

May 22, 2006

Mr. Paul Wolfowitz
President
The World Bank
Washington D.C. 20433

Re: Protection of Basic Services for Ethiopia

Dear Mr. Wolfowitz:

I am writing to express my deep concern to you about the proposal on Protection of Basic Services (PBS) and the Interim Country Assistance Strategy (ICAS) for Ethiopia. I hope you give the highest regard to my concerns and recommendations.

I value the bank's endeavor to promote fairness, transparency and advancement of economic development by reducing the government discretion over donor resources in Ethiopia. Equally, I highly admire the bank's interest to work together with Ethiopians and Ethiopian Americans in Diaspora. My findings to the proposed PBS are summarized below:

Component 1 to 3 [Component 1 on the Sub-National Basic Services, Sub-Program A; Component 2 on the Health MDG Performance Facility, Sub-Program B, and Component 3 on Financial Transparency and Accountability, Sub-Program C] of the PBS proposal aim to preserve the originally budgeted level of delivery of basic services to the regional and local governments. The proposed plan intends to implement PBS using the regimes governmental institutions such as: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Capacity Building, Ministry of Health and Office of the Federal Auditor General, Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Rural Development, Federal Food

Security Coordination Bureau, Federal Affairs, Water Resources, the Federal Food Security Coordination Bureau, and the Central Statistical Authority. The only component where the overall management and coordination of activities will be handled by a non-governmental agency is the Component 4.

As it is very eminent to the bank and the donor organizations, Ethiopia is presently governed by a totalitarian central government, which owns and controls all activities at regional, district, and local levels. At any level (sub national levels including woredas and kebeles) the central government has a 100% control on developmental and political policies. Therefore, the Protection of Basic Services proposal and the Interim Country Assistance Strategy for FY06-FY07, which has been developed partly in consultation with members of the dictatorial government, appear a new approach to provide direct budgetary assistance to totalitarians.

I do not believe assisting a totalitarian dictatorial regime through a new method will be an alternative to maintain poverty reduction as long as the question of Democracy and Human Right is not settled. In fact, in my view, the interim proposal and ICAS seem to offer the financial means to the repressive regime by ignoring the will and the torment of over 70 million people and it strengthens the repressive apparatus of the regime.

Although Ethiopia is still one of the poorest countries in the world and needs the developmental assistance, I believe the proposed PBS only benefits the repressors and will not able to ensure enduring economical development as it is not attached with vital preconditions that require the government in power to make major political commitments and changes. In my view, until those commitments and changes are made, banks and donors must suspend the PBS and loans for all non-humanitarian purposes.

I propose to the World Bank the following vital preconditions as requirement for the PBS:

1. The bank must demand democracy as pre condition to give a loan to Ethiopia, if it holds the people responsible for repayment. Assistance Strategy must be preconditioned with the regimes commitment to respect human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law.
2. The Protection of Basic Services and the Interim Country Assistance Strategy must be bound to the regimes commitment to unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience immediately and not to imprison any one for his/her opinion, belief, ethnic origin or political position.
4. The Protection of Basic Services and Interim Country Assistance Strategy must be bound with the regimes commitment to allow the principles of free press and put an end to state medial monopoly.
3. The Protection of Basic Services and the Interim Country Assistance Strategy must be bound with the regimes commitment to end arbitrary detention, torture, prevent extrajudicial executions.
5. The Protection of Basic Services and Interim Country Assistance Strategy must be bound with the regimes commitment to end arbitrary detention, torture, prevent extrajudicial executions.

With best regards,

Kassa Ayalew, M.D., M.P.H.

Pediatric and Infectious Diseases Specialist

Tel: 703 868 7122/ Fax: 703 998 5558

Email: abyssiniak@yahoo.com

C.C

Robert B. Holland III
Executive Director:
Tel: 202-458-0115
Email: rholland1@worldbank.org

Yoshio Okubo
Tel: 202-458-0098
Fax: 202-522-1581
Email: yokubo@worldbank.org

Mr. Ishac Diwan
World Bank Country Director
Tel: +251 11 662 77 00
Fax: +251 11 662 77 17
E-mail: idiwan@worldbank.org

Jill Armstrong
Title: Country Program Coordinator
Tel: (202) 473-8471
Fax: (202) 473-5453
Email: Jarmstrong@worldbank.org

