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UNITED ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC FORCES (UEDF)

March 24, 2006

Honorable Ana M. Gomes
Head Election Observer Mission to Ethiopia
European Parliamentarian
Rue Wiertz ASP
15G 146 BE-1047, Brussels

Dear Madam,

It is with great sense of amour that we in the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) value and honor the fairness you showed and the principled contribution you made with respect to the May 2005 Ethiopian election and its aftermath. The Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF), a coalition of 14 opposition political organizations, negotiated with the EPRDF-led government for over a year to make the May, 2005 elections free & fair. Our good faith effort resulted in getting some positive outcomes such as the involvement of international observers like your-self to witness the elections. UEDF continues to fight for a constitutional democratic system with the aim of empowering the people of Ethiopia.

The world has watched the relentless efforts you made to ascertain that the election was fair and free by all standards and fellow Ethiopians have eagerly expected your judiciously compiled final report. All the way, your accomplishment was outstanding and the first of its kind in the European Parliament. It is not only that the vicious dictator Meles Zenawi is left naked by the findings of the report, but you also have set a historic precedence for future election observers should they have to dispose of the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Vicious dictators like Meles Zenawi have, to this moment, pretended to be democrats and have eluded many in the West that they are committed to respecting human rights in order to gain access to their aid and other resources. So far the dictator Meles Zenawi has succeeded to outwit the West and with the support he managed to procure in the name of the people and development, he is able to cling to power only to turn the country to a bastion of misery and horror-hard to imagine in this century. Hence, throughout his 15 years in power, people in every corner of the country have been defiant and remained opposed to his tyrannical rule.

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It was this voice of the people that was prevalent during the entire election process you were able to witness and it is a well known fact that your comprehensive report has made a significant contribution to raise the awareness not only of the European Parliament but also of the world community at large concerning the situation in Ethiopia. We are cognizant of the fact that, because of your determination and your principled stance on human and democratic rights, you have traveled a rough road throughout the Ethiopian election course and have been encountered with series of problems orchestrated by the swindler Meles Zenawi and his cohorts. What else would one expect from a bunch of malefactors who are alien to democracy and rule of law? In fact, we would have been surprised had they not have acted so low.

Dear Madam,

Your address to the huge Ethiopian demonstration in Brussels in front of the European Union on 23 March 2006 where you unraveled the struggle of the Ethiopian people for their inalienable rights enshrined in the Declaration of Human Right, for free expression and for the rule of law, was a public testimony of your belief and commitment not only in theory but also in practice. We salute you for standing on the side of the Ethiopian people as opposed to the ruling dictators whose lust for power is unbridled and at the expense of a nation in agony. Sooner or later, the rising storm of the people will wash away the dictators who shall finally descend to oblivion. Your firm belief in a noble people's path and your endeavor to put it in practice will however remain for ever in the minds of the Ethiopian people. You are already part of our history.

Thank you so much for your vibrant struggle for justice!

Sincerely,

Aregawi Berhe
Vice Chairman - UEDF