

Addis Ababa University have been expelled and required to forgo continued activity and political organization in order to re-register. The repeated detention of publishers and editors of independent (but sometimes irresponsible) newspapers is often perceived to be politically motivated. There is evidence of government interference in the internal governance of a trade union confederation. NGOs are subject to close government control through a rigorous registration procedure which does not include adequate provisions for the establishment of advocacy groups and human rights organizations. The closing down last July by Ethiopian authorities of offices of the Oromo Relief Association appears to have been arbitrary and an abuse of judicial procedure, although the ORA is still pursuing legal redress.

The overwhelming dominance of the EPRDF (and its tradition as a close knit armed revolutionary movement) requires a special effort on the part of the government to reach out and ensure sensitivity to the spectrum of public opinion that respects the rule of law, in order to advance popular confidence in electoral democracy and encourage broader democratic participation.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada remains supportive of the evolution of democracy, the rule of law and a market economy in Ethiopia. Canadian policy is to work with the Government of Ethiopia to establish the systems and institutions required for Ethiopians to enjoy their fundamental human rights, as guaranteed by the new constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Canada has on repeated occasions made representations to the both federal and regional governments on behalf of illegally detained individuals.

Canada actively supported the electoral process, working with others to encourage wide participation in the May 7, 1995 electoral process, contributing over \$1.4 million for electoral materials and an election monitoring group as well as intensive monitoring of the entire electoral process by Canadian Embassy staff. Canadian assistance also included support for independent electoral monitoring by local Ethiopian groups. Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable André Ouellet, cancelled participation by an official group of election monitors from Canada when the Ethiopian government refused to admit one of the members because of NGO affiliations. Canada views the May 7 elections as a step forward in the democratic process, while recognizing many shortcomings in the conduct of the elections.

Canada has provided assistance to the work of the Special Prosecutors Office in bringing to justice perpetrators of atrocities under the Mengistu regime. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is currently planning two major bilateral projects to directly promote human rights and improve regional governance (decentralization and regionalization). Canada also sponsored a seminar for judges in December to strengthen the judicial system in Ethiopia.