

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Dear <<First Name>>,

I begin this month's message with sincere gratitude for all those who have shared their thoughts on AEPAC's ongoing initiatives and expressed diverse opinions regarding our response to the escalating humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. Your engagement and perspectives are invaluable to us.

Numerous voices have echoed support for AEPAC's current strategy, which involves



sustained lobbying across various sectors of the U.S. government. This approach aims to leverage influence and intervene to halt the ongoing violence and human rights violations against civilians, predominantly in the Amhara region. Additionally, we address attacks in Gurage, Gambela, Afar, and Southern regions, Arsi, Wolega with the overarching goal of fostering a return to civility within the nation. We deeply appreciate the solidarity and alignment with our current efforts.

Concurrently, we acknowledge the questions raised by some regarding the efficacy of this approach and AEPAC's overall role in addressing the intricate challenges facing Ethiopia. We recognize the complexity of the issues at hand and understand the importance of an ongoing dialogue to explore diverse perspectives and potential solutions based on AEPAC's founding principles. The organization is committed to fostering democracy, the rule of law, a free press, respect for human rights, individual freedom, and a free-market economy in Ethiopia.

Such efforts are accomplished through lobbying all segments of the U.S. government and engaging in active public relations activities. When AEPAC supported the Ethiopian people's struggle against TPLF insurgency, we fought to protect the same values, and today, the organization remains committed to upholding these principles. The only change is that during the fight against TPLF aggression, the Ethiopian government was on the people's side.

AEPAC remains committed to fostering an inclusive conversation and appreciates the collective wisdom that emerges from our community. Your input is instrumental as we navigate these complexities and work towards a more comprehensive understanding of the situation.

House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Ethiopia.

On November 30, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Africa conducted an important hearing on Ethiopia, titled "Ethiopia: Promise or Perils, The State of U.S. Policy Committee on Foreign Affairs." The hearing, which garnered substantial interest from almost all committee members, was attended by several individuals. Information from AEPAC's October 17 hearings and the subsequent publication on THE HILL, a Washington-based publication, titled "The US can no longer ignore Ethiopia's Human Rights Crisis, : https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4329202-the-us-can-no-longer-ignore-ethiopias-human-rights-crisis/" has significantly contributed to reinforcing Ethiopian American opinion on the current Ethiopian situation. THE HILL also published a follow-up article about the hearing, titled "House Hearing on Ethiopia a step in the right direction. https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4362431-house-hearing-on-ethiopia-a-step-in-the-right-direction/" AEPAC has organized follow-up meetings to ensure meaningful action is taken to help stop killings and bring back civility.

Drone attack

The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee, along with its affiliated organizations - the Ethiopian Canadian Network for Advocacy and Support (ECNAS), the Ethiopian Public Diplomacy Network (EPDN), The Ethiopian Development Council (EADC), eHUB, and NY Tri-State Hope for Ethiopia (H4E) – Jointly sent a letter urging the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to reconsider its military ties with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE). This call comes in response to the Ethiopian government's public admission of violating both the international convention on human rights and the Geneva Convention agreements. The acknowledgment pertains to the alarming use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) provided by the UAE, intentionally targeting and causing harm to civilians, including women and children.

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season!!

Yours,

Mesfin Tegenu Chairman

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AEPAC endorsed Angela Alsobrooks for US Senate



AEPAC of Maryland has endorsed Ms. Alsobrooks for the US senate. Ms. Alsobrook's maintains a friendly relation with and continued support of the African Diaspora Community – including tens of thousands of Ethiopian Americans, who live in the great state of Maryland and meets all requirements set up by AEPAC for endorsement. In a press release we have noted, "AEPAC's mission is to bring the U.S. and Ethiopia closer because we believe a stable Ethiopia is the best way to preserve peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and advance U.S. interests in the region. We believe that Ms. Alsobrooks will be a great partner in helping achieve that goal," and concluded, "Angela Alsobrooks is a champion for diversity, and fights for equality and justice. She understands her community and can bring

people together. She has been an inspiring and trusted leader, a fighter for women, children, and families. She advocates for her constituents and shares their concerns. We are proud to endorse her."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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To keep up to date with AEPAC, follow us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>. Check out our website - <u>www.aepact.org</u>

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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: <u>AEPAC</u>

<u>Mission Video</u>

Contact

P.O.Box 636 Kenneth Square, PA 19348 info@aepact.org | www.aepact.org

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