

Dear Representative xxxx:

I am writing as a constituent in your district to urge you to add your name as a co-sponsor support ***H.R.128 “Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.”*** introduced by Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and co-sponsored by Reps. Karen Bass (D-CA) Mike Coffman (R-CO) Keith Ellison (D-MN) Robin Kelly (D-IL) Mark Veasy (D-TX)

H.R.128 condemns the killing of peaceful protesters and excessive use of force by Ethiopian security forces; the arrest and detention of journalists, students, activists, and political leaders who exercise their constitutional rights to freedom of assembly and expression through peaceful protests; and abuse of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to stifle political and civil dissent and journalistic freedoms;

Calls on the Government of Ethiopia to lift the state of emergency; end the use of excessive force by security forces; conduct a full, credible, and transparent investigation into the killings in the Oromia and Amhara regions and hold security forces accountable for wrongdoing respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and guarantee the freedom of the press and mass media; allow a rapporteur appointed by the United Nations to conduct an independent examination of the state of human rights in Ethiopia; repeal proclamations that—can be used as a political tool to harass or prohibit funding for civil society organizations and investigate investigate the circumstances surrounding the September 3, 2016, shootings and fire at Qilinto Prison, the deaths of persons in attendance at the annual Irreecha festivities at Lake Hora near Bishoftu on October 2, 2016, and the ongoing killings of civilians over several years in the Somali Regional State by federal and regional police, and publically release a report on such investigations in an expedient manner.

Calls on the Secretary of State to conduct a review of security assistance to Ethiopia in light of recent developments and to improve transparency with respect to the purposes of such assistance to the people of Ethiopia; calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to immediately lead efforts to develop a comprehensive strategy to support improved democracy and governance in Ethiopia; calls on the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to improve oversight and accountability of United States assistance to Ethiopia, pursuant to the expectations established in the United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa; calls on the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Treasury, to apply appropriate sanctions on foreign persons or entities responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed against any nationals in Ethiopia as provided for in the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act; and stands by the people of Ethiopia and supports their peaceful efforts to increase democratic space and to exercise the rights guaranteed by the Ethiopian constitution.

Thank you Kindly for Your Support

Sincerely,