

## **Vigil draws attention to plight of political prisoners**

Join the Solidarity Committee for Ethiopian Political Prisoners at an evening vigil to raise awareness about political prisoners in Ethiopia and other war-ravaged countries around the world.

**Date:** Saturday, August 9, 2008  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Broadway Disciples United Church,  
396 Broadway at Edmonton St., Winnipeg

The Solidarity Committee for Ethiopian Political Prisoners, a human rights organization with chapters in more than a dozen countries, is holding vigils worldwide to acknowledge the struggles of men and women around the world who face persecution for their political views.

"An injustice to any of us is an injustice to all of us," says Ali Saeed, secretary for SOCCEP Canada and an organizer of Saturday's event in Winnipeg.

"This is a good opportunity for all people of goodwill to unite behind a worthy cause," added Saeed, who is, himself, a former political prisoner and victim of torture. He came to Canada more than 20 years ago and now lives in Winnipeg.

More than 50 Ethiopian nationals -- including journalists, teachers, students, trade union leaders and members of political parties -- have been abducted from their homes or "disappeared" in the East African country since 1991.

It's believed most have been jailed or killed by state authorities.

Saturday's event will feature an array of candles, each labelled with the name of a disappeared political prisoner, for participants to light.

The evening will also include authentic Ethiopian music, a traditional meal prepared by locals from the Ethiopian-Canadian community, speeches by community representatives and opportunities for people to find out more about the situation and sign petitions.

Guest will be encouraged to donate \$10, but no one will be turned away based on inability to pay.

For Ali Saeed and his fellow organizers, it is the coming together of friends in the wider community for this important event that will make the vigil worthwhile.

**For more information or to arrange an interview, contact  
Ali Saeed: (tel) 779- 6322 or 997-0906**