Toshio Oya
Tel: 202-458-0100
Email: toya@worldbank.org

Eckhard Deutscher
Tel: 202-458-1183

Fax: 202-477-7849
Email: edeutscher@worldbank.org

Walter Hermann
Tel: 202-458-1190
Email: whermann@worldbank.org

Thomas Scholar
Tel: 202-623-4560
Fax: 202-623-4965
Email: tscholar@worldbank.org

Caroline Sergeant
Tel: 202-623-4555
Email: csergeant@worldbank.org

Pierre Duquesne
Tel: 202-623-6505
Fax: 202-623-4951
Email: pduquesne@worldbank.org

Alexis Kohler
Tel: 202-623-6502
Email: akohler@worldbank.org

Sid Ahmed Dib
Tel: 202-458-1095
Fax: 202-477-9052

Email: sdib@worldbank.org

Tel: 202-458-2107

Email: mketsela@worldbank.org

Shuja Shah

Tel: 202-458-1084

Email: sshah@worldbank.org

Marcel Massé

Tel: 202-458-0077

Fax: 202-477-4155

Email: mmasse@worldbank.org

Gino Alzetta

Tel: 202-473-6840

Fax: 202-522-3453

Email: galzetta@worldbank.org

Gobin Nauth Ganga

Tel: 202-458-0079

Email: gganga@worldbank.org

Melih Nemli

Tel: 202-458-4665

Email: mnemli@worldbank.org

Jiayi Zou,

Tel: 202-458-0058

Fax: 202-522-1579

Email: jzou@worldbank.org

Otaviano Canuto dos Santos Filho

Tel: 202-458-0090

Fax: 202-522-1551

Email: ocanuto@worldbank.org

Jinlin Yang

Tel: 202-458-0052

Email: jyang@worldbank.org

Jeremias N. Paul

Tel: 202-458-0094

Email: jpaul@worldbank.org

Paulo F. Gomes

Tel: 202-458-1153

Fax: 202-522-1585

Email: pgomes@worldbank.org

Mathias Sinamenye

Tel: 202-458-2105

Fax: 202-522-1549

Email: msinamenye@worldbank.org

Louis Philippe Ong Seng

Tel: 202-458-7126

Email : pongseng@worldbank.org

Mulu Ketsela

Thorsteinn Ingolfsson

Tel: 202-458-1081
Fax: 202-477-6818
Email: tingolfsson@worldbank.org

Svein Aass
Tel: 202-458-1079
Email: saass@worldbank.org

Chander Mohan Vasudev,
Tel: 202-458-1046
Fax: 202-522-1553
Email: cmvasudev@worldbank.org

Zakin Ahmed Khan
Tel: 202-458-1054
Email: zkhan@worldbank.org

Herwidayatmo
Tel: 202-458-1197
Fax: 202-477-4116
Email: herwidayatmo@worldbank.org

Nursiah Arshad
Tel: 202-458-1193
Email: narshad@worldbank.org

Biagio Bossone,
Tel: 202-458-1169
Fax: 202-477-3735
Email: bbossone@worldbank.org

Mr. Nuno Mota Pinto
Tel: 202-458-2540
Email: nmotapinto@worldbank.org

Mahdy Ismail Aljazzaf
Tel: 202-458-1030
Fax: 202-477-3537
Email: maljazzaf@worldbank.org

Mohammed Amr
Tel: 202-458-1027
Email: mamr@worldbank.org

Ad Melkert
Tel: 202-458-2052
Fax: 202-522-1572
Email: amelkert@worldbank.org

Tamara Solyanyk
Tel: 202-473-4562
Email: tsolyanyk@worldbank.org

Joong-Kyung Choi,
Tel: 202-458-1018
Fax: 202-477-2007
Email: jchoi@worldbank.org

Terry O'Brien
Tel: 202-458-1025
Email: tobrien1@worldbank.org

Jaime Quijandria Salmon
Tel: 202-458-2626 or 2627
Fax: 202-477-3786
Email: jquijandria@worldbank.org

Alieto Guadagni
Tel: 202-458-2066
Email: aguadagni@worldbank.org

Alexey Kvasov
Tel: 202-458-7080
Fax: 202-477-4274
Email: akvasov@worldbank.org

Alternate: Eugene Miagkov
Tel: 202-458-0066
Email: emaigkov@worldbank.org

Yahya Adbullah M. Alyahya,
Tel: 202-458-0191

Fax: 202-477-1759
Email: yalyahya@worldbank.org

Abdulrahman M. Almofadhi
Tel: 202-458-0188
Email: aalmofadhi@worldbank.org

Luis Marti,
Tel: 202-458-2089
Fax: 202-522-1575
Email: lmarti@worldbank.org

Pietro Veglio,
Tel: 202-458-7050
Fax: 202-477-9110
Email: pveglia@worldbank.org

Jakub Karnowski
Tel: 202-458-7060
Email: jkarnowski@worldbank.org