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**ANDINET STÖDFÖRENING FÖR ENIGHET FÖR  
DEMOKRATI OCH RÄTTVISA I SVERIGE**

September 5 2009

The European Union  
Foreign Ministers Conference

Dear Sirs:

Will you shade some light on the plight of eighty million Ethiopians?

It is open secret that the Ethiopian government is among the most repressive and undemocratic in Africa. Despite calls from the European Union, the USA and human rights organizations to broaden the democratic space, the government has continued to escalate repression and authoritarianism. Allow us to highlight some facts about conditions in Ethiopia.

1. As attested by the European Union and other international election monitoring teams, the regime rigged the 2005 election, killed over 200 citizens and summarily imprisoned thousands including opposition leaders.
2. The forthcoming May 2010 election is destined to be total mockery of democracy as none of the parties who champion the people's cause will be participating. They will not participate because institutions like the Election Board, which are supposed to be neutral, are under the direct control of the government. Free press is practically dead, harassment of opposition parties and their leaders has continued, international NGOs which could possibly have served to monitor the 2010 election have been kicked out of the country.
3. The most popular opposition leader, Judge Bertukan Mideksa, languishes in prison with a reinstated life sentence, denied of visits by her lawyers and relatives. This is happening for the second time in four years. The first time, her party won the 2005 election under the watchful eyes of international observers but that election was stolen by the regime.

4. The West's tolerance of Meles Zenawi, despite the person's proven totalitarian traits, emanated from a short sighted foreign policy outlook that Meles is an ally against terrorism. We believe the west has learned two important lessons: (a) that Zenawi's intervention in Somalia ended up further uniting and emboldening the insurgents, and (b) that the totally unpopular nature of the Ethiopian regime among its people and the region at large poses serious threat to the peace and stability of Ethiopia and the region.

Against this background, we hasten to urge the Foreign Ministers of the European Union to examine the objective realities of Ethiopia and take actions that are not dictated by short-term interests with long-term catastrophic consequences. We urge you to be on the side of human right, democracy and the people. We urge you to uphold the principles that make the European Union and do the right thing. Accordingly:

1. We request the EU look into the most repressive political environment surrounding the forthcoming May 2005 election and release a statement demanding a fair and just environment under which opposition parties can participate without intimidation and harassment.
2. We request that the EU prepare to send an election monitoring team like it did in 2005 but with better funding so that most election stations can be covered. We believe the EU should insist that private NGOs be allowed to play an important role in the monitoring process.
3. We humbly request that the EU, in no uncertain terms, demand the unconditional release of Judge Bertukan Mideksa, President of UDJ and the most popular opposition political party. UDJ is an outgrowth of the Kinijit party that won the 2005 election but was robbed of its victory and the right to head a government that could have ushered in democracy and good governance like Ethiopia had never seen in its history.

Sincerely,

### **UDJ Support organization in Sweden**

I the under signed Press chef received this official letter from the Unity for Democracy and Justice Party Support organization in Sweden. I acknowledge this official letter to be handed over to the European Union Foreign ministers Conference.

Anders Jörle  
Presschef

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date September 5 2009

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