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E-mail: passhr2003@hr2003.org
Tel: 323-988-5688 Fax: 323-924-5563
URGENT! For Immediate Release
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LANTOS DIRECTED NOT TO MARK UP H.R. 2003!

ZENAWI BUYS

SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER

EPHREM ISAAC LOBBIES HARD AGAINST H.R. 2003

The Coalition for HR 2003 has learned that Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Tom Lantos was directed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (San Francisco) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (Maryland) not to mark-up H.R. 2003 on July 31, 2007. The reasons for the directive are not clear.

Preliminary investigations suggest that neither Chairman Lantos nor Chairman Payne were consulted prior to issuance of the directive. The Coalition is informed and believes that over the past few days, Zenawi's lobbyists from DLA Piper, State Department officials and others were engaged in intense lobbying of Pelosi and Hoyer. Recent reports in national newspapers and magazines in the United States have documented the involvement of DLA Piper lobbyists to defeat H.R. 2003. <http://harpers.org/archive/2007/07/hbc-90000631>

The Coalition has further learned that Ephrem Isaac, who has recently been masquerading as a "shimagle", has been engaged in intense lobbying efforts against H.R. 2003 in Congress. He was observed visiting various congressional offices today chaperoned and accompanied by Congressman Gary Ackerman of New York. The Coalition is investigating information that Isaac is mobilizing powerful Jewish leaders and groups in the United States against H.R. 2003.

The Coalition respectfully notifies Ethiopian Americans in California and Maryland, particularly in the congressional districts of Pelosi and Hoyer, to prepare for vigorous and intense advocacy in the coming days.

The Coalition will provide further statement on these developments shortly. The Coalition will prepare an advocacy action plan in the near future.