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EPRDF-SF calls on the US to condemn terrorist plots against Ethiopia

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front Support Form (EPRDF-SF) is a worldwide organization that promotes peace, democracy, and development in Ethiopia.

EPRDF-SF categorically condemns the recent foiled terrorist act in Addis Ababa that had targeted the Ethiopian people, and calls upon other peace loving nations and organizations to join hands with the Ethiopian government in denouncing this heinous act in no uncertain terms.

Terrorism everywhere in any shape or form is a deplorable deed and the perpetrator should be brought to justice in accordance with the law of the land. Any attempt to seize power by inciting violence and promoting terrorism among people is a thing of the past, and shouldn't be allowed in present day Ethiopia where there is a constitution that safeguards the rights of all citizens.

Fifteen years to this date, the Constitution of Ethiopia came to life, bearing with it a democratic political process that allowed constructive dialog and healthy debate among competing parties to govern their constituency. The advent of this liberating document paved the way for divergent political views to contend, at times vociferously, vying to gain support from the many people of Ethiopia they intended to lead into the future. As a result, Ethiopia has held three free and fair elections thus far. And now Ethiopia is readying itself to hold another round of election in May 2010.

It is in this background, according to the ongoing investigation reports from Ethiopia that we learned about the recent terrorist plot that was allegedly planned by members of a group that calls itself Ginbot 7, its leader Dr. Berhanu Nega, and other supporters living in the U.S.A and Europe. What is more alarming and frightening is Dr. Berhanu Nega's overt declaration of support and hell bent conviction to continue to use terrorism and violence to achieve his political objective. During an interview on BBC broadcasted worldwide on April 26, 2009, Dr. Berhanu used the opportunity to declare his unflinching support to remove the democratically elected Ethiopian government by any means necessary including violence, even if it costs loss of innocent Ethiopian lives. No one understands better than Dr. Berhanu the potential of his call to cause anarchy and bloodshed. We, members of the EPRDF-SF regret and condemn Dr. Berhanu Nega and those who are knowingly supporting his terrorist undertaking for unlawful political change in Ethiopia.

EPRDF-SF hopes that the U.S. will stand with the Ethiopian people and their government and condemn this recently uncovered terrorist plot. It is disconcerting to us to know the US and Britain are used as the hideout and source of funding for Dr. Berhanu's terrorist



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group. For several years both the US and Britain have been insisting on global cooperation to hunt terrorist groups, freeze their financial assets and close their funding sources. We understand that global security requires committed and reciprocating cooperation. Otherwise, it would be considered a double standard and America and Britain would lose credibility. Ethiopians would start asking why the US allows the likes of Dr. Berhanu to live in Pennsylvania and teach at Becknell University while at the same time laundering money in the US to purchase arms and use it to terrorize Ethiopians who are living on a dollar a day.

There is abundant evidence to show that many who are planning to use terror against Ethiopians are living in America. A case in point is the recent news report by the Minneapolis Star Tribune and other newspapers on US based Somali groups. They cited that these groups had transferred large sums of money for arms purchase and have moved back to train with Al Qaeda and Al Shabab, a terrorist group listed by the US government. Suffice it to say that this makes a strong and healthy Ethio-U.S. counter-terrorism alliance a must and should compel the US to consider taking actions against Dr. Berhanu and his terrorist group.

It is obvious that undemocratic and violent groups and the danger they pose is, therefore, not limited to Ethiopia. These groups are also a threat to the American way of life, a life that is well known for its tolerance and democratic achievements. It is thus incomprehensible for America to harbor groups of individuals with such deep-seated undemocratic political deeds and allow them to roam around without being accounted for their violent and terrorist actions.

EPRDF-SF strongly believes that America possesses the moral authority to stop the violent actions of groups like Ginbot 7 and to continue its ongoing support for the democratic process in Ethiopia.

Finally, it is worth noting that while many of the Opposition political contestants in Ethiopia are organizing themselves to take part in the upcoming election, the groups that are being lead by Dr. Berhanu Nega have chosen to concoct a terrorist plot from their comfort zone in America. Despite this, the process of democratization in Ethiopia continues uninterrupted. This is a testimony to EPRDF's commitment for democracy that is constituted with discipline and respect to the rule of law.

EPRDF-Supporters Forum