



Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front Support Forum  
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Ms. Nicole C. Lee  
President  
TransAfrica Forum  
1629 K Street, N.W. Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20006

April 7, 2010

Dear Madam President:

We are members of the African Diaspora, particularly the Ethiopian diaspora community, who espouse the positive changes that are taking place in Ethiopia under the leadership of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the duly elected and current governing party in Ethiopia.

We are writing to you to voice our disappointment at your sponsorship of and planned participation in a conference aimed at derailing the on-going socio-economic developments and democratization in Ethiopia.

We are well aware and greatly appreciate TransAfrica's past unrelenting struggle to end colonization of Africa and apartheid in South Africa. We commend TransAfrica's current purpose to nurture cooperation among Africans in the continent and ALL 150 million African descendants; its ongoing concerted effort to increase African American presence in international affairs and encouragement for a positive US foreign policy towards Africa; and its determination to promote democratic system of governance in Africa.

We share your mission of enhancing good governance in the continent of Africa and share your determination. We believe that the present day Ethiopia is a shining example of what your organization aims to achieve in Africa. Reputable financial institutions attest to the fact that Ethiopia's economy is growing at exceptionally high rate for a non-oil producing country. In Ethiopia today infrastructure is being built to provide universal healthcare coverage and to make elementary, secondary and tertiary education widely available. And most importantly Ethiopia is getting ready for the fourth national election to be held May 23, 2010 in which over sixty political parties are engaging in televised debates and vying for high level Federal and Local political positions all over the country.

Therefore, it is in light of this reality in Ethiopia-an African success story-that a group of people who advocate violence and insurrection to acquire political and economic power have organized a conference deceptively titled "Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa: Conference on Governance, Peace, Security, and Development."

It would be remiss of us not to let you know we are disheartened to learn about TransAfrica's sponsorship of and planned participation in their conference and your organization becoming accessory to people advocating violence and chaos in Ethiopia. Instead, we cordially invite TransAfrica to go on fact-finding mission and learn the facts on the ground like you did in other African and Latin American countries, because we honestly believe organizations such as yours can be misused by individuals who don't share the aspirations of the African people for whom you relentlessly advocate.

Cc: Ms. Joia Jefferson Nuri  
Mr. Mwiza Munthali