



# Kinijit International Council

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P. O. Box 10441 Marina Del Rey CA 90295 USA [www.kinijitcouncil.org](http://www.kinijitcouncil.org)



## Washington Update December 20, 2007

**As we approach the end of the year 2007 and await the next session of Congress in January 2008 we should give thanks for the successful passage on October 2<sup>nd</sup> by the full House of H.R. 2003 – The Ethiopia Democracy Accountability Act of 2007. Now we must focus on the Senate for passage there in the new year.**

**As we discussed with the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee we need to keep the all the Senators informed about the situation in Ethiopia with special attention to the members of the Foreign Relations Committee. We must concentrate on informing them of the facts regarding the economic, human rights, and development crises that Ethiopians face every day of their lives.**

**It is now scheduled for the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Jendai Frazer, and other notable individuals, to testify before the Senate Sub- Committee for Africa in January 2008. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the truth about the situation in ethiopian be explained to the senators in advance so that the right questions can be asked,**

**We think most senators will be well disposed to our presentations. Their colleagues in the house passed H.R, 2003 through the full process – sub-committee, Committee, and finally the whole house. We are confident that we should succeed in the Senate as well. But, it should be noted, that the regime in Addis Ababa has not been sleeping and recently hosted senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma for a tour and convinced him that all was well in Ethiopia. So we do have some roadblocks. Nevertheless persistence will win out as we need to get a majority of the sub-Committee (with Bipartisan support!) to deliver the bill to the full Committee in due time so that the the Senate as a whole can consider the legislation**

**This is a matter of speed. For us to win the legislation needs to be enacted in the next year. Meles, his regime, and the highly paid lobbyists in Washington will try to kill the bill. It is up to us to defeat them. For**



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more clarification about the bill – and why we must all support H.R. 2003 – please refer to these Web sites Kinijit.org, Ethiolion.com. Nazret.com just to name a few.

**Engineer Hailu Shawel, President of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy in Ethiopia (CUD) be touring throughout the United States and Canada in January and February to address Ethiopians. His vision for a modern democratic and prosperous Ethiopia should be heard! Here are the itinerary.**

**Minnesota Jan., 6, Seattle Jan., 13, Atlanta Jan., 19, Oakland Jan., 27, Los Angeles Feb., 6, Dallas Feb., 10, Boston Feb., 16, Toronto, Canada Feb., 24.**

**As we noted before the main objectives of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy in Ethiopia (CUD) are to peacefully remove the present communist style government and replace it with one that does not divide along ethnic lines.**

**We must have one that aspires to create a democratic Ethiopia governed by leaders selected in free and fair elections. To this end, we must work with the US Congress to provide international monitors of the political campaign, to end censorship and intimidation of the press and afford access to radio, television and newspapers to the opposition. That is why we should work hard to create a better Ethiopia with a free market economy in which citizens can freely travel to engage in commerce anywhere in the country.**

**Mesfin Mekonen, Kinijit International Council Foreign Relations**