



**Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee for
Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)
Leadership Delegation Visit to the United States**

**For Immediate Release
August 17, 2007**

**KINIJT LEADERS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE
IN THE U.S. ON AUGUST 29, 2007**

The Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee for Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) Leadership Delegation Visit to the United States is pleased to announce the scheduled arrival in the U.S. of six top Kinijit leaders on August 29, 2007.

The Delegation to the U.S. will include Ato Hailu Shawul, Chairman of CUD, W/T Birtukan Midekssa, Vice Chair, Dr. Berhanu Nega, Addis Ababa Mayor-Elect and members Dr. Hailu Araya (Spokesperson), Ato Brook Kebede and Ato Gizachew Shiferaw.

The Leadership Delegation is visiting the United States and Canada at the special request of numerous Kinijit support groups. The Delegation will travel to various locations in the U.S. by invitation of local support groups. A separate delegation will be headed for Canada.

The Leadership Delegation has specific objectives during its visit to the United States and Canada. The Delegation would like to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to all Ethiopians who have worked and prayed for their release since their imprisonment in

November, 2005. The Leadership deeply appreciates the efforts of all Ethiopians in North America, Europe and elsewhere for their moral support and vigorous advocacy not only for their release, but also in support of the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia.

The Leadership will take this special opportunity to thank the tens of thousands of Kinijit support group members in the U.S. and Canada for their substantial material and moral support for them and the Kinijit organization during their long months of imprisonment. The Delegation looks forward to confer, dialogue, consult and deliberate with its support group members during its North American itinerary.

The Delegation is eager to interact with all Ethiopians on matters of collective interest and concerns, and looks forward to engaging in constructive discussions and exchange of ideas and views for viable solutions.

Representatives of Kinijit support groups are working in full cooperation with the Ad Hoc Committee to facilitate the itinerary of the Leadership Delegation.

Work is currently underway to set up events and activities that will maximize interactive opportunities for the Leadership Delegation during their North American tour.

The Ad Hoc Committee will make further public announcements on events and activities in due course.

The Ad Hoc Committee urges all Ethiopians in the United States to welcome the CUD Leadership Delegation with great enthusiasm and warmth. These are heroes who have suffered unjust imprisonment, untold suffering and daily privations and threats for so long only because they won an election and the heart and minds of the majority of their countrymen and women. These are the true defenders of freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia. **THEY DESERVE A WELCOME FIT FOR HEROES AND HEROINES.** Ethiopians in North America, prepare to meet and greet the true Patriots of Ethiopia!

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Ad Hoc Committee members include human rights advocate and defender Prof. Alemayehu G. Mariam, performing artist and television host Tamagne Beyene and development expert Dr. Solomon Alemu.