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### GAY BASHING TO DIVERT PEOPLE FROM REAL ISSUES

The regime in Addis Abeba has made its laws against gay persons even more stringent but unsatisfied by these measures it has now organized an anti-gay massive protest in Addis Abeba for April 26. The organizers are youth members of the ruling TPLF/EPRDF front, several ministries and the Orthodox Church whose hierarchy is now under State control.

The youth of Ethiopia have many more urgent and serious problems (declining education standards, discrimination, unemployment, and the Orthodox Church has its own problems linked to its becoming one more appendage of the repressive regime. Like in many other African countries, the regime is using the issue of gays to divert people's real focus on serious problems plaguing the country. The regime organizes an anti-gay protest at the same time as several demonstrations by secular and Muslim Ethiopians are visible in the capital city. The social unrest is targeted by the regime and the hue and cry against minority gays is set to serve this purpose. In other words, the regime is, as usual, fanning hate and violence while banning peaceful demonstrations against its repressive rule. It is to be noted the President Obama, whose administration backs to the hilt the anti-democratic regime in Addis Abeba and who had strongly criticized gay bashing in other African countries, has yet to utter a word on the ongoing gay bashing in Addis Abeba. If as the regime claims 95% of Ethiopians call for punitive measures against gays, it can surely be said that 99% detest the anti-democratic and ethnic chauvinist politics of the regime in place and this is the first problem that call for immediate attention not only on the part of the people but also on the part of the regimes bankrolling and arming it.

We are duty bound to raise our voices against the duplicitous regime that sells off children and youngsters (both male and female) to predators, encourages child (male and female)

prostitution, tolerates foreigners as they sexually abuse male and female youngsters in specialized (and legal) bars and brothels. A police report last year had revealed that most of the cars parked at night outside of the bars where young male prostitutes operate belong to foreign NGOs and tourists from the Arab countries. The high officials of the regime are loyal customers of nightclubs in which bare breasted fifteen year old girls serve as waitresses and more. An accidental raid of one such club has embarrassingly proved this.

We must stop the regime from using gays as its “sexual” GERD (the so-called Ethiopian Great Renaissance Dam) which was also used to divert the people from their own “spring revolution” and to make them focus on anti-Egyptian nationalism.

Fanning hatred and violence, repressing minorities in the overall grim reality of denying basic human rights should be condemned.

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