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Kinijit Minnesota Support Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release of Minnesota Kinijit Support Organization on the Release of CUD Leaