

Date: 31.01.2012

**To: The Prime Minister of Norway,**

**Mr. Jens Stoltenberg**

**Your Excellency,**

**The Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.**

First of all, accept our warm greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and we wish you all the best in your political responsibility, career and life. Besides, we wish peace, prosperity and progress to your guest free, hospitable and beloved country, Norway. The reason why we are forced to write this appeal letter is because we have been very terrified, frightened, worried and spending sleepless nights since we came to know about the appalling news of the repatriation agreement your government has entered into with the ethno-fascist regime of Meles Zenawi. This agreement is outrageous and untenable given the escalating and widespread abuses and agreement you have made with Ethiopian and your government to repatriate rejected asylum serious violations of human rights in Ethiopia. These abuses and violations are deliberately and systematically committed by the Meles regime and are well documented and reported by the International Human Rights Organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights watch and the US State Department. The rejected asylum seekers including **us** who have fled the country in search of safety and freedom will risk facing persecution, imprisonment or losing our lives if we are forcibly returned and handed over to the security forces of the brutal regime in Ethiopia.

**Your Excellency,**

We are aware that you are very busy and have tight daily schedules as the head of the government, but kindly request you to give our concern a minute`s attention. We have felt secure and lived in freedom since we came to Norway as asylum seekers some years ago. We have enjoyed the rights which we and other Ethiopians are denied in our homeland Ethiopia even though if it is harder and demanding to live as an irregular in Norway.

As you know, at the moment my country is under the worst dictatorship we have ever faced in our history. This dictatorship is ethnic based and commits atrocities such as massacres, genocide, starvation and incitement of interethnic conflicts and preaching and spreading of hatred among the different communities. It employs the old colonial method of divide and rule. Farmers that are accused of supporting and voting for the opposition parties are systematically abused and punished through the denial of access to fertilizers, improved seeds, humanitarian help and other social services. They are evicted from their fertile farming lands which are leased to foreign investors from China, India and Saudi Arabia and forced to settle elsewhere without adequate provisions and support. The newly graduating students will be denied jobs and further education

opportunities if they do not become the members and supporters of the ruling party or front. Membership and loyalty to the authorities are the keys to job and higher education opportunities. Civil servants lose their jobs for the same reasons. The government has enacted different draconian laws including the anti-terrorism law mainly aimed at penalizing dissent, curbing freedom of expression, free media and cracking down on its opponents and pro-democracy activists.

Journalists of the free press, leaders, suspected members and supporters of the opposition parties are thrown into the worst and notorious prisons throughout the country on trumped up and fictitious charges, exposed to tortures and other inhuman treatments. The recent court charade against the two Swedish journalists is one of the cases and examples in this regard. Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Freedom House, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and other organizations have reported the violations committed against the journalists and freedom of expression. The repressions and injustices in the country are forcing citizens to resort to desperate measures such as committing suicide. The Ethiopian teacher called **Yenesew Gebre** immolated himself on November 11, 2011 to show his disapproval of and in protest to the increasing repression and injustice in the country. He preferred death to humiliation, life without basic human rights and is hailed as Mohamed Bouazizi of Ethiopia.

The miserable rule and repression of the Ethnofascist rule of Meles Zenawi is forcing the ever increasing number citizens to leave the country in search of safety and better opportunities. Many are losing their lives in the Sahara desert and seas while attempting to reach the west. Corruption has been rampant and a chronic problem in the country. Please refer to this link: <http://www.financialtaskforce.org/2011/12/05/illicit-financial-outflows-from-ethiopia-nearly-doubled-in-2009-to-us3-26-billion-reveals-new-global-financial-integrity-report/>. Aid money and emergency humanitarian help are abused as political weapons against citizens. The abuses and excesses of the regime we have mentioned here are only some of the problems citizens face in their daily lives. We do not need to say a lot since you know very well or more than us about our country. We and other Ethiopians were victims in Ethiopia because of our different political views and opinions. This being the reality, we are very worried and wondering as to how and why Norway has decided to send forcibly to a country where we will face torture, imprisonment, abuses, violations and even death because of differing and opposing political opinions and views.

**Your Excellency,**

We are certain that the Norwegian Security Service (PST) is aware of the fact that the Ethiopian regime agents and supporters are closely monitoring, filming and photographing our political activities and identities here in Norway. Many of our friends and us are actively engaged in the struggle for the real democratic change in Ethiopia. If a person is accused of posting “**beka**” (enough) on the net-page and is sentenced to 14 years in prison, it is possible to anticipate what will happen to us who demonstrate, condemn and shout anti-regime slogans publicly.

We Ethiopians know that Norway is the base of one of the strongest Diaspora opposition groups in the West and the Meles regime wants to eliminate, weaken and silence its critics and opponents. We believe that this repatriation agreement is reached deliberately to crush this strong opposition groups in the Diaspora as the regime has done in Ethiopia. We think this forcible deportation may damage Norway's good International image and reputation as the defender of human rights and shelter of the persecuted and those in need of protection

**Your Excellency,**

Therefore, we sincerely ask you and your government to review and reconsider the decision to send back forcibly or deport others and us who are in fear of persecution, imprisonment, torture and inhuman treatment. We once again appeal to you for protection from ethno-fascist regime in Ethiopia until it will be safe for us to return home.

With regards

Fikrie Zelekew Zenebe

Dawit Wasihun Lakew

Rejected Ethiopian asylum seekers

**Cc.**

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The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI), [ots@udi.no](mailto:ots@udi.no)

The Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board (UNE), [postmottak@une.no](mailto:postmottak@une.no)

The Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia, Canada, [obang@solidaritymovement.org](mailto:obang@solidaritymovement.org)

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