



## **One Kinijit One Voice: the Role of KIC**

From Kinijit International Council, September 1, 2007

In July of this year, we welcomed and celebrated the freedom of what Amnesty International called “prisoners of conscience,” the release of the leadership of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party (CUDP) in our country. Their just release and subsequent developments in the political and diplomatic spheres reinforce the Diaspora’s and our dedication and commitment to the entire leadership of a unified Kinijit that represents the aspirations and hopes of the Ethiopian people and their quest for peace, national reconciliation, freedom, pluralist democracy, peaceful coexistence with neighboring countries and rapid social and economic development. This and future generations of Ethiopians deserve a society free of fear, division, isolation, repression, mutual recrimination, mistrust and abject poverty, principles that are embodied in the vision, goals and programs of CUDP.

The Kinijit International Council was created in order to provide CUDP and its leadership with material, logistics, intellectual, public relations and diplomatic support in a well coordinated and strategic manner. KIC and its executive leadership believe that the only way that the “spirit” of Kinijit that galvanized millions of Ethiopians during the May 15, 2005 elections can be realized is through one Kinijit and through one voice. We intend to live by the direction, priorities and instructions given to us by Kinijit’s leadership.

*KIC was founded with one single strategic objective in mind namely, to support the vision, goals and programs of the CUDP. The struggle for a peaceful transition to representative democracy is the sole reason for the emergence and popularity of the CUDP. In our view, differences that emerge within the Opposition camp, including within the CUDP are not and cannot be personalized or individualized. They have to be assessed and diagnosed within the context of the short, medium and long term interests of all of the Ethiopian people.*

*Kinijit and its leadership sacrificed and continue to sacrifice the lives and material well being of individuals not for selfish interests and for power and glory but to enable the Ethiopian people to achieve representative democracy and freedom. Kinijit’s existence and its potential to transform Ethiopian society for the better cannot and should not be seen in isolation from its dedication to the Ethiopian people. Our role is to enable the entire leadership and organization to achieve its vision, mission and goals. In this context, we should be aware of the fact that internal and external interests and powers*



*will do every thing to sow seeds of division and dissent within our ranks by exploiting individual interests for glory, wealth and political power. Such schemes are and will be intended to diminish and erode Kinijit's potential as a formidable national Opposition Party with capability to challenge and transform Ethiopia for the better. We need to be aware that divisions based on individual interests continue to be anathema to the Kinijit's strength as an Opposition party.*

The experience and suffering of the entire leadership of Kinijit will long be remembered as land mark sacrifice in defense of peace, national reconciliation, freedom, decency, democracy, unity and national transformation for an all inclusive and pluralist Ethiopia. For us, to move an inch from Kinijit's vision for a better tomorrow for personal, individual, egotistical or other motive will be inconceivable. We know that to do this will only prolong the agony of the Ethiopian people. It will be tantamount to knowingly and intentionally supporting the leadership of the EPRDF and its continued dominance. History has shown that those who subordinate the long term interests of the Ethiopian people for personal glory, greed and power will ultimately be judged harshly not only by the Ethiopian people but by history.

We call on Kinijit supporters in the Diaspora throughout the globe to be vigilant against personal driven machinations and manipulations. One Kinijit and One Voice will remain our motto. It is the only path to democratic transformation for this and the coming generation of Ethiopians.

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