

Ethiopian American Civic Advocacy (EACA)



September 14, 2006

Ambassador Vicki Huddleston
American Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Re: Embassy Service

Dear Ambassador Vicki Huddleston

As you very well know, the horn of Africa has become a strategic focal point in the war against terrorism following the 9-11 attacks against the United States. Ethiopia is a major country in the horn of Africa whose stability is paramount for long term American national interest. Following the May 15th election, in which Prime Minister Melese Zenawi lost, the government of Ethiopia has embarked on massive human right abuses, detentions of peaceful demonstrators, extrajudicial killings, and imprisonment of the entire local leadership of the opposition political party as well as thousands of political party members. These repressive measures have been condemned by the State Department, the European Union, Amnesty International, Human Right Watch, as well as numerous members of the U.S. Congress.

The atmosphere in Ethiopia today is tense and at best sobering. Scores of Ethiopian diplomats, government employees, police officers are defecting to various parts of the world in thousands. Even an army General has defected with hundreds of soldiers to Eritrea a country that was at war with Ethiopia not to long ago.

However, we at Ethiopian American Civic Advocacy (EACA) and by large the Ethiopian American community in the United States are very disappointed by your lack of actions and conduct to the present situation in Ethiopia. Failing to use your position as a broker to bring lasting peace between both sides has only exacerbated the situation. In fact various reliable sources have reported to EACA that you have out right been pressuring various opposition members to give up their political carrier in order to be released and sign documents pleading guilty to fabricated charges by the government, pushing for American Embassy stuff



members to endorse EPRDF out right in public, and failed to pressure the Ethiopian government to release all political prisoners immediately. We can only hope that these charges leveled against you are false and will be repudiated by you.

These leaders have been reported as prisoners of consciousness by Amnesty International and Human Rights watch. More ever yet, the United States of Congress recently passed a bill titled HR5680 in the full International Committee unanimously demanding for the release of all political prisoners. These leaders are vital stakeholders in bringing peace and stability to the region. Believing that the Ethiopia government can just simply continue on the same path now without the release of all political prisoners, work in a non bipartisan manner with opposition members is a colossal failure to read the mood of the majority of Ethiopians on the ground in Ethiopia and abroad.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to inform us and the public at large the steps that you have taken and are taking now to help about bring peace, stability and the release of all political prisoners in Ethiopia.

It is EACA, Amnesty International, Human Right Watch, United States Congress believes that for Ethiopia to get on the path to peace, democracy, and economic development all political leaders must be released and the reconciliation process must begin.

Awaiting your positive response

Sincerely,
Dr. Kassa Ayalew (Acting Chair)

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