



## NEWSLETTER

June 2023

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Dear Friends,

Since its establishment, AEPAC has remained committed to its mission of promoting a pro-Ethiopia policy in the United States government within the context of advancing the US-Ethiopia relationship. The pro-Ethiopia policy encompasses advocating for democracy, the rule of law, human rights, a free press, entrepreneurship, and economic development. AEPAC has utilized legislative, public relations, and executive branch resources to fulfill all its commitments.



I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our generous supporters whose contributions have allowed the organization to grow and become one of the most influential African diaspora organizations, recognized by Africa News, a Washington-based publication.

Advancing AEPAC's missions during the turmoil in Tigray, which had a devastating impact on civilians, with over a million lives lost and more than five million people displaced, along with property destruction amounting to billions of dollars, has been extremely challenging. However, AEPAC has remained steadfast to its mission and successfully contributed to

countering internationally orchestrated aggression against the Ethiopian people.

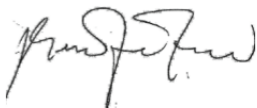
Unfortunately, the peace gained following the conclusion of the conflict was short-lived. The nation now suffers from attacks on religious institutions (both Christian and Muslim), political assassinations, imprisonment of journalists, continued ethnic-based violence, forced displacements, drought, civilian uprisings in Gondor, Gojjam, Showa, Wollo , and regional boarder conflicts in Afar, Somali because of GoE's failures to govern which has a potential to escalate into another never-ending violence, demolition of homes leaving over 500,000 women and children homeless, an ever-increasing prevalence of corruption, torture, and abductions, as reported by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. The Ethiopian diaspora around the world, especially here in the US, continues to witness the current saga with profound disillusionment.

AEPAC's board, along with its executive advisory and the national election committee members closely monitors the worsening human rights crisis in Ethiopia and has issued several press releases and social media announcements. At the same time, the organization has continued to receive numerous calls from donors and supporters urging to find a way to mitigate these atrocities by shedding light to the international community. To that end we have conducted a survey which was discussed on June 11th AEPAC 2023 priorities discussion forum. A full report is incorporated in this newsletter.

Based on survey findings, AEPAC will soon publish a position statement to guide its 2023 legislative, public, and government relations activities.

Thank You,

Mesfin Tegenu, AEPAC Chairman



## RESET 2023 PRIORITIES - SURVEY



# SURVEY RESULTS RESET 2023 PRIORITIES

MAY 2023



## Survey Objective

- Assess public opinion on a number key priorities identified by members of the American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee, by surveying a wide range of the American Ethiopian Diaspora Community (Members and Non-members)
- Utilize Survey Feedback (results) to inform AEPAC and its board-members on general public sentiment regarding upcoming actions/initiatives to measure acceptance with a reasonable margin of error.

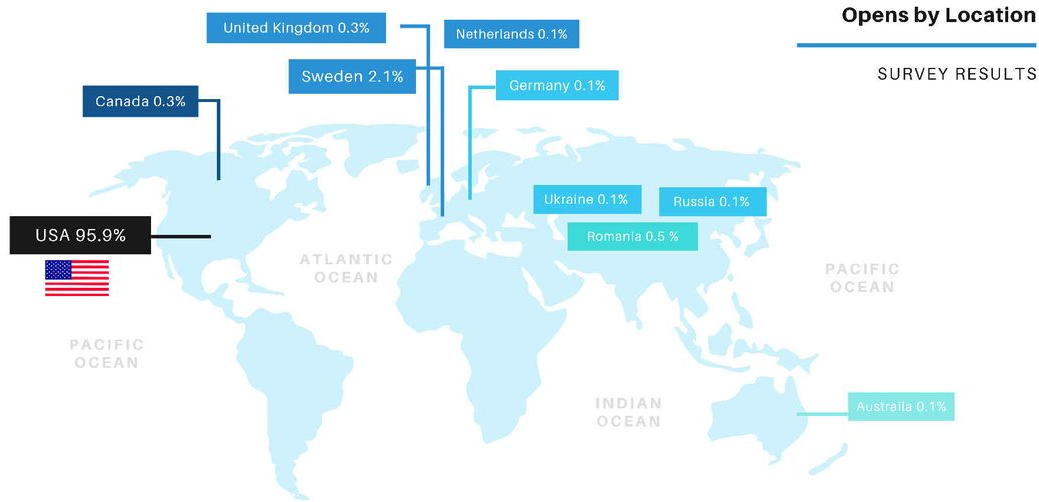


## Methodology

- **METHOD**
  - **Online Survey** was sent to the **AEPAC Email Lists** (sourced via a range of partners and shared widely online)
  - **Subject:** We'd Love your feedback
- **TIMELINE**
  - The survey email was sent out on **May 21st** and closed on **May 28th**, keeping the survey open for **1 week**.



