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Dear Ethiopians, Ethiopian-Americans and friends of Ethiopia

For the last seven months, Ethiopian-Americans across the United States have been lobbying Congressional representatives to press the Ethiopian regime to respect human rights, the rule of law, and the democratic process.

Today, we are pleased to see that Congressman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) has finally introduced a bill (**H.R. 4423**) which calls for "Security, human rights and economic freedom in Ethiopia", for consideration in the US House of Representatives.

H.R. 4423 urges the Ethiopian Government to be more transparent and show its commitment to review the May 15, 2005 national election results in a fair and independent investigation. It also urges the Ethiopian Government to fully engage opposition parties including those who waged armed struggle against the Government in the formation of a new parliament.

Furthermore, the bill states that the government of Ethiopia should ensure the safety and security of journalists of the free press and strongly criticized the government's 2003 Draft Press Law that would impede the ability of the press to operate freely.

Ethiopian-Americans Council strongly believes that HR4423 accurately aims at addressing the current crises in Ethiopia and vigorously supports the people of Ethiopia. **Ethiopian-Americans Council (EAC)** appeals to Ethiopian-Americans and friends of Ethiopia to join Congressman Smith in pressing the ruling party in Ethiopia to abide by international standards of the democratic process and to uphold international standards for human rights.

Nothing short of our rigorous and collective efforts is required to ensure the passage of this bill. Therefore, please take five minutes out of your schedule to call and urge your House Representative to sign on **H.R. 4423**.

If you don't know your representative's name, call the main Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and you'll be transferred to the correct office. To figure out who represents you, visit <http://www.house.gov> and call their Washington office.

Ethiopian-Americans Council (EAC) is a national non-profit and non-partisan organization whose mission is to promote issues that affect Ethiopia and Ethiopian-Americans.

The Ethiopian-Americans Council