

August 25, 2015

Dr. Joachim Rucker
President of the Human Rights Council
Office of the UN High Commission for Human Rights
6HCHR-Palais Wilson
UN Office of Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Re: The Plight of the All Ethiopian Unity Party Leaders and members (AEUP)

Dear Sir,

Since an ethnic based Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) had handpicked individuals to form other ethnic fronts, so that together the TPLF calls itself as Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), it had forcibly occupied the Ethiopian government in 1991. All pan-Ethiopian organizations including AEUP had problems of existence even as peaceful parties since the TPLF/EPRDF came to hold power.

In a 2005 national election, AEUP and some other pan-Ethiopian parties formed a coalition and received substantial support, including the total vote from the capital city, Addis Ababa. However that led the TPLF/EPRDF to imprison all party officials of the coalition, murder over 190 citizens and torture thousands. Though the officials of the coalition party were released within two years, their fate had not improved. The TPLF/EPRDF had been ruling as a unitary party since 1991.

Much more bizarre and extreme measures were taken by the TPLF/EPRDF in the 2015 election season. In April of 2015, the TPLF/EPRDF government suddenly banned the AEUP party from participating in this year's election, just one month before the election.

The TPLF immediately started rounding up the AEUP leadership, its members and supporters from all over the country and threw them in various prisons throughout the country. Five executive and over 48 members are currently languishing in prison.

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Many have been beaten savagely and kept incommunicado. Others have sustained bodily injuries due to inhuman torturing methods like hanging water bottles from their genitals and beatings on their eyes and other sensitive body parts with an intention to get them sign false confessions. Mr. Abraham Getu, the Foreign Relations Officer, for example, has sustained a severe damage to his eyesight and fingers. To this day, many have not been brought to court nor were they told of the nature of their crime.

The TPLF/EPRDF government is not answerable to the citizens. The only answer it has is brute force perpetrated against citizens who ask for justice, or for the hearing of their cases. It continues to act so disdainfully despite protests and the condemnation of the outside world.

The Ethiopian victims and their families are helpless at this time and desperately need the intervention and assistance of the international community. We, therefore, ask your help and assistance to investigate and do whatever is possible to pressure the TPLF/EPRDF government to immediately release these innocent Ethiopians.

For an easy reference, we have attached the list of the victims, their position in the party apparatus and where they are currently incarcerated at.

We are waiting for your considerate response with great anticipation.

Thank you for standing up for the cause of Universal Human Rights.

Seleshi Telahun

Chairman, AEUP USA Support Association