## Target Audience & Response Analysis



## Target Audience & Response Analysis

- **American Ethiopians** prime target for survey (95.9% of respondents opened email in the United States).
- AEPAC Email List - Open to all American Ethiopians sourced via range of partners and shared widely online

**30,717 Successful Deliveries**

6,044 Recipients Opened Email

474 Clicked on the Survey

343 Responded/Completed the Survey



## Target Audience & Response Analysis

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6,044 Recipients Opened Email

474 Clicked on the Survey

**474**  
**6044**

**7.8%**  
Engagement/Total Response Measure



# Target Audience & Response Analysis

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- AEPAC Email List - Open to all American Ethiopians sourced via range of partners and shared widely online

474 Clicked on the Survey  
343 Actual Responses

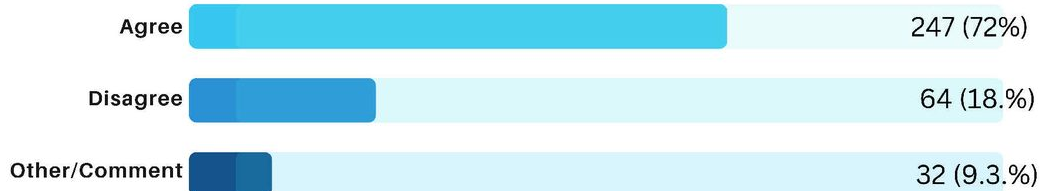
**343**  
**6044**

**5.7%**  
Actual Response Rate



## Survey Question 1

The American Government Economic and Financial Support Including the IMF and World Bank Loans currently under consideration, should only be approved based on strict action by GoE to stop the gross human rights violations, escalating corruption, ethnic-based attacks, religious non-interference, and initiating a resettlement and rehabilitation of the over 4.2 million IDPs



## Sample Comments

You're standing against Ethiopia and Ethiopians!

The IMF and World Bank are pure evil colonialists that no one should ever do business with.

I agree with the above statement but the government should get financial support to initiate a resettlement and rehabilitation of the 4.2 million IDPs

While I agree with the premise, I am not convinced that the GoE is in any position to stop the majority of the problems. Withholding loans by the IMF and the World Bank will only exasperate the problem on the people



**IMF & World Bank Loans currently under consideration, should only be approved based on strict action by GoE to stop gross human rights violations**

How do you ask for sanctions on Ethiopia and Ethiopians  
Shame on you

This financial assistance must not be approved to the current GoE by any means. If this fund is approved from the past experience it will not be used for the intended purposes, because there are no means to monitor its use. My fear is it will be used to commit further genocide, displacement and abduction of innocent civilians

Noone in their right mind will advocate for economic sanctions against their own country

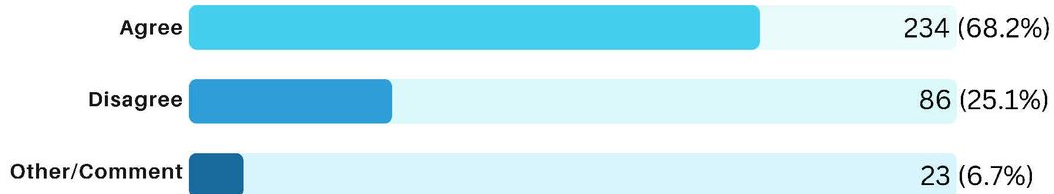
Agree but it is complicated

Should not have no agreement to anything. I believe the GoE violated universal human rights principles even though we shouldn't submit to colonialism

We should find ways to help the government to stop problems with out hurting the economy

## Survey Question 2

The business community should discourage international private companies/investors from investing in Ethiopia for 12 months until there is a marked improvement in human rights violations by the Ethiopian Government



## Sample Comments

When Abiy came to power, he tried to make improvements, however currently things are going from bad to worse

The business community should discourage international private companies/investors from investing in Ethiopia for 12 months

Absolutely, maybe even longer until there is a measurable peace and security to all people in which GoE stops the gross human rights violations, ethnic profiling, escalating corruption, ethnic based violence, religious persecution and further the removal of the Prosperity Party!

It is hard to get involvement as it is and taking time off is not a wise strategy

## Survey Question 3

There is merit in supporting the initiative by different Ethiopian American Organizations that advocates restricting diaspora remittances for 12 months



Other/Comment 27 (7.9%)



## Sample Comments

Strongly Disagree this is madness

I support the initiative, however considerations should be made for those Ethiopians who continue to send funds to assist dependent family members

There is merit in supporting the initiative by different Ethiopian American Organizations that advocates restricting diaspora remittances for 12 months

There are family members who depend on this fund. This action will hurt the Ethiopian People

Advocating restriction of diaspora remittances should continue as long as GoE fails to meet its responsibilities



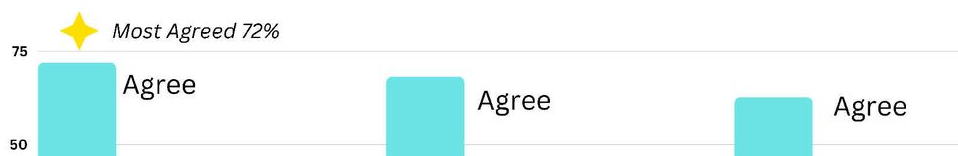
## Results Analysis

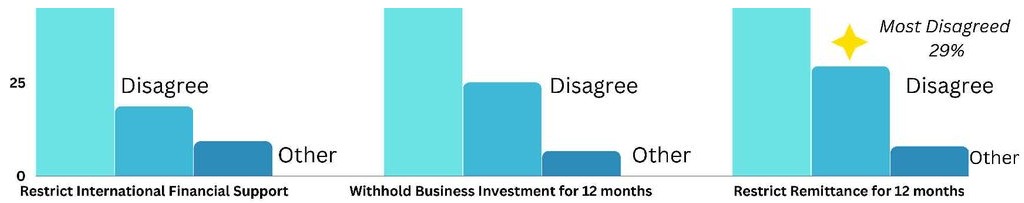
Out of 343 Responses

- A median average of **68%** of the people who completed the survey **Agreed** in actions that penalized the GoE through some form of **financial/economic pressure** including the withholding of loans, financial support, remittances or international business investments
- **Pressuring the GoE via restricting financial support** from US Government, IMF and/or WorldBank loans was the **Most Agreed** upon proposed action at a **72%** approval while
- **Restricting of Diaspora Remittances** for a period of 12 months had the **Most Disagreed** at **29%** or 101 respondents.
- A median average of **8%** of respondents neither Agreed nor Disagreed and selected Other.
- Comments reflected equally as strong opinions **for** and **against** actions to pressure the GoE
- Comments showed a repetitive concern for how financial restrictions would impact those in desperate need for aid & relief, as well as family members dependent on receiving assistance from relatives in the diaspora.



## Results Analysis - Summary

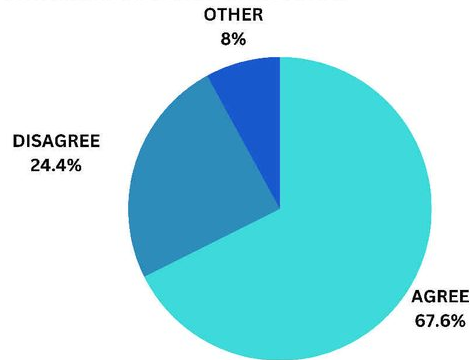




## Results Analysis - Average

Out of 343 Responses

- A median average of **68%** of the people who completed the survey **Agreed** in actions that penalized the GoE through some form of **financial/economic pressure** including the withholding of loans, financial support, remittances or international business investments



## Results Analysis



Most **Agreed** 72%

Pressuring the GoE via **restricting financial support from US Government, IMF and/or WorldBank loans** was the Most Agreed upon proposed action at a 72% approval while

OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS



Most **Disagreed** 29%

Restricting of Diaspora **Remittances** for a period of 12 months had the Most Disagreed at 29% or 101 respondents.



## Results Analysis

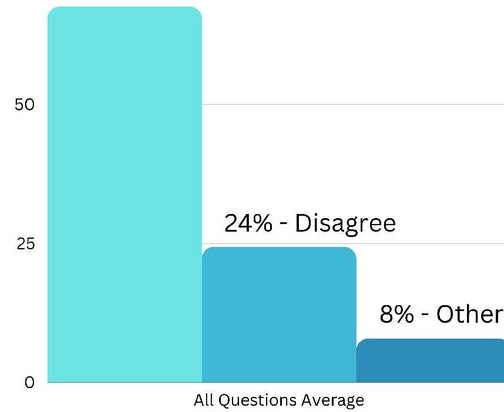
Out of 343 Responses

75

68% - Agree



- A median average of **8%** of respondents neither Agreed nor Disagreed and selected **Other**.
- Comments reflected equally as strong opinions **for** and **against** actions to pressure the GoE
- Comments showed a repetitive **concern for how financial restrictions would impact those in desperate need for aid & relief**, as well as **family members dependent on receiving assistance** from relatives in the diaspora.



Thank you



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Follow Us

To keep up to date with AEPAC, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Check out our website - [www.aepact.org](http://www.aepact.org)

### Share

Want to help push the voice of American-Ethiopians to the audiences who matter? Then please share these Tweets so that AEPAC's message is seen by more people across social

media: [AEPAC Mission Video](#)

### Contact

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