

WINNIPEG MULTICULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM
(WMHRF)

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In view of the series of death threats received by Ali Hussein Saeed, President of the Solidarity Committee for Ethiopian Political Prisoners (SOCEPP), the latest of which was received during the holiday season clearly stating that Brother Ali and his family will be killed, the Winnipeg Multicultural Human Rights Forum (WMHRF) stands in solidarity with SOCEPP in condemning this cowardly act against Brother Ali and his family. This threat to the life of Brother Ali is a result of his firm stand in defending the interest of his community.

Brother Ali is known in the community as a tireless organizer of human rights events who openly speaks his mind on the abuses inflicted in his community. He is a recipient of the Human Rights Commitment Award in 2009 and Gala Award in 2013 for advocating refugees' welfare. Brother Ali is a peace loving person who is merely exercising his rights, such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly in organizing forums and rallies. All these activities are within the framework of democracy and firmly guaranteed by the Laws of Canada and the United Nations' Charter. Section two of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, titled "Fundamental Freedoms," states that "everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: a. Freedom of Conscience and Religion; b. Freedom of Thought, Belief, Opinion and Expression, including Freedom of the Press and other media communication; c. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and d. Freedom of Association. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, states under Article 19 that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and seek ,receive and impart information and ideas through any means and regardless of frontiers. Article 20 states in part that... "everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association." Those who are opposed to the ideas of Brother Ali also have the right to organize rallies and forums following the same provisions to express their opposing views. We in the WMHRF therefore find it detestable that Brother Ali will be threatened because of his firm stand on these Canadian values and social issues. This is undoubtedly a desperate act of people and entities opposed to the community activism of Brother Ali Saeed who is continuously upholding the human rights of the Ethiopian people.

We, the members of WMHRF comprised of different migrant and community organizations and personalities, call on all freedom loving people to join us in condemning this threat on the life of Brother Ali and his family. Let us remain vigilant and decry the atrocities committed against the Ethiopian people and human rights advocates. Human Rights Now! Stop the harassment of Brother Ali Saeed! Stop the threats to the lives of Brother Ali's family! Long Live Solidarity!

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