



<http://www.hr2003.org>

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**For Immediate Release**

July 9, 2007

## **TIME IS UP FOR ZENAWI! GAME OVER!**

### **IT IS TIME TO MARK-UP H.R. 2003!**

#### **CALL TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE MARK-UP ACTION**

**WE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH, WE WILL WAIT NO MORE!**

On June 26, 2007, supporters of H.R. 2003 (Ethiopia Freedom and Accountability Act) were told that the House Foreign Affairs Committee will delay mark-up of H.R. 2003 by two weeks because of threats to prolong the detention of the Kaliti prisoners of conscience if the mark-up had proceeded on that date. The two-week delay expires in the next day, and WE MUST DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE SCHEDULING OF H.R. 2003 FOR COMMITTEE MARK-UP.

[http://www.ethiomeia.com/atop/mark\\_up\\_date\\_postponed.html](http://www.ethiomeia.com/atop/mark_up_date_postponed.html)

#### **WHY WE MUST INSIST ON AN IMMEDIATE MARK-UP OF H.R. 2003**

##### **Reason #1:**

**Zenawi Wins Each Day Mark-Up of H.R. 2003 is Delayed.**

Zenawi's strategy to defeat H.R. 2003 is simple: [Delay action on the bill.](#) Delay! Delay! Delay! Delay until Congress goes on Summer recess. Delay... That is

exactly what he did with H.R. 5680. Since we know his strategy, our counter-strategy should be: **ACTION NOW! MARK-UP ACTION NOW! FLOOR ACTION BEFORE SUMMER RECESS! WE MUST DEMAND MARK-UP ACTION IMMEDIATELY.**

**Reason #2:**

**Zenawi and his regime avoid accountability for each day mark-up of H.R. 2003 is delayed.**

H.R. 2003 is fundamentally about accountability. For each day mark-up is delayed, Zenawi and his regime are given an opportunity to avoid and evade accountability for the massive human rights abuses they have committed over the past sixteen years, and continue to this very day. Reliable reports over the past few days indicate that **Zenawi has gone berserk**, and is on the rampage imprisoning suspected opponents throughout the country. H.R. 2003 is intended to prevent arbitrary mass arrests and detentions. Recently released prisoners of conscience are being harassed and intimidated, and targeted for further persecution and prosecution. If we want our brothers and sisters to be spared arbitrary arrests and detentions, **WE MUST DEMAND MARK-UP IMMEDIATELY.**

**Reason #3:**

**H.R. 2003 is all about changing the foundation of U.S. foreign policy in Ethiopia, not just about the release of the Kality prisoners.**

Zenawi is currently rounding-up and imprisoning thousands of suspected political opponents. His jails and prisons are filled with innocent people who have committed no crimes, or are charged with crimes for exercising their basic democratic liberties. The massive violation of human rights continues today with the intensity that is often shown by dying regimes in their last throes. We want to strengthen and reinforce the human rights pillar of U.S. foreign policy in Ethiopia by enacting H.R. 2003, and immediately stopping the use of our tax dollars to support a regime described by international human rights organizations as “one of the worst violators of human rights in the world today”. **WE MUST DEMAND MARK-UP ACTION IMMEDIATELY.**

**Reason #4:**

**Zenawi’s strategy is to reduce H.R. 2003 to a simple question of the release of the Kality prisoners. That’s what his lobbyists are telling Congress.**

H.R. 2003 can not be reduced to the release of the Kality prisoners. We must mount a massive campaign to educate members of congress that H.R. 2003 is about instituting democratic reform and accountability in Ethiopia, restoration of the democratic rights of the people, strengthening human rights and civic society organizations, increasing the independence of the judiciary, arresting and prosecuting human rights abusers, torturers and murderers, and bringing to justice the killers of

193 innocent men, women and children and wounding of 763 others, insuring fraud free elections, and removing press censorship and full freedom of the press, among others. Zenawi has been playing games with political prisoners, and continues to play games. Game over, It is mark-up time! **WE MUST DEMAND MARK-UP ACTION IMMEDIATELY.**

(Note: Zenawi says the Kality prisoners have agreed to take some responsibility for the post-2005 elections, but his own Inquiry Commission ruled that his government is **solely** and **exclusively** responsible for the deaths and injuries of hundreds of people. Any agreement they made in jail for their release is made by force and coercion. It has NO legal value, even under Zenawi's constitution.) )

### **Reason #5:**

**Zenawi is getting stonger every day with his mercenary lobbyists pounding the halls of Congress, and is likely to use highly influential American groups to lobby against H.R. 2003:**

Zenawi's lobbyists, his local representatives and emissaries are lobbying hard to defeat H.R. 2003. We believe efforts are being made by particular individuals in Zenawi's service who have ties to groups with considerable influence on Middle Eastern issues to line up against H.R. 2003. We must remain vigilant and undertake a massive increase in our grassroots activities.

