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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ETHIOPIA HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION PASSES  
74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2007  
Regular Session, Senate Joint Memorial 3**

**Kudos for the Ethiopian American Association of Oregon and  
Their American Supporters for Enactment of  
Senate Joint Memorial 3**

**From Oregon to Massachusetts, From Sea to Shining Sea,  
America says to Zenawi:**

**“Let Human Rights Blossom in Ethiopia!**

**Let Democracy Unfold!”**

**Let Freedom Ring for “the Noble People of Ethiopia”!**

The Coalition for H.R. 2003 is proud to congratulate the Ethiopian American Association of Oregon, Ethiopians, Ethiopian Americans and friends of Ethiopia in the Great State of Oregon for their successful efforts in passing Senate Joint Memorial 3 in the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

This extraordinary Resolution calls to the attention of the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America the irrefutable facts that:

“Ethiopia, poised at a crucial juncture in its history, is making a dramatic effort to replace tyranny with democracy, [that Ethiopians] are aspiring to resolve their political problems through the formation and utilization of democratic institutions, [that] the basic underpinnings of democratic

institutions in the new Ethiopia should be the supremacy of the will of the people and the guarantee of the rule of law, [that] the Ethiopian government should adhere to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that encourages freedom of speech, assembly, religion and press, guarantees all basic human rights, and discourages ethnocentric politics, and [that] a democratic, multiparty government may be the most egalitarian, feasible and productive political arrangement in providing universal suffrage and overcoming monumental obstacles.”

The Resolution urges the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to play a crucial role in promoting the peaceful resolution of the immense problems facing Ethiopia, and strongly encourages the U.S. government to:

“Demand that Ethiopia free all its political prisoners, encourage the formation of democratic institutions, multiparty participation, progressive social changes and respect for human rights in Ethiopia.

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“Condemn the ongoing, state-sponsored violence against the opposition in Ethiopia and [express its] outrage that the ruling party’s security forces killed 199 unarmed and defenseless protesters on June 6 to 8, 2005.

“Reexamine [U.S.] foreign policy toward Ethiopia and to promote an active foreign policy that declares that the United States does not tolerate dictators that oppress and abuse their citizens.

“Encourage the Prime Minister of Ethiopia to guarantee the safety and security of elected opposition leaders, to release from prison all students, journalists and members and supporters of the opposition parties, and to respect the democratic opposition's right to public assembly and access to publicly owned media, and

“Avert the potentially explosive situation in Ethiopia by supporting a peaceful transitional arrangement.

The Coalition for HR 2003 recently launched a 50-State Legislative Initiative to stop human rights abuses in Ethiopia by **mobilizing American state legislatures to take a stand on the acute human rights situation in Ethiopia**, and urging the release of political prisoners and the passage of HR 2003.

Ethiopians, Ethiopian-Americans and their American friends in the State of Massachusetts were the first to successfully pass a human rights Resolution on Ethiopia. (See link below.) The Oregon Legislative Assembly is the second.

We are very proud that Ethiopian Americans in Oregon and Massachusetts have taken the lead in this trend-setting and unprecedented human rights advocacy effort.

For the rest of us Ethiopian Americans in the other 48 states, we will have to draw our lessons from the exemplary work done by our brothers and sisters in Oregon and Massachusetts. We should take our cue from the Oregon State Song, which has a verse that is applicable to our struggle to improve human rights in Ethiopia.

On-ward and upward ever, Forward and on, and on;  
Hail to thee, Land of the Heroes, My Oregon.

**Now, Ethiopian Americans in Oregon pass the baton to the rest of us with the words: “On-ward and upward ever, Forward and on, and on” for our Ethiopia. Onward Ethiopian Americans in Alabama... Illinois... Minnesota... New York... Oklahoma... Texas...Wyoming.... and on and on...**

**CONGRATULATIONS! ETHIOPIAN AMERICANS IN OREGON!  
WE ARE MIGHTY PROUD OF YOU. YOU INSPIRE US ALL!!!!**

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News article on the Oregon Resolution

[http://www.ethiomediamedia.com/atop/oregon\\_resolution.html](http://www.ethiomediamedia.com/atop/oregon_resolution.html)

Commentary on the Oregon Resolution

[http://www.ethiomediamedia.com/atop/human\\_rights\\_is\\_the\\_winner.html](http://www.ethiomediamedia.com/atop/human_rights_is_the_winner.html)

Coalition for HR 2003 50-State Legislative Initiative

<http://www.hr5680.org/resources/action.pdf>

The State of Massachusetts Resolution on Ethiopia.

<http://www.abugidainfo.com/pdf/resolution.pdf> [English]

[http://www.abugidainfo.com/pdf/ethio\\_americans.pdf](http://www.abugidainfo.com/pdf/ethio_americans.pdf) [Amharic]