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**Ethiopia: Hidden Fascism Unmasked after 14 years of State Sponsored
Terrorism; The Ethiopian Regime should Stop Killing Innocent Civilians**

Ethiopia is situated in the Horn of Africa and has a total population of 72 million people. Ethiopia has been ruled by an ethnic based dictator since May 1991. For the last 30 years in particular, our people endured severe economic hardship and Stalinist dictatorship which threatened to rob their dignity and unity. Our people's demands have been clear and consistent through out. The right to elect a government of their choice, which works to safeguard universal human rights and bring about democracy and economic development. However, the regime which usurped power by sheer force of arms, has been bent on devising policies, which promote fragmentation and inter-ethnic hostility, in their desire to maintain power.

After 14 years of divide and rule ethnic policies of the incumbent regime, the opposition emerged as an alternative to the apartheid regime in Ethiopia. And the first truly multiparty election was held on May 15, 2005. However, when it became evident that the opposition was winning the election, the regime declared state of emergency before even the closure of the polling stations and then after that announced, through its state controlled media, that it was the winner of the election. EU observers have voiced concern over irregular vote counting and biased reports by the state-owned media. The BBC's Mohammed Adow reports that Wednesday's shooting began after army special forces arrived at the central business district, where protesters were throwing stones. To date at least 80 people were killed and more than 100 injured by the security forces only in Addis Ababa. Opposition leaders have been put under house arrest since Monday on the 6th of June 2005. And according to the latest information, over 3,600 Ethiopian opposition supporters remain in jail as nationwide state sponsored terrorism continues unabated and telephone calls to the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) chairman Hailu Shawel were blocked to reach the opposition leader who is under house arrest.

The Ethiopian Community in Belelux cognizant of the dangerous political atmosphere unraveling:

1. Condemns the killing of innocent civilians and demands the government must immediately halt the state sponsored violence in Ethiopia
2. Demands the immediate release of all university students and other political prisoners through out the country.
3. Demands Meles should face International Criminal Court for his Crime against Humanity
4. Demands the government lift the month long state of emergency so that the people can freely express their views.
5. Calls upon the ruling party to desist from actions that create an atmosphere of fear and ethnic hatred among the peace loving people of Ethiopia.
6. Calls on the Election Board to investigate and accordingly rectify the vote counting irregularities as alleged by the opposition and in line with the expressed concern of the EU observers, before making any official announcements on the outcomes of the election.
7. Calls on the government to refrain from using state power to intimidate and harass opposition leaders and supporters of the opposition and the free press.
8. Calls on the ruling party and the opposition to reach a workable arrangement, on the election investigation mechanism, and abide by the verdict agreed upon in advance.