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**United Ethiopian Democratic Forces
Support Committee in the UK**



OPEN AND SINCERE PLEA TO:

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

UNICEF

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE RED CROSS

THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:

**50,000 ETHIOPIANS IN GRAVE DANGER IN LEBANON
WITHOUT HELP**

**By the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces [UEDF-SCUK] Support
Committee in the United Kingdom**

We are aware of that there are about 50000 Ethiopians in Lebanon. According To Solidarity Committee for Ethiopian Political Prisoners (SOCEPP), they are all being exposed to grave and life threatening danger as the situation in Lebanon worsens. These are the people who were working in Lebanon at very low levels. They have been working under extreme difficulties. Many do not even hold their passports as they are confiscated by their employers. They are stranded, abandoned and exposed to constant bombardments that threaten their lives. They are now short of the basic necessities for life. They are displaced. They are crying for help.

A few have been taken by their employers. The Vast majority have been abandoned. Some dozen have already been wounded. There is no report on the number of deaths while all indications are that there may well be casualties.

While other countries are reaching and saving the lives of their citizens, the Ethiopian Government did not yet show any significant initiative.

As this issue is purely a humanitarian concern, we do not want to indulge in the ongoing political crisis in Ethiopia. However, the records of the Ethiopian Government on human rights is now being reflected in this flagrant neglect of those innocent citizens.

Therefore we appeal to all humanitarian organizations to do at their most possible to reach to these helpless and voiceless Ethiopians.

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The report from the Ethiopian regime regarding the assistance being given to these stranded people is found to be grossly inadequate. One of those wrong reports is the statement from the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs published on the Ethiopian Herald on 20 July 2006, stating that '... the first batch of Ethiopians have arrived in Syria from Lebanon through an effort to rescue them from being victims of the ongoing crisis in the country. ... the Ethiopian Consulate General Office in Beirut has been providing the necessary assistance...' The actual fact on the ground is totally different. When those troubled persons contacted the Ethiopian Consulate, they were told that the only way they could be helped is if they can afford to pay for their travel expenses. Certainly most of those who are already suffering from hunger and thirst cannot afford to cover those expenses. They are gathering together and crying for help to rescue them from their exposure to the-life threatening constant bombs. They are on fire.

Therefore, we plea to the mandates of your good offices, in the name of humanity, to reach these grossly endangered people, as a matter of urgency, and save their lives, **by resettling them in alternative safe countries, as well as helping those who wish to return to their country.**

With Regards,

**United Ethiopian Democratic Forces Support Committee in the United Kingdom[UEDF-SCUK]
27 July 2006
London**