Etiopisk Felles Forum I Norge

Organization number: 990141495

Oslo, Norway

To: The Prime Minister

 All Ministers

 Norwegian Media

 Government institutions

Non-government institutions

Journalists and writers

Ambassadors

Others

09.07.2014

**Re: Abduction of Mr. Andargachew Tsige – British Citizen by Yemeni and Ethiopian security forces**

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are writing to you about the recent illegal abductions of Mr. Andargachew Tsige - a British Citizen and Mr. Okelo Ochala Aquai- a Norwegian citizen from Sana´a (Yemen) international airport and South-Sudan, respectively and the failure of the British and the Norwegian Government to provide protection for their citizens. We however are hoping that the Norwegian government is doing all under its capacity through its Foreign Ministry to get Mr. Okelo Ochala Aquai back from the horrible treatment in the Ethiopian prisons accused for nothing that worth trust. Both abductions are orchestrated by the Ethiopian security forces and this illegal action is sending a great message how we Ethiopians who fled the country for political reasons are not safe even outside of the country.

Dear Madam/Sir,

Mr. A. Tsige, a British citizen, a prominent politician and secretary general of an exiled Ethiopian opposition movement, Ginbot 7 was abducted at Sana'a airport on 23 June 2014 while in transit between the United Arab Emirates and Eritrea in contravention of the Vienna Convention.

Mr. A. Tsige, was imprisoned in Ethiopia for his political activities during the ill-fated election of 2005 and has escaped assassination attempts by the dictatorship whose brutality, is well documented by International Human Rights Groups, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States. Mr. A. Tsige, an ardent defender of human rights and a staunch critic of the regime in Ethiopia has been convicted and sentenced to death in absentia by the tyrannical regime in Ethiopia.

We understand that British authorities knew that he was being held in Yemen for some time, but they failed to stop his apparent extradition to Ethiopia. After a long time denial, the Ethiopian regime has admitted that Mr. A Tsige is in their custody and shortly after this news he has been shown on the national television. He was seen miserably exhausted and almost unable to talk because of a two weeks-long torture and ill-treatment.

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are extremely worried about Mr. A. Tsige, because the authoritarian regime in Ethiopia kills any one at will. Ethiopia is led by an ethno-centric apartheid regime where journalists, bloggers, and political cartoonists, let alone political opposition members considered terrorist by its own ‘parliament’ and a man like him who carry a previous death sentence on his head.

Britain, known to have enormous political leverage as a major donor and political ally of Ethiopian authorities despite its appalling human rights record, but still doesn’t even protect its ‘new citizens’, who have fled Ethiopia for reasons of political persecution. This is also true for Norway in relation to the situation with Mr. Okelo Ochala Aquai. Britain is accused of a two-tier citizenship protection it provides to its nationals and those who flee political persecution from authoritarian regimes around the world.

Dear Madam/Sir

We request your immediate intervention and put pressure on the Ethiopian regime and also ask the British Government to guarantee Mr. A. Tsige - a father and a champion of democracy and justice, his personal safety, and ensure his return to his family in the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,

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