



**Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee for
Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)
Leadership Delegation Visit to the United States**

**For Immediate Release
September 14, 2007**

UPDATE

**KINIJIT LEADERSHIP DELEGATION
PULLING DOUBLE SHIFT**

In response to numerous requests for updates on the Delegation's activities since its arrival on September 9, the Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee is providing the following update.

The Delegation has been hard at work within 24 hours of its arrival, and for the past 4 days has undertaken a number of activities which has required it to work into the wee hours of the night.

The Delegation has been working on three fronts simultaneously. It visited Congress and met with Africa Subcommittee Chairman and author of H.R. 2003 (Ethiopia Democracy and Accountability Act of 2003). The discussions provided a good opportunity to discuss the current situation in Ethiopia and the long term prospects for peaceful resolution of disputes. Congressman Payne shared his views on the importance of human rights in American foreign policy in Ethiopia and the rest of Africa. Delegation members affirmed to the Congressman their deep commitment to human rights, democracy and peaceful resolution of disputes in Ethiopia. The Delegation is expected to revisit Congress on a number of occasions during its U.S. stay, and a number of lawmakers have expressed interest in meeting the Delegation.

The Delegation has received extensive briefings on H.R. 2003 and the Congressional legislative process. The Delegation has been provided substantial documentary material and legislative analysis to help them better understand the positive impact of the bill on Ethiopia, and the critical nature of human rights in the general scheme of American foreign policy.

This briefing is expected to help the Delegation conduct high level discussions with top American law makers and other foreign policy executives.

Delegation members attended the March for Democracy and Passage of H.R. 2003 on the west lawn of the Capitol (across from the Capitol Reflection Pool). In a passionate presentation, Ato Gizachew and Dr. Hailu thanked the estimated 1000-person crowd for their support during their imprisonment, and expressed their dedication to democratic institution-building in Ethiopia. The members were given a tumultuous welcome at the rally.

Various members of the delegation have given interviews to various national media outlets. Kinijit Vice Chair W/zt Birtukan and Dr. Hailu's interview with Michele Keleman was broadcast on National Public Radio. Documentarian Chris Flaherty interviewed Dr. Berhanu and W/zt Birtukan. Dr. Berhanu, whose arrival preceded the Delegation's by several days, has been on various national radio programs. He has made presentations at his alma mater, the New School for Social Research. VOA will conduct interviews with delegation members on its various Amharic and English programs shortly. Ato Brook will participate in the Delegation's first tele-press conference with Ethiopian media on Friday. The Delegation recognizes that communicating with the international and local media is of the utmost importance, and will go out of its way to respond positively to all requests for interviews despite the fact that such interviews are time consuming and require critical balancing with other equally important demands.

The Delegation has invested considerable time in meeting with representative individuals in Kinijit support organizations in the U.S. to learn about issues and concerns. The Delegation believes that a thorough understanding of the issues, problems and competing perspectives is essential in the search for durable, solutions and in strengthening the cohesion of the organization. The dialogue is expected to continue with other representative individuals in the various states during the Delegation travels.

The Delegation's work schedule so far has been grueling, beginning in the early morning and ending long past midnight. It is hoped that in the next week or so, their schedule will be pared down as they begin to travel to different states.

On September 16, 2007, the Delegation will have its first public meeting at the Jewish Washington Congregation located at 3900 McComb Street, NW, Washington, DC. The event is organized by the Kinijit Ad Hoc Committee, Kinijit DC Metro Support Chapter and KNAASO. For more information, please call (202) 541-0556. www.kinijitdc.org.

The Ad Hoc Committee will make further announcements on the continuing work of the Delegation.

Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee

Prof. Alemayehu G. Mariam
Ato Tamagne Beyene
Dr. Solomon Alemu



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CUD Delegation Itinerary¹ -- September 16-Oct 27, 2007

Date	Activity
September 16, Sunday, starting at 1:00 PM	Delegation will hold its first public meeting with Ethiopians in the DC metro Area; Jewish Wash. Cong., 3900 McComb St. NW
Sept 17-20, 2007	Continuing meetings with support groups, US lawmakers, officials
Sept 21-24, 2007	Delegation will visit Boston/Upstate New York
Sept 24-28, 2007	Delegation will return to Washington DC for more meetings, discussions, consultations
Sept 28-30, 2007	Delegation will visit Oakland
Sept 30-Oct 2, 2007	Delegation will visit Seattle
Oct 2-5, 2007	Delegation will visit Las Vegas
Oct 5-7, 2007	Delegation visit Denver and Dallas
Oct 7-11, 2007	Delegation will visit Los Angeles
Oct 11-19, 2007	Delegation will visit Atlanta
Oct 19-22, 2007	Delegation will visit Minneapolis and Chicago
Oct 23-28, 2007	Delegation will return to Washington DC
Oct 27, 2007	CUD North America Chapters' general meeting with Delegation in Washington DC

¹ Any changes to this itinerary will be announced in a timely manner.

