

**SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL  
PRISONERS – CANADA (SOCEPP-CAN)**

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**Release all Political Prisoners! Account for the “disappeared”!**

SOCEPP Canada applauds the release of the 38 CUDP leaders, journalists of the free press, and others. It congratulates the “freed”, their families and friends.

Thanks largely to the steadfast efforts of many citizens of Ethiopia, political organizations, human rights and civic society groups, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Parliamentarians and other members of the international community, these political leaders, journalists and others are now out of jail notwithstanding the fact that they may have secured their release on conditions dictated by and/or favorable to the EPRDF government.

It is a well documented fact that today in Ethiopia; tens of thousands of people who are detained because of their political beliefs are still languishing in the dungeons of the EPRDF government prisons. Many others have disappeared. The government has yet to account for the whereabouts of opposition leaders such as EPRP’s Tsegaye G/ Medhin, Sitotaw Hussien, Yishak Debretsion, Amaha Belete and others who were detained in 1991 by the rulling EPRDF/TPLF security forces.

The fate of journalists of the free press such as Berhanu Ijigu remains unknown. Abera Yemaneab of COEDF, who went to Ethiopia for a peace conference in the early 1990s, continues to languish in prison.

Hence, while SOCEPP Canada congratulates the newly released we call upon:

- The Canadian government, parliamentarians, human rights groups and the international community to continue pressing the EPRDF government to release **all** political prisoners immediately and without any pre condition and
- Amnesty International, the ICRC and Human Rights Watch to speak out loudly about the case of the disappeared such as Tsegaye Gebre Medhin and press the Ethiopian government to account for their whereabouts.
- We call upon the citizens of Ethiopia to continue their struggle for the release of **all** political prisoners and respect of Human and Democratic rights for all in Ethiopia.

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