

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

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STOP HARASSING POLITICAL LEADERS! RELEASE ALL PRISONERS!

A number of recent reports coming out of Ethiopia indicate that Ms. Mesobework Kitaw, AEUP's spokesperson, and Ms Birtukan Medeksa Chairperson of another opposition UDJ are currently under tremendous harassment by the ruling TPLF/EPRDF security forces.

It is reported that Ms. Mesobework was arrested on Tuesday December 23 and released on the 24th. Ms. Bertukan was ordered to report to the Central Investigation Bureau and intimidated by the security forces allegedly asking her to retract a statement she made in one of her speeches during her tour of Europe.

These actions are the continuation of the repression of political parties and the very basic human and democratic rights in the country.

SOCEPP Canada unequivocally condemns the continued utter disregard of the most basic rights of the Ethiopian people by the regime in power and calls for the immediate secession of all hostilities against the opposition.

We urge the Canadian government, Canadian Human Rights Groups and the international community at large to take immediate and unambiguous action by condemning this seemingly endless political repression in Ethiopia. Ethiopians have time and again demonstrated their desire and readiness to exercise their God-given and internationally accepted basic rights and democratic principles. It is high time that the world, especially the Western World, acknowledges this grim fact and act with purpose so that Ethiopians can have a sense of belonging within the world community.

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