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Kinijit's Los Angeles Support and Development

Association for Democracy (KINIJIT)

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Los Angeles heard from Kinijit International Leadership

Dr Mogus Gebrmariam Kinijit International (KIL) Chairman and Ato Daniel Assefa member of Central Committee of CUDP & KIL were guests at a town hall meeting called by Kinijit's Los Angeles Support group on March 4, 2007 at St. Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Church reception hall. At this event both Dr Mogus and Ato Daniel delivered a transparent, vibrant and informative speech.

Kinijit Los Angeles's vice chairman Ato Getachew Abate opened the town hall meeting by welcoming the guests and the audience. He spoke about the responsibility our forefathers left us, specifically the Adawa victory and lessons to be learned. At the end of his speech he introduced Dr Tilahun Yimenu, Kinijit Los Angeles support organization Chairman. Dr Tilahun briefed the audience about the activities of Kinijit Los Angeles Support group. He echoed the recent election and acknowledged the efforts of the members. At his speech, Dr. Tilahun reminded the public the agreement of the Los Angeles Support organization members, to focus their efforts on relevant issues concerning our country Ethiopia and our leaders in jail. He said the members of Kinijit Los Angeles Support are not interested in a shouting match nor they are interested in answering baseless accusations. Rather, he said we are focused on member participation, transparency and accountability. He also invited the public to become members and assist the organization by every possible means. He described at length the organizations strong come back by putting emphasis on transparency, member participation, and establishing a strong audit committee. He also announced that the organization had set up a four member fact-finding commission to investigate issues of past financial activities by the prior chairman.

Ato Daniel Assefa, spoke about Kinijit International activities and gave several encouraging words to the audience. This young man electrified the audience. Ato Daniel declared his special appreciation for the Los Angeles chapter for the burden it had to bear and the ability to host such a wonderful gathering. He used a relay race analogy to stress the need for each and every one of us to continue the struggle Kinijit leaders handed us. He said our jailed leaders don't even entertain any sympathetic remarks because of their incarceration. He told the audience that Dr. Berhanu told him not to feel sorry for him and his compatriots just because they are in a smaller jail cell, because, Ethiopia is currently a large prison for its citizens.

Ato Daniel reminded the audience, due to the intense repression in Ethiopia, the responsibility on the Diaspora is becoming greater everyday and the need for a radio station is immense since all private media are muzzled after the election of 2005.

Dr. Mogus Gebre Mariam gave a very warm greeting to the audience and gave a detailed explanation of how Kinijit was struggling with the undemocratic elements within the leadership even before the formation of KIL. As requested, by LA Chapter, Dr Mogus explained the past issues that were hovering in the minds of some. He said he understands the hardship the support group in Los Angeles had to go through, since he had to tackle the same problems in Washington D.C.

While discussing about KIL, Dr. Mogus explained that KIL is mandated by the jailed leaders to lead the worldwide struggle for democracy only up to their release. KIL is not mandated to change the peaceful method of struggle or to negotiate on their behalf.

At the end of the presentations, questions from the audiences were addressed by the panel. Before the conclusion of the meeting a fund raising request was made and generous Ethiopians contributed starting with Dr Mogus.

The meeting was concluded on a hopeful note wishing freedom for all prisoners of conscience in Ethiopia. After the meeting the audience mingled and treated with snacks and refreshments.

Kinijit is the Way!

Kinijit's Los Angeles Support Organization