



## **Alliance for Liberty, Equality, and Justice in Ethiopia (ALEJE)**

**September 17, 2011**

### **The latest round of repression by a desperate dictatorial regime cannot deter our resolve to struggle for freedom**

The political behavior of Ethiopia's ethnic minority regime and the economic and social stability of Ethiopia have been continuously deteriorating after the infamous May 2005 election. After yet another staged election in 2010, and especially after waves of demonstrations and protests rooted out dictators in North Africa, PM Meles Zenawi's ethnic regime reduced itself into a small group of outlaws that use the legal system as a coer to round up dissenters and ship them to prison camps. In its futile attempt to prevent the inevitable, PM Zenawi's dictatorial regime has literally stopped functioning as a state and has devoted the bulk of its time to evesdropping harassing, arresting, and killing otherwise law abiding citizens in the name of 'terrorism'.

In the last two months, the brutal regime in Addis Ababa has detained and falsely charged foreign and domestic journalists, civil right activists, political party leaders and nationally notable individuals. For example, Woubshet Taye of the Awramba Times, Reeyot Alemu of Fete newspaper, Bekele Gerba of the Oromo Federal Democratic Movement, Oblana Lelisa of the Oromo People's Congress and the two Swedish journalists from the Kontinent News Agency are some but few of the recent victims of Ethiopia's restrictive and equivocal counterterrorism law. All of the above individuals including the two Swedish journalists were detained and condemned with fabricated charges and under the pretext of working with or for 'terrorist' organizations.

Alliance for Liberty, Equality, and Justice in Ethiopia (ALEJE) has been closely following political developments in Ethiopia, and political and economic conditions in Ethiopia have never been as scandalous and as hostile as they are now. Last week Ethiopia's panicky regime took its absurdity one step further to the edge and arrested Ethiopia's most talented actor and political activist Debebe Eshetu on allegations of link to 'terrorist' organizations. Arresting and torturing citizens in Ethiopia is a normal business of Meles Zenawi's regime. Few days ago the regime has also arrested Eskinder Nega, the prominent journalist, Andualem Aragie, UDJ Vice President and Head of Public Relations, Zemenu Molla, VP of AEDP, Natnaiel Mekonnen, Asaminew Berhanu, Council members of UDJ. However, in the case of the recent mass arrest of political



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leaders and distinguished individuals, more than the arrest itself, the charges brought against them and the reasons behind the arrest are surprising, baseless, and ludicrous.

ALEJE strongly believes that the Tunisian street vendor who burned himself to death is not that different from millions of young Ethiopians that endure daily humiliations of ethnic slurs, extreme poverty, soaring food prices, and mental and physical abuse. ALEJE together with other political parties and civic organization urges the Ethiopian people to rise against Zenawi's dictatorship and stop the humiliation of citizens and the bleeding of our nation.

The purpose of the politically motivated arrests and false accusations of the last few months is clear and simple; it is to instill fear in the mind of change seeking Ethiopians. In fact, fear has always been the driving force behind everything the TPLF regime does. However, regardless of what the regime does at this point of time; ALEJE strongly believes that the days of ethnic supremacy and domination in Ethiopia are numbered, and the people of Ethiopia have determined to make 2004 the last year of dictatorship in Ethiopia. At this historical juncture and decisive moment, ALEJE wants to remind the Ethiopian people that the desperate attempt of Zenawi's regime to bid for time is no different from Mubarak's and Gaddafi's last minute cry and machinations to extend their grip on power. After more than 20 years of living under one of Africa's worst dictator, ALEJE believes that now it is about time for all democratic forces to stand together and bring an end to Zenawi's ethnic dictatorship.

**Let us rise up in unison to win our freedom!**

**Victory for the people of Ethiopia!**

### **ALEJE Member Organizations:**

Ginbot 7 Movement for Justice, Freedom and Democracy

Afar People's Party (APP)

Ethiopian Unity and Justice Movement (EUJM)

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