



American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

November 9, 2005

His Excellency Meles Zenawi  
Prime Minister  
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
c/o The Embassy of Ethiopia  
3508 International Drive, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

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Washington, DC 20001  
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Edward J. McElroy  
PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

Antonia Cortese  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

VIA FACSIMILE: 202-587-0195

Dear Prime Minister Zenawi:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to protest the arrest on November 1<sup>st</sup> of Mr. Kassahun Kebede, the chairman of the Addis Ababa branch of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, and the occupation of the union's headquarters by the police.

The arrest of Mr. Kebede and the occupation of the ETA's headquarters represent serious violations of internationally recognized human and labor rights standards. Mr. Kebede should be released immediately and the offices of the teachers' union should be vacated by the police.

While there is social unrest in Ethiopia, it is unacceptable for your government to attack a teacher union leader and trespass on union offices. I will be informing the U.S. government of our interest in this serious matter. Please let me know of the steps you will be taking to release Mr. Kebede and remove the police from the ETA offices.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy  
President

EJM : dlp opeiu#2 afl-cio

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