

Meeting at the House of Commons in collaboration with the Third World Solidarity on 16 June 2009 Regarding Ethiopia

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Good Evening!!

Today is an important day for Ethiopians both at home and in Diaspora because the hidden crime committed against them in the name of democracy and ethnic federalism for the last 19 years will be uncovered by our presenters shortly.

Your presence right now in this wonderful room to support the Ethiopian people shows your concern about human right violations in this ancient land. By giving your time for this rewarding issue you have confirmed that you are a friend of the Ethiopian people.

Dear friends and my fellow Ethiopians: The tribal organisation of the minority separatist group, that calls itself TPLF has been committing unbelievable atrocities against the innocent people of Ethiopia by killing, torturing, looting, imprisoning and by destroying the unity of the country. Ethiopians are saddened by the continuous human right violation and vandalism committed by this criminal group. This merciless and barbaric action against the innocent people of Ethiopia will affect healthy cooperation, compassion, understanding and stability. It is very important to know that TPLF will take responsibility for all forms of human rights violations in the area.

Ethiopians have been suffering since this group captured power taking advantage of the unpopular Military regime and the good end of the cold war which enabled it to manifest its hidden and evil acts against the whole nation.

On 15 May 2005, Millions of Ethiopians went out in a stunning number and voted against the ethnocentric narrow minded group. Therefore it is an illegitimate government and is in power through force and intimidation.

Ethiopians have the right to defend themselves using legal and peaceful means and preferred not to sit down and watch when they are slaughtered and humiliated in this civilised world.

Zenawi's regime is bad for the long-term stability of the Horn of Africa. It is bad for the interests of the West. By denying funds for military training and equipment, the United States, the UK, the Russian Federation and other friendly countries need to stand closely with the victims of the Ethiopian people.

Ethiopians are keen to keep the good traditional relationships with all countries, to contribute in defending human rights and to work together with the peace loving international community against direct and indirect terrorists that commit crimes in any form.

That is why we strongly believe that relationships should be built between people of countries but not with dictators like Zenawi. Understanding this fact will greatly help us to create a pleasant atmosphere that touches the hearts and minds of people which ultimately enables us to improve security and development not only in Ethiopia but also across Africa and the rest of the world.

Dear distinguished guests and participants: Allow me to quote from president Obama's inauguration speech which sent a clear message to repressive dictators like Meles Zenawi.

President Obama said "To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history. To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds."

Respected attendees: please consider this message, create solidarity with the Ethiopian people and help us to move the issue further for discussions at higher level in the British Parliament so that Zenawi will face the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the crimes he committed against humanity.

We thank the British Government, the all Party Parliamentary Group on Third World Solidarity, Chair Dave Anderson MP, and the Chair of the Third World Solidarity, Councilor Mushtaq Lasharie for helping us to be a voice for the voiceless Ethiopians.

Thank you very much indeed