

ፕሮግራም | PROGRAM 2

Sunday: May 31, 2015

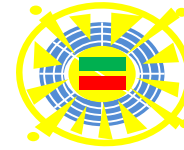
- 9:00 – 11:00 Meto Aleqa, Ayal-Sew Dessye, “ለውጥ በኢትዮጵያ፤ ድግረ-ሕወሓት/ኢ.ሕ.አ.ዴ.ግ - ምን ዓይነት ሽግግር፣ እንዴት?”
Dr. Berhanu Mengistu, “Mediating Political Space for Opposition Parties in the Ethiopian political System: A Conceptual Framework”
Discussant: Ato Ephrem Madebo
Chair: Dr. Almaz Zewdie
- 11:00 – 11:15 *Coffee Break*
- 11:15 – 12:00 Roundtable: What have we learned?
Chair: Ato Betru Gebregziabher;
Rapporteur: Dr. Berhanu Abegaz

Symposium Co-sponsor: Global Alliance for the Rights of Ethiopians (GARE)

Join US • ተቆጠሩ!

- Our upcoming civic education initiative: “Non-violent Methods of Struggle for Civil and Political Rights”
- Please go to our Website, check out *Ethiopiawinnet*, and fill out the membership form.
- Our motto: Citizen engagement in civic affairs is the foundation of democracy.

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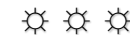
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Ethiopiawinnet:

Council for the Defense of Citizen Rights

A CIVIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Ethiopia’s Transition to an Inclusive Economic and Political Order



ሁሉን-ዜጎች አሳታፊ የኢኮኖሚና የፖለቲካ

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Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel (Persimmon I & II)
8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (USA)
May 30-31, 2015

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www.ethiopiawin.com

WHY THIS SYMPOSIUM? ለምን?

Ethiopia's heroic postwar attempt to institutionalize political and economic freedoms and thereby escape mass poverty has been only partially successful. The Ethiopian people have endured momentous or even seismic experiments with imported fixes such as constitutional monarchy, garrison socialism, and ethnocratic authoritarianism. The country nonetheless continues to display the legacies of its impressive pedigree as a beacon of African independence, an enviable embrace of cultural diversity, and a remarkably resourceful people enduring the indignities of poverty and misgovernance. Remarkably, as they showed the world in the 2005 parliamentary elections, they stand ready to embrace freedom and unity. Sadly, a realistic imagination of a life of free citizenship under an inclusive economic and political order continues to elude the country's vainglorious intelligentsia.

Ethiopia is once again standing at the proverbial crossroads. Its youth have attained universal primary education; disparate communities are today better connected nationally and, through its growing Diaspora, globally; and its geo-strategic significance as a regional anchor has become more evident. These opportunities, however, confront the sobering reality that state elites are currently pursuing a rule-by-conflict mode of governance which risks irreversible polarization of the young generation along the fault-lines of ethnicity and religion. They are waging a multifaceted war on the national identity that is our heritage, i.e., Ethiopiawinnet (ኢትዮጵያዊነት). By eliminating all public space for legitimate political and economic expression and competition, they mock us all into resorting to mutually destructive civil wars.

Ethiopiawinnet: Council for the Defense of Citizen Rights, a non-partisan, international rights-advocacy organization registered in the United States, has come to the conclusion that the time has come for all stakeholders in Ethiopian society to honestly go beyond endemic bickering to search for a realistic new path out of the quagmire. Our civic engagement activities have the objective of making another civil war unthinkable by jointly formulating a game-changing roadmap of peaceful reconciliation and judicious institutional reform for empowering all Ethiopians.

Much has been written and spoken about Ethiopia but precious few have offered evidence-based solutions to its myriad problems. In our view, a successful transformation of the political and economic order must build on the fruitful achievements of the past in three distinct but complementary stages:

- The *first stage* calls for a shared vision of where we want Ethiopia to go. In this regard, *Ethiopiawinnet* has proudly offered the **CITIZENS CHARTER FOR A DEMOCRATIC ETHIOPIA**.
- The *second stage* entails mapping out the political and economic contours through a clinical diagnosis of the binding structural constraints and the requisite reforms to effect an irreversible march toward an open society. We have organized this civic education symposium with the aim of making significant inroads into this challenging task sober deliberation.
- The *third stage* is all about turning these fruitful ideas for reform into the building blocks of a genuinely inclusive transformation of Ethiopian society. This global, all-party initiative must succeed in crafting an enforceable settlement by a united front of notable political parties, civic organizations, and respected community leaders.

We welcome you all. Let the search for solutions begin with utmost eagerness and humility.

In Memoriam:

Prof. Donald N. Levine (ጊ.ቤን), a great Ethiopianist scholar and a proud member of Ethiopiawinnet.

ፕሮግራም | PROGRAM 1

Saturday: May 30, 2015

8:15 – 9:30	Registration of presenters and invited guests
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome: Ato Betru Gebregziabher, <i>Ethiopiawinnet</i> Representative, <i>Global Alliance for the Rights of Ethiopians</i>
10:00 – 12:00	Prof. Alemante Gebreselassie, “The Case for a New Constitution for Ethiopia” Dr. Negede Gobeze, “ህገ መንግስት:-የዲሞክራቲያዊነት ሂደት መቋቋሚያ!!” Chair: Prof. Tecola Hagos
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Break Remarks by Mr. Obang Metho, SMNE
1:00 – 3:00	Dr. Erku Yimer, “Issues and Problems in Defining Major Domestic Stakeholders in Ethiopia” Dr. Msmaku Asrat, “Evolution of State Administration in Modern Ethiopia and the Way Forward” Chair: Dr. Aklilu Habte
3:15 – 3:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
3:30 – 5:30	Dr. Aklog Birara, Reevaluating Ethiopia’s Record on Economic Growth Dr. Berhanu Abegaz, A Pathway from Exclusionary to Inclusionary State and Market Institutions for Ethiopia” Chair: Ato Tekalign Gedamu

(Sunday program overleaf)