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ASSOCIATION DES
ETHIOPiens EN SUISSE

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Urgent action!

Voice your anger to stop deporting Ethiopian Asylum seekers from Switzerland to the hands of the atrocious regime

Article 5. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 3. UN Convention Against Torture & Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatments

- 1. No State Party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.*
- 2. For the purpose of determining whether there are such grounds, the competent authorities shall take into account all relevant considerations including, where applicable, the existence in the State concerned of a consistent pattern of gross, flagrant or mass violations of human rights.*

It is to be recalled that last July the Ethiopian ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Fisseha Yimer has said the Swiss authorities want to deport more than 1240 Ethiopian asylum seekers and the mission had instructions from the Ethiopian Ministry of foreign affairs to issue travel document to any Ethiopian whom the Swiss Authorities want to deport. It was also learned that the Ethiopian Government has signed agreement with the Swiss authorities to take all asylum seekers in exchange of a promised financial assistance.

Daniel Ambachew and **Israel Ambachew** are the latest in the deportation row from Switzerland.

In this harsh winter the immigration authorities dumped the two in an old gardening equipments store of the town in Alpanac Dorf, Canton **Obwalden**. The building doesn't has official address, no electricity and proper heating system. Because of the sever cold, Israel has fallen sick and suffered for long before a benevolent woman saved his life paying for his medical treatment. They have been living on 10 CHF a day, some times they had to search the whole town to find the pay master, who happened to be the town's chief gardener.

Two months ago they were handcuffed and dragged by police who claimed to take them to Ethiopian embassy. After spending two days in prison, the police took them, handcuffed, to Bern city to meet with two persons who said to be representatives of the Ethiopian Permanent mission in Geneva. The two embassy agents asked them few questions which they said just a formality and assured them that nothing bad will happen. Last week the immigration office informed them that their travel documents have been issued by the Ethiopian mission so they have to leave the country. The authorities ordered them to pick their travel document, tickets and 100 Swiss Francs from one office in the airport and handed them travel details to Addis Ababa scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2006 from Zurich airport.

- In Zurich two more Ethiopian Asylum seekers, one woman, are in prison for not leaving Switzerland as ordered by the authorities.
- In some cantons those who refused to sign forms to organise the travel document for eventual deportation receive half of the original monthly social money. Others are returned back to centres from private apartments as a punishment.
- Large numbers of asylum seekers are ordered by police to terminate their work contracts and most of them are denied the right to get unemployment benefits after working for long time.
- Considerable number of Ethiopian asylum seekers are simply abandoned on the streets and others living in substandard conditions.
- One Ethiopian Asylum seeker from Canton Sion is already deported to Ethiopia. His friends say he sent an e-mail from Ethiopia but they could not reach him afterwards for he doesn't replay for their message.
- Dozens disappeared with out leaving a trace about their whereabouts after they receive words from immigration authorities about the issuance of travel document to deport them.
- A lot more are unnerved after being informed that their travel documents are on process.

Mean while the regime in Addis Ababa is feverishly working round the clock to liquidate the world wide struggle of the Ethiopian Diaspora which unmasked its hidden horrific nature to the world consequently calling international condemnation and loss of financial assistance from donors.

By deporting Ethiopian Asylum seekers who are echoing the voice of the millions suffering under the brute guns of the atrocious regime in Ethiopia, back to the ruthless regime's death fields and horrible torture camps where innocent Ethiopians fed to crocodiles and other wild animals, the Swiss government is playing a part in the ongoing brutal repression in the country.

While the international media describe the repression in Ethiopia to exceed any thing in the recent history of the continent and the EU calling the UN to establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate horrendous human rights violation in the country it is a regrettable heartlessness to send those who escaped the horror back to their nightmares.

Send your appeal concerning the two Ethiopian Asylum seekers to be deported to;

Volkswirtschaftsdepartement
St. Antonistrasse 4
Postfach 6061 Samen
Telefon : +41 41 666 66 70
Telefax : +41 41 666 66 75
E-Mail: Migration@ow.ch
Attn: Josef Gasser
Migration Obwalden
Abteilungsleiter

Send your appeal for a change in the general policy of sending back Ethiopian Asylum seekers to;

Federal Office for Migration
Quellenweg 6
3003 Berne-Wabern
Tel: +41 (0)31 325 11 11
Press
Information & Communication
Tel: +41 (0)31 325 92 53
E-Mail info@bfm.admin.ch

Send your appeals to Swiss embassies in your respective countries too.

Swiss Embassies in major cities of the world.

Canada

Ottawa, ON, K1N 8E6

Tel. 001 613 235 18 37

Fax 001 613 563 13 94

E-Mail vertretung@ott.rep.admin.ch

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/canada>

Montréal, QC, H3G 1C4

Canada

Tel. 001 514 932 71 81 / 82

001 514 932 97 57

Fax 001 514 932 90 28

E-Mail vertretung@mon.rep.admin.ch

Toronto, ON, M5H 3Y9

Canada

Tel. 001 416 593 53 71

Fax 001 416 593 50 83

E-Mail vertretung@tor.rep.admin.ch

Vancouver, BC, V6C 3E1

Canada

Tel. 001 604 684 22 31

Fax 001 604 684 28 06

E-Mail vertretung@van.rep.admin.ch

United States

Washington, DC 20008-3499

United States of America

Tel. 001 202 745 7900

Fax 001 202 387 2564

001 202 232 1050 (*Kultur / culture*)

E-Mail vertretung@was.rep.admin.ch

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New York, NY 10017-6706

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Fax 001 404 870 2011

E-Mail vertretung@atl.rep.admin.ch

Chicago, IL 60611

Tel. 001 312 915 0061

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Fax 001 214 871 0879

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Tel. 0032 2 285 43 50

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Fax 0033 1 49 55 67 67

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0244 Oslo

Tel. 0047 22 54 23 90

Fax 0047 22 44 63 50

E-Mail vertretung@osl.rep.admin.ch

Finland

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Fax 00358 9 622 95 050

E-Mail vertretung@hel.rep.admin.ch

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100 41 Stockholm

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Fax 0046 8 21 15 04

E-Mail vertretung@sto.rep.admin.ch

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Fax 0045 33 33 75 51

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Spain

28080 Madrid

Tel. 0034 91 436 39 60

Fax 0034 91 436 39 80

E-Mail vertretung@mad.rep.admin.ch

Australia

Forrest, ACT 2603

Tel. 0061 2 6162 8400

Fax 0061 2 6273 3428

E-Mail vertretung@can.rep.admin.ch

United Kingdom

LONDON

W1H 2BQ

Tel. 020 7616 6000

Fax 020 7724 7001

E- Mail at

http://www.eda.admin.ch/london_emb/e/tool/embassy.html

Thanks for Your Solidarity and urgent action

Ethiopian Association In Switzerland
Support Committee for Asylum seekers

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