



NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Dear <<First Name>>,

Every day we are inundated with increasingly distressing news coming from Ethiopia, bombarded with alarming reports about arbitrary ethnic-based attacks on Ethiopian civilians, a continued senseless government-initiated war in the Amhara and Oromia regions, and a range of other issues that continue to plague the nation.



Recently, the United Nations released a report that confirmed what many of us have feared and which various media outlets reported. The report highlighted the mass arrests of young people of Amhara ethnic origin and called on the Ethiopian authorities to stop these arrests, ensure judicial review for those deprived of their liberty, and release those who have been arbitrarily detained. Moreover, the UN urged the Government of Ethiopia to grant oversight bodies, including the UN Human Rights Office and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, regular and unconditional access to all places of detention to ensure the safety and protection of detainees' human rights.

The situation in Ethiopia is dire and multifaceted, with ethnic-based violence, active war on Amhara region, forced displacements, drought, corruption, religious interference, and the imprisonment of journalists, among other. Now more than ever, our unified active engagement with US government and collaboration with the diverse Ethiopia diaspora organizations is critical. To that end AEPAC has initiated several projects and is making progress both with US legislators and in collaborating with the diverse Ethiopian American diaspora groups. Some of the concrete steps taken to date include the following key initiatives:

- AEPAC has successfully identified legislators in two states to pass a pro-Ethiopia resolution, one of them expected, to be approved this month. Details of the resolution will be provided in the next month's newsletter.
- We are fostering unity within the Ethiopian American diaspora by collaborating with eight diverse Ethiopian American diaspora groups to address the ongoing crisis. Together, we released a statement urging the Ethiopian government to cease hostilities in the Amhara and Oromia regions and for the international community to hold those GoE officials responsible for atrocities in the ongoing conflict- of -choice accountable through the imposition of individual sanctions. The joint statement which is supported by US State Department is now under active search for congressional sponsor.
- A congressional briefing on the current Ethiopian situation is scheduled for October. This briefing will cover various aspects of the crisis, including human rights violations, displacement, ethnic cleansing, mass arrests, civilians attacks by heavy machinery including drones, exhibition of atrocities committed on peaceful population, religious interference and attacks on religious institutions and the faithful, drought as a weapon of war, continued demolition of homes making over 700,000 people homeless, actively inciting ethnic conflicts by authorities particularly against ethnic Amhara and other related issues. The congressional briefing will be followed with active legislative lobbying and as always, we count on all of you for your full support.

We appreciate your partnership and support in this journey, together we can play our part to change the worrisome trajectory in the motherland. I firmly believe that Ethiopia's best days are ahead, but only if those of us who hold its best interests close to our hearts remain actively engaged and dedicated to the cause.

Please remain active with AEPAC in its mission to make a difference and contribute to the betterment of Ethiopia and its people.

Yours sincerely,

Mesfin Tegenu
Chairman



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