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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

MAY 13/2008

OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER GORDON BROWN OF BRITAIN

STOP GIVING AID TO THE REPRESSIVE REGIME IN ETHIOPIA

Prime Minister,

The EPRP and Ethiopians at large have been saddened by the declaration made by the British High Commissioner in Addis Ababa to the effect that Britain has decided to give a 2,5 billion Birr aid to the repressive regime of Meles Zenawi. This is not, of course, the first time that Britain give support to this condemned regime in Ethiopia but Ethiopians have not relented in their call to the British government to stop giving aid and support to a regime that massacres them and has stolen their freely expressed election vote of may 2005.

Whatever the package this big aid may come under (malaria control, helping students, millennium development goal, etc..) it is no secret that most of the aid money will end up in the pockets of the corrupt officials of the regime or will be used to strengthen the repressive arm of the minority regime or to buy arms to wage war against the people in Ethiopia and the region. We all remember that security forces used Land Rovers donated by Britain to the police to ambush and murder in broad daylight, in Addis Ababa, human rights activist and teacher Assefa Maru some years back. Where is the aid money given to this regime over the years? And it would be a glaring double standard on the part of your government, Prime Minister, to hear you make one statement after another opposing election fraud in Zimbabwe and at the same time give massive aid to a regime that is illegally in power in Ethiopia, has committed fraud in May 2005 (a fraud condemned by the European Union itself), massacred more than 200 citizens who protested against the fraud, imprisoned thousands, banned the free press and rules by the force of arms and unbridled violence.

Prime Minister,

The Ethiopian people will surely end the tyrannical rule of the minority Meles Zenawi clique. They are only asking your government not to stand against them and the interests of Ethiopia. The EPRP calls upon you to stop Britain's open support to the repressive and illegal regime in Addis Ababa.

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