

# PRESS RELEASE

## OROMO COMMUNITY PEACE RALLY

5<sup>th</sup> May 2008

The members of the Australian Oromo Community Association in Victoria protest against the divisive policies of current Ethiopian 'Tigrean' lead regime based on the following facts:

We came to this country as political refugees seeking humanitarian assistance and descent life. It is a fact that we fled a repression employed by the current minority 'Tigrean' led government of Ethiopia leaving members of our family back home.

Here in Australia we are very much settled along with many other groups from that country (Ethiopia) accommodating our differences as we embrace Australian way of life.

Now the same government that has been the source of enormous atrocities in that country is posturing to have a representation here, undermining our peaceful co-existence to achieve its divisive goals.

Therefore, we protest against this and seek the attention of Australian government and the broader community at large.

Further we draw your attention to the following facts:

- The Oromo people are subjugated to enormous exploitation on their own land in that country along with many other minorities including 'Sidama, Ogaden,..etc.
- There is a continuous gross violation of human rights in Ethiopia well known to the outside world (indiscriminate imprisonments, torture, killings etc).
- As a result of this continuous repression and suffering, Ethiopia represents a major source of refugees in the African continent;
- Lack of basic rights for the majority of people which include freedom of movement, speech, press, peaceful protest, etc.;
- Misappropriation of Oromo and other people's land to non -residents;
- Lack of transparency, accountability and miss appropriation of public funds;

Thus we would like to see Australian State and Federal governments to take all these into consideration before undertaking any co-operation with the current 'Tigrean' government of Ethiopia.

We believe those who value the Human Rights issue will support us in our efforts to expose these matters well beyond our expectations.

Finally we appeal to broader Australian public to be with us and understand the real issues that the Oromo are facing.

**For more information please contact: Aliye Geleto Mo:0432483510 or Salam Mo:0433196751 Email:ocaustralia@gmail.com "End"**

