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The Ethiopian Medhin Democratic Party (MEDHIN)

September 22, 2010

President Lee C. Bollinger
Office of the President
Columbia University, 202 Low Libraries
535 West, 116th St. New York, NY 10027

Dear President Bollinger:

We would like to express our great respect to you and the great institution of higher learning, Columbia University, from where many distinguished Ethiopian scholars and statesmen have proudly graduated and many are still matriculating at the University.

It is, however, so perplexing to all Ethiopians that the ethnocentric dictator of Ethiopia, Mr. Melese Zenawi, is invited to be the keynote speaker at the University's World Leader's Forum on Sept. 22nd 2010. This is a dictator who willfully landlocked the second most populous nation in Africa. This is a leader of a group that has declared Marxism (Democratic Revolution) controlling all rural and urban lands, small and large manufacturing industries, import and export businesses, financial institutions, construction and transportation enterprises in Ethiopia, while at the same time 12 million Ethiopians are starving and more than 60 % of the youth is unemployed. This is the person who pretends to conduct a "free" and "fair" election while at the same time intimidating voters, rigging elections, and declaring a 99.6-percent outcome favoring his TPLF. This is a dictator that prohibits free movement of goods and services resulting from the ethnocentric division of the country into what Melese calls "Nations" and "Nationalities" with the right to secede enshrined in the "constitution". This is a dictator that muffles national and international media.

This authoritarian regime is the most hated, and arduous tyrant Ethiopians are forced to endure.

In spite of the highly documented atrocities and human right violations committed by Melese's regime, it is surprising that this heinous criminal, Melese, is invited to major educational institutions like the Colombia University and receives billions of dollars from western nations. This could lead Ethiopians to wrongful conclusion that the West is willing to tolerate a person like Melese provided that the dictator is sustaining the West's "national interest."

For the last 19 years, he and his ethnic partners are sustaining the well documented litany of crimes, torture and imprisonment, human right violations, blatant corruption, sedition and genocide throughout the Country. Ethiopia is now Hell Hole of Africa, not to mention the naked violent rigging and celebrate burial of pluralist democracy and the Free Press in an open grave, repeatedly.

The whole world has vouched and given testament as to the veracity of these statements. We urge President Lee C. Bollinger to visit Kaliti, Maekelawi, Kerchele, and other horrible prisons around Addis Ababa, instead of Mekele, during your next visit to Ethiopia for you will have a much better understanding of the atrocities committed by Melese and his ethnic gangsters on innocent Ethiopians.

We hope and pray that the leadership of Columbia University will side with the people of Ethiopia and not with dictator Melese who will be in dust bin of history.

With our highest respects,

The Ethiopian Medhin Democratic Party (MEDHIN)