



Seattle Kinijit Support Group and Development Association

በሰ.ደትል የቅንጅት ድጋፍ ሰጭ እና የልማት ማህበር

3815 S. Othello St. suite 100 #PMB137, Seattle WA 98118

Washington State Legislative House Joint Memorial 4031

On February 14th, 2008, the Washington State Joint Legislative Body passed a landmark resolution, House Joint Memorial 4031, regarding the gross human rights abuses in Ethiopia. HJM 4031 basically requests that Congress and the President demand Ethiopia fulfill its human rights obligation. The bill passed the floor with 93 yes votes and only one opposing

The draft bill proposal was initially introduced to a group of lawmakers headed by Representative Sharon Santos at the end of the 2007 legislative session. It was rolled over to the 2008 session for consideration and went through two committees and reached the joint assembly for a vote on February 14th.

The Ethiopian regime, although it has released many of the opposition leaders, has in fact escalated the human rights abuses more than ever. The recent Human Rights Watch World Report was very critical of the regime in Ethiopia. It has identified the Meles Government as one of the worst dictator and gross human rights violators along with Zimbabwe, Egypt, Pakistan, Eritrea etc....

The Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled petition the President of the United States, the Vice President, the majority leader and the Speaker of the House to demand the regime in Ethiopia fulfill its human rights obligations. They demanded that the Meles Regime respect the UN Declaration of Human Rights which constitutes a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

To read the full text of the resolution, please click here <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=4031&year=2007> or <http://www.leg.wa.gov> and select bill information from the main menu, search by bill no 4031. Select 'entire bill' to read the five pages Memorial.



Seattle Kinijit Support Group and Development Association

በሲያትል የቅንጅት ድጋፍ ሰጭ እና የልማት ማህበር

3815 S. Othello St. suite 100 #PMB137, Seattle WA 98118

Our hope and prayer is that the regime in Ethiopia heeds to these international calls and refrain from abusing the basic human rights of our people. In the words of the legislatures, “...The Ethiopian government forbears from interference in the exercise of the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, and association in Ethiopia.”

It is to be noted that the Chairman, Engineer Hailu Shawel, of the largest and formidable opposition party, CUDP, Coalition for Unity and Democracy is currently on a tour in the United States. The chairman and his colleagues; w/ro Nigist G/Hiwot, member of the Central Council of CUDP and Dr Taye W/Semaite, chairman of Kinijit International Council were all victims of such abuses. Many political prisoners are still languishing in jails scattered all over the country. They should all be released without delay. The freedom to assemble, organize, free press, etc are all the hall mark of basic human rights. It remains to be seen how the Meles government heeds to these repeated calls by the international community.

The Seattle Kinijit Support Chapter would like to thank Representative Sharon Santos, Representatives Erick Pettigrew, Phyllis Kenny of the Washington State Legislators and their staff members for their unreserved help and cooperation in supporting and sponsoring the bill. Special thanks are also in order to the members of the Seattle Kinijit Support Executive Committee and other human rights activists for their persistent and consistent effort to bring this dire situation to the attention of the lawmakers.

The Seattle Kinijit Support Chapter,

Mulumebet Reta, Chairperson