dr King and John Thompson were still alive, they would have been at the Kennedy Center with many Ethiopian Americans and freedom loving people, protesting and denouncing against the Georgetown University announcement to honor the "The New Emperor's or Dictators' Wives" on the behalf of their legacy.



The action taken by George Town University not only insults Dr Kings and John Thompson's legacy but it also undermines the peaceful democratic movement in the entire Africa and all over the world.

Kassa Ayalew, M.D., M.P.H., Chair
Ethiopian American Civic Advocacy (EACA)
Phone: (703) 665-4042
PO.Box 1292
Lorton, Virginia 22199-1292
USA, eacadvocracy@gmail.com