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NEWSLETTER

June 2024

Dear <<First Name>>,

This month, a lot of activities have taken place on the diplomatic front following last month's policy speech by Ambassador Ervin Massinga, the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia.



Ambassador Ervin Massinga, returned last month to a building that holds a special place in the long history of good relations between America and Africa's second-most populous nation. Surely the ambassador understood that the backdrop – the site of the former U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa where American diplomats sheltered and saved 750 Ethiopians during the 1937 massacre by Italian fascists known as Yekatit 12 – would offer a reservoir of goodwill for the difficult words he was about to speak.

In a blunt address that marked America's strongest statement yet on the growing unrest in Ethiopia, Massinga made clear that violence in key regions such as Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray, as well as blatant human rights violations, is reaching intolerable levels. And while the key U.S. diplomat called on all parties to choose negotiation over warfare, Massinga's harshest words were aimed at the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

"A security-focused approach will not resolve complex political issues," Massinga said.

“Detaining and harassing those who criticize the government will not resolve those issues that must be addressed. The political dialogue that Ethiopians need could be helped by releasing key political figures.”

The ambassador was not done with his truth-telling. He then added that “I call for an end to targeting schools, health facilities, and water infrastructure, and for full and unfettered humanitarian access, which could include as a starting point a temporary nationwide ceasefire.”

We followed up with him in Washington, DC, and he told us in his unusually grand and straightforward manner that all in the diaspora must come together to support meaningful dialogue if we can be of any meaningful assistance to the ailing nation. There are signs that the regime is starting to feel some of the heat from growing condemnation of its human-rights abuses. In recent weeks, the Abiy government has launched a half-baked and widely criticized attempt to kickstart the moribund Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission.

We strongly urge the government to agree to sweeping peace talks aimed at establishing this keystone of the Horn of Africa as a true democracy, which means acknowledging the rights and liberty of those in the embattled regions of Amhara, Afar, Somalia, Oromia, and others, not flattening them under one ethnostate. Indeed, a legitimate peace process should include all options, including the formation of a transitional government if consensus of the dialogue is to do so. The United States and its western allies, whose loans and humanitarian aid are desperately needed to keep Ethiopia afloat, have leverage to make this happen, and it is the diaspora's responsibility to continue to let our opinions be known and hold Ambassador Massinga to his commitment to help.

Capitol Hill

The AEPAC DMV chapter has spent a day on Capitol Hill discussing the current Ethiopian humanitarian crisis and the role of the US Congress in resolving it. Although all the issues in Ethiopia must be resolved by the Ethiopian people, in this globalized economy, the impact of a superpower like the US can't be understated. The lobbying effort was focused on harnessing over 120 years of US-Ethiopia relations and the power of the new Ethiopian American electorate.

AEPAC June 2024 Supporters' Discussion

On June 8, the American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee conducted its mid-year discussion with its participating supporters. Topics covered include legislation under consideration in the US Congress to advance democracy and alleviate the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe, upcoming US elections, and the need for all Ethiopian

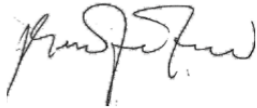
Americans to register and vote. We also emphasized the importance of supporting AEPAC to allow us to campaign for pro-Ethiopia candidates.

Again, today we request you to renew your commitments to AEPAC and take some time to ensure your monthly contributions are up-to-date by going to www.aepact.org. In all critical states, AEPAC will raise funds to support candidates who would support our causes.

The Ethiopian Sports Federation In North America (ESFNA)

AEPAC YOUTH will be at the annual soccer tournament in Atlanta. Looking forward to seeing you at our tent.

Yours Sincerely,



Mesfin Tegenu
Chairman

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

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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