

April 24, 2010

Mr. Lennart Kotsalainen

Chief of Mission

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Open Letter to the Honorable Lennart Kotsalainen:

I'm deeply concerned by what is happening to Mr. **Araya Tesfamariam**, an Ethiopian journalist who exposed the human right violations of the Meles regime in the now banned ETHIOP newspaper. He was attacked on the evening of April 16 in New Delhi by thugs identified as agents of the Meles Zenawi regime. Araya is a refugee in New Delhi with his 14 years old daughter who is sick and needs constant medical care. Latest reports now indicate that Araya was apprehended by Indian policemen, taken to the underground of the hospital where his 14 years old daughter is being hospitalized and brutally beaten, threatened, and told never to come visit his daughter and/ or face deportation back to Ethiopia. This utter disregard for international decrees by the Indian government and the

damning silence (what may be interpreted as complicity to the injustice) of the UNHCR office in New Delhi goes against its mission and purpose in which it is to protect refugees from politically motivated harm coming from both their country of origin or the host country. I hope and pray that the UNHCR office would do the right thing, by taking a stand in line with the UN charter for Refugees and Human Right declarations. Please help us restore hope in the international institutions like UNHCR to remain untainted by geopolitical interests.

Dear Sir, the brutal act of Meless' regime and the Indian police against this defenseless family is telling the world that those who speak up against injustice are all alone. It also sends a chilling message to a political refugee like me, that the eerie silence of the very office is a failure to see humanity beyond political interest of any or third party involved.

Dear Sir, I appeal to you to uphold the fundamental principles of UNHCR and protect Araya and his family from the ongoing politically motivated murder plot and the criminal complicity by the Indian securities.

Respectfully,

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