### **Reason #6:**

**Zenawi has already declared victory and publicly proclaimed with a picture of a corpse that "H.R. 2003 is Dead on Arrival".**

Zenawi through his mouthpieces has already declared victory, proclaiming that "H.R. 2003 is dead on arrival."

Let's show him that the only things that are "dead on arrival" are the corpses of the hundreds of innocent men, women and children he slaughters everyday in Ethiopia.

H.R. 2003 is very much alive and well! **WE MUST DEMAND MARK-UP IMMEDIATELY.**

**WE CAN NOT SLEEP WHILE ZENAWI'S AGENTS AND OPERATIVES ARE WORKING DOUBLE OVERTIME PROWLING THE HALLS OF CONGRESS**

**MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WANT TO HEAR FROM US!**

**IMMEDIATE MASSIVE TELEPHONE CALL AND FAX CAMPAIGN**

**REMEMBER OUR SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN WHEN SPEAKER  
HASTERT STONEWALLED H.R. 5680**

The Coalition for H.R. 2003 is calling every Ethiopian to make a telephone call and fax a letter to the members of House International Affairs Committee during the week of July 9-13 and 16-20.

We ask all Ethiopians, Ethiopian Americans and all other supporters of human rights to make telephone calls, and fax letters requesting immediate mark-up of H.R. 2003 (sample letter and telephone statement provided below) to the following members (Please FAX. **Do NOT Mail. It takes up to 2 weeks to deliver.**)

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**Sample Letter to FAX:**

**FAX                      FAX                      FAX                      FAX**

**Three Members YOU MUST contact by PHONE and FAX Letter**

**Tom Lantos, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee**  
**Phone 202-225-3531                      Fax: 202-226-4183**

**Donald Payne, Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa**  
**Phone: 202-225-2436                      Fax: 202-225-4160**

**Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ranking Member,**  
**Phone: 202-225-3931                      Fax: 202-225-5620**  
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**COPY AND PASTE**

July..., 2007

BY FAX

The Honorable [Name of Member]  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attention: Foreign Affairs

Dear Representative [name of member]:

I [We] am writing to ask you to place H.R. 2003 on the next mark-up calendar of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and following consideration of the bill to recommend to the floor that the bill as amended do pass.

On June 26, 2007, the scheduled mark-up action on H.R. 2003 was delayed because the ruling regime in Ethiopia through its official representatives had communicated to the Committee that mark-up action on the bill on that date will adversely affect the release of the prisoners of conscience held in Kality prison. I [We] have learned that the Committee in the face of such unprecedented challenge to its institutional integrity nonetheless agreed to delay mark-up action for 2 weeks, which occurs this week.

As you know, H.R. 2003 (Ethiopia Freedom and Accountability Act of 2007) is not merely about the release of political prisoners in Kality prison. It is fundamentally about reclaiming, revitalizing and advancing human rights as a central pillar of American foreign policy. To that end, H.R. 2003 aims to institute accountability and democratic reforms in Ethiopia, aid in the restoration of the democratic rights of the people, strengthen human rights and civic society organizations, increase the independence of the judiciary, assist in bringing to justice human rights abusers are brought to justice, ensure fraud free-elections, and removing press censorship, among many others. Simply stated, it is a bill that aims to institutionalize the rule of law in Ethiopia.

I [We] respectfully request your help in placing H.R. 2003 on the next mark-up calendar of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and following consideration of the bill to recommend to the floor that the bill as amended do pass.

I will call your office in the next day to follow up on this letter. I thank you in advance for your assistance

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Contact Information

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**TELEPHONE CALLS  
GET YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS, CHURCH  
MEMBERS, ANYONE WILLING TO HELP MAKE A CALL**

For some people, calling a congressional office may be a new experience and they may even feel nervous about what to expect or say. But making a telephone call is very easy.

When you make your call to an office, a receptionist will likely answer by saying something like: “Congressman (woman) so-and- so’s office”.

At that point, state your name and explain the reason you are calling.

**My name is so-and-so and I am calling** to ask the support of congressman (woman) so-and-so on H.R. 2003. [If you are in the member’s district, MAKE SURE to say: “I reside in congressman (woman) [mention name] district].

“On June 26, H.R. 2003 was removed from the mark-up calendar of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, to be brought back on calendar in two weeks. I would like to ask Congressman (woman) [mention name] help in getting the bill back on the next scheduled calendar of the Committee.”

**The receptionist might say** something to the effect that “I will get the request/ information to the congressman (woman).

At this point, you could do one of two things: 1) THANK THE RECEPTIONIST POLITELY and tell her/him that you will call in a day or two to find out the Congressman (woman’s) response, or 2) ask to speak to the staff person in the office responsible for foreign policy. If the staff person is not there (usually they are busy with other matters), leave the message above on his/her answering machine and call back later in the day to talk with him/her.

Don't expect results with one phone call:

**CALL BACK**

**CALL BACK**

**CALL BACK**

**CALL BACK**

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### **CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE VISITS**

For those of you who live close to Washington, D.C., or happen to be in D.C. for other business, you are respectfully asked to visit the offices of the members of the House Foreign Affairs committee listed below and speak with staffers. Minimally, drop your letter in PERSON at the Congressional office, **as many as you can visit.**

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### **DISTRICT OFFICE VISITS**

We encourage supporters of H.R. 2003 to visit the district offices of House Foreign Affairs Committee (**if any Foreign Affairs Committee members represent your district**) to take a copy of the letter requesting mark-up action and deliver it by hand. (See list below.)

### **SPECIAL CALL TO ACTION**

#### **To: Ethiopian and Ethiopian American Lawyers**

You have made a solemn oath to defend the cause of justice in your profession. This is your time to stand up for freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia. If you can not help in upholding the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia, who will? Can you stand idle while your brothers and sisters are arbitrarily arrested, tortured and killed? Can you stand deaf, mute and blind when the rule of law is trashed in broad daylight?

#### **To: Ethiopian and Ethiopian American Religious Leaders**

It is true that God helps those who help themselves. But Ethiopia today needs the help of its religious leaders in the churches and masjids. We need your prayers. We also need your guidance, support and cooperation in getting our requests heard not only before the Almighty, but also in the U.S. Congress. We need your help in guiding your members to support the cause of justice in Ethiopia.

### **To: Political Organizations and Political Leaders**

The cause of human rights knows no ideology and has no political stripes. The aim of all political organizations that aim to serve the people is the preservation of the dignity of humanity and the supremacy of law. As individual members of political organizations, you can help Ethiopia and Ethiopians live in freedom and dignity under the rule of law. We need your support in getting H.R. 2003 to the floor of the U.S. House.

### **To: Human Rights Organizations and Advocates Civic Groups and Leaders**

The role of human rights advocates and civic groups and civic leaders in the struggle for human rights has been historic. International human rights conventions in the past century began with the work of human rights advocates and civic groups and leaders working together. You can play a decisive role in getting H.R. 2003 enacted in the U.S. Congress. Take the lead. We will follow.

### **To: Academics, Scholars and Artists**

Scholars, academics and artists have a special responsibility in advancing the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia. You have the skills, training, expertise, knowledge and insights into the complex problems facing Ethiopian society. You can make a special contribution by making your voices heard in Congress. When you speak in your areas of expertise, congress listens.

### **To: Youth Groups and Leaders**

The future belongs to you. You have the energy, the passion, commitment and dedication to the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia. We are waiting for you to lead us? Will you lead us in the Halls of Congress?

### **To: Women Groups, Organizations and Leaders**

We hear only a faint echo of the voices of our sisters in the struggle for human rights in Ethiopia. Your place is to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with your brothers and march up and down the corridors of Congress. Without you our message to congress sounds hollow. Can we count on you to stand with us and speak your minds to members of the U.S. Congress?

### **To: Physicians, Scientists, Engineers and Other Professionals**

You can heal the sick, you can build structures and you can invent wonderful things. It is your time to help heal Ethiopia. It is your time to build democracy. It is

time for you to invent a new future for Ethiopia. Would you join us in Congress and help us make the case for freedom, democracy and human rights?

**To: Journalists**

You are the voices of the people. You help us communicate, share ideas and express our deepest desires and wishes for our homeland. We need you now! Would you help us disseminate our call for freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia?

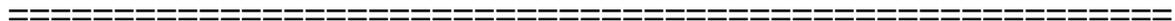


**HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Special Note: For persons living in the following states and districts, please make special effort to contact your members.**

**All Others: Please contact as many members as you possibly can.**

**To find your representative:** <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>



<u>STATE/District</u>		<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>
<b>American Samoa</b>			
Eni Faleomavaega	Amer. Samoa	202-225-8577	202-225-8757
<b>Arizona</b>			
Jeff Flake	6 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2635	202-226-4386
Gabrielle Giffords	8 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2542	202-225-0378
<b>Arkansas</b>			
John Boozman	3 <sup>rd</sup>	202-225-4301	202-225-5713
<b>California</b>			
<b>Tom Lantos (Chair)</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>202-225-3531</b>	<b>202-226-4183</b>
Lynn Woolsey	6 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-5161	202-225-5163
Jim Costa	20 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3341	202-225-9308
Elton Gallegly	24 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-5811	202-225-1100
Brad Sherman	27 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-5911	202-225-5879
Howard Berman	28 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-4695	202-225-3196
Diane E. Watson	33 <sup>rd</sup>	202-225-7084	202-225-2422

Linda Sanchez	39 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-6676	202-226-1012
Ed Royce	40 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-4111	202-226-0335
Dana Rohrabacher	46 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2415	202-225-0145

**Colorado**

Tom Tancredo	6 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-7882	202-226-4623
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**Florida**

Gus M. Bilirakis	9 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-5755	202-225-4085
Connie Mack	14 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2536	202-226-0439
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	18 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3931	202-225-5620
Robert Wexler	19 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3001	202-225-5974
Ron Klein	20 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3026	202-225-8398

**Georgia**

David Scott	13 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2939	202-225-4628
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**Illinois**

Don Manzullo	16 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-5676	202-225-5284
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**Indiana**

Dan Burton	5 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2276	202-225-0016
Mike Pence	6 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3021	202-225-3382

**Massachusetts**

Bill Delahunt	10 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3111	202-225-5658
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**Missouri**

Russ Carnahan	3 <sup>rd</sup>	202-225-2671	202-225-7452
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**Nebraska**

Jeff Fortenberry	1 <sup>st</sup>	202-225-4806	202-225-5686
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**New Jersey**

Christopher Smith	4 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3765	202-225-7768
Donald M. Payne	10 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2436	202-225-4160
Albio Sires	13 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-7919	202-226-0792

**New York**

Gary L. Ackerman	5 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2601	202-225-1589
Gregory W. Meeks	6 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3461	202-226-4169
Joseph Crowley	7 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3965	202-225-1909

Eliot L. Engil	17 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2474	202-225-5513
<b>North Carolina</b>			
Brad Miller	13 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3032	202-225-0181
<b>Ohio</b>			
Steve Chabot	1 <sup>st</sup>	202-225-2216	202-225-3012
<b>Puerto Rico</b>			
Luis G. Fortuno	Puerto Rico	202-225-2615	202-225-2154
<b>Oregon</b>			
David Wu	1 <sup>st</sup>	202-225-0855	202-225-9497
<b>South Carolina</b>			
Joe Wilson	2 <sup>nd</sup>	202-225-2452	202-225-2455
Gresham Barrett	3 <sup>rd</sup>	202-225-5301	202-225-3216
Bob Inglis	4 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-6030	202-226-1177
<b>Tennessee</b>			
John Tanner	8 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-4714	202-225-1765
<b>Texas</b>			
Ted Poe	2 <sup>nd</sup>	202-225-6565	202-225-5547
Michael McCaul	10 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2401	202-225-5955
Ron Paul	14 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2831	202-226-6553
Ruben Hinojosa	15 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-2531	202-225-5688
Sheila Jackson Lee	18 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-3816	202-225-3317
<b>Virginia</b>			
Jo Ann Davis	1 <sup>st</sup>	202-225-4261	202-225-4382
<b>Washington</b>			
Adam Smith	9 <sup>th</sup>	202-225-8901	202-225-5893