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The Ethiopian Students' Union
in Europe

To:

Amnesty International
International Commission of Jurists
UN Commissioner for Refugees
all peace and democracy loving governments and organizations

Eversince the military regime appeared in the political scene in Ethiopia, the consolidation of its political power has been intimately tied with escalating political oppression and violation of human and democratic rights in the country.

The results of this oppression are simply ineffable, let alone the unbearable damages that has costed the country in terms of the lives of thousands of innocent citizens, loss of almost a whole generation of intellectuals! over 3 million political refugees, over 40 000 political prisoners, etc etc.

Through strict press cencurship and control over the out flow of information, the military regime and its Eastern Europe allies are fevershly trying by whatever scheme to project a wrong picture about Ethiopia in order to keep the world openion ignorant about the grim realities in the country. In concequence, it has been difficult to wage a concerted action against the violation of human and democratic rights in the country.

Since may 1977 and in particular since the Soviet Union and East European countries arrived on the political scene in the country the political oppression has taken another dimension geared towards crushing all opposition force not only at home but also abroad. As a result of this Ethiopian citizens in East and West Europe are subjected to one of the worst forms of perscution that have never been experienced previously. The violation of human rights of these Ethiopian citizens outside the country is taking two forms.

In East Europe where the military regime enjoys full participation of the governments of the allied countries: 1. All organisations that

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oppose the military regime have been curtailed. 2. All members of such organisations or individuals that oppose the military regime are forbidden their freedom of movement. These individuals are not allowed to renew their passports and travel outside the country where they are studying or living. (Incidentally this exceptional rule on visa restrictions applies only to above mentioned category of Ethiopian citizens).

3. Ethiopian citizens that oppose the military regime are threatened to lose their scholarships and sent back home, etc., etc. Cases in point are: in 1978 an Ethiopian student in Czechoslovakia was thrown in prison for no other reason than being suspected to oppose the regime in Ethiopia. Today the whereabouts of this individual is not known. In August 1979 the Hungarian government threatened to send all Ethiopian students that oppose the military regime back to Ethiopia where prison and assassination waited for them. Through violent protests from our organization and with the help of Amnesty International and UN Commissioner in Geneva these students were given political refugee in West Germany. Likewise, in the Soviet Union a number of Ethiopian citizens have been forced to flee and take refuge in the West as a result of the threat of the Soviet government to hand over these students to the military regime. If we wanted to present all the crimes that are being committed by the military regime and its allies in East Europe against the violation of human rights of Ethiopian citizens it would be necessary to compile a book.

In the West, where the military regime is unable to enjoy a full collaboration of Western governments in persecuting oppositional forces it has resorted to such measures as refusing to renew passports to such individuals and encroach their freedom of movement. Consequently a number of these victims have been forced to take political refugee.

Our organization has on several occasions appealed to humanitarian and democratic organizations concerning the violations of human rights of Ethiopian citizens both at home and abroad, however, the

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results have been marginal. We consider this serious problem as a matter of immediate urgency and therefore call once again upon all freedom, democracy and peace-loving organizations and governments to condemn this act and use all means at their disposal to help us in our struggle for the respect of human and democratic rights of Ethiopian citizens.

With friendly greetings

Ethiopian Students Union in Europe

Executive Committee

September 25 - 1980



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P.M.A.C . Addis Ababa

Ministry of Foreign Affairs . Addis Ababa

To All Ethiopian Embassies