

Bern, Switzerland – May 15 Demo Report

The demonstration to commemorate the 4th year of the popular election, which was rigged and robbed by the Weyane regime, was successfully held in Bern, the capital city of Switzerland. Ethiopians in big numbers from all over Switzerland gathered in front of the US Embassy and expressed their anger at the ever increasing repression against people in general and against suspected opposition party members.

A letter was handed to the US Ambassador to be handed to President Obama. The letter requested the President to fulfil his election promises to act against dictators and help the Ethiopian people to enjoy democracy and peace.

The demonstarion was organized by International Taskforce for Justice and Human Rights in Ethiopia.– Swiss Branch

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SLOGANS FOR WORLDWIDE PROTEST OF May 15 - 2009

**Free Birtukan Midekssa!
– Free Free Free**

**Free Teddy Afro!
– Free Free Free!**

**Release all political prisoners in Ethiopia !
- Free Free Free!**

**Release all prisoners of conscience in Ethiopia !
- Free Free Free!**



Stop the injustice in Ethiopia !

- Stop Stop Stop !

Stop the state terror in Ethiopia !

- Stop Stop Stop !

Stop the criminalisation of dissent in Ethiopia !

- Stop Stop Stop!



President Obama, the American Administration

History is on your side, say no to human right abuse in Africa

Say no to the dictators of Ethiopia !

- No No No

Say no to the state terror in Ethiopia

- No No No !



**President Obama, Secretary of State
Do not fail Africa like your predecessors
Help us to make dictators history in Ethiopia
Help us to root out dictatorship in Ethiopia
– out out out**



**President Obama,
Keep your words and visions
Stop business with dictators
Do not write a blank cheque to the Ethiopian dictator**

**President Obama, Secretary of State
Ethiopians expect assistance to their struggle for freedom
Ethiopians expect assistance to their struggle for liberty
Ethiopians expect assistance to their struggle against repression
Ethiopian appeal for help to make dictatorship history**



**President Obama, Secretary of State
Speak against human right abuse in Ethiopia
Stop against the abuse of power in Ethiopia
Stop the injustice in Ethiopia**

**Remember Remember,
“Injustice anywhere, is a threat
To justice everywhere”**

**No human rights in Ethiopia
No justice in Ethiopia
No free society in Ethiopia**



**Stop the repressive civil society bill in Ethiopia
Support democracy not dictatorship !
We stand for democracy !
We stand for free society !
We stand for liberty !**

One people, one nation, one Ethiopia !





Content of the Letter presented to President Barack Obama!

**International Network Against Repression and Injustice in Ethiopia
(INARIE)**

**BRANCH
Address**

**President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500**

Date: 15 May 2009

Dear President,

RE: REPRESSION AND INJUSTICE RAMPANT IN ETHIOPIA

"To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history, but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." President Barak Obama.

The above words were inspiration to millions of people around the world yearning for freedom and liberty, including Ethiopians living under the fist of a repressive regime, but also a strong message to repressive rulers like Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, whose hands are drenched in blood.

Dear President,

Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia are holding a rally outside the State Department and Embassies of the United States of America in cities around the world, on 15 May 2009, on the fourth anniversary of election 2005 in Ethiopia, where the incumbent authoritarian regime lost and refusing to accept the will of the people it massacred nearly 200 innocent civilians on the streets of Addis Ababa and sent tens of thousands to concentration camps also known as death valleys.

Consequently, the hope of millions was dashed as a regime found on the wrong side of history turned the clock back on the democratisation process in order to maintain its undemocratic grip on society and the state. Ethiopia since has steadily descended from emerging democracy to a police state.

This lack of condemnation and resolute action from the west against the most egregious crimes committed by the security forces of P.M. Meles Zenawi has only emboldened him to commit even more horrendous crimes. The state Department Report of 2008, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have extensively reported the catalogue of gross human rights abuses committed by the regime.

Dear President,

On 23 March 2009, in a letter to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Genocide Watch has called on the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to initiate an investigation against the government of P.M. Meles Zenawi. Genocide Watch cited the atrocities committed in Gambela against the Anuaks and ethnic Somalis in the Ogaden as examples of the crimes that have not been seriously investigated by the UN body.

In an open letter Genocide Watch President Dr. Gregory Stanton wrote to the Commissioner, he commended the International Criminal Court for indicting the Sudanese President, Omar Hassan Al Bashir, but noted that "one of the first leaders to defend Omar al-Bashir and condemn the warrant was P.M. Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, whose government has also been implicated in a pattern of widespread perpetration of serious human rights atrocities in Ethiopia and in Somalia."

Dear President,

Human Rights watch and other independent organisations recently reported that thousands of innocent Ethiopians are incarcerated in prisons set up in different parts of the country for just opposing the ruling party, while those living outside prison gates are not allowed to exercise their universal rights of speech, assembly and elect their leaders. Membership of the ruling party has become a condition for rights to college education and job opportunities. In a country with 6 million people requiring emergency aid, food aid is being used as political instrument to starve people in need who fight for their basic rights but oppose the regime in power.

The recent draconian civil society law which punishes dissent and the bill restricting the activities of charity organisation (both local and foreign) are designed to silence independent voices from reporting repressive activities of the regime and the plight of innocent citizens. This is a regime heavily involved in controversial rendition activities and detention of foreign citizens in subhuman conditions on its soil in the name of supporting anti-terrorism.

Dear President,

The latest causality of this gross violation of human rights is Ms. Birtukan Midekssa - Chairperson of Unity for Democracy and Justice Party (aka Andenet) a new popular legal opposition party. Ms. Midekssa a former High Court judge, who has been hailed

as Aung San Suu Kyi of Ethiopia has been re-arrested on 29th December 2008. The re-arrest of Ms. Midekssa, also considered prisoner of conscience have drawn chorus of condemnations by human rights organizations, members of the US Congress, the European Parliament and other parliamentarians.

Ms. Midekssa has been in solitary confinement for nearly 140 days denied her right to be visited by a legal representative or the International Red Cross. The re-arrest of Ms. Midekssa is not about inaccurate statements or rules broken, but shows the intension of the ruling regime to curb a credible democratic opposition in the country, and kill the aspiration of Ethiopians for democracy and freedom, and strengthen its grip on power.

Dear Mr President,

We acknowledge that within the last 100 days of your administration you have taken remarkable decisions to undo the foreign policy blunders of the previous administration, which has been inconsistent to the values America has been known for and regain respect across the world. We would like to see these changes translated to specific decisions touching the life of millions around the world fighting for freedom and democracy but gagged by authoritarian rulers masquerading as democrats and so far enjoy the support of the US administration.

Inspired by the audacity of hope for freedom and the strength of your moral principles based on the rule of law and the rights of man, we write today to respectfully urge you in the strongest possible terms to allow the passage of a law that holds the Ethiopian regime accountable for its gross abuse of human rights and make meaningful democratic governance a condition to any non-humanitarian financial support from the people of the United States of America.

As a champion of civil rights and an advocate of democratic governance, we humbly ask your good office to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Midekssa, Teddy Afro and all political prisoners who have been incarcerated with out due process in Ethiopia, and invest in a true and lasting friendship with the Ethiopian people.

Yours sincerely,

International Network Against Repression and Injustice in Ethiopia – Swiss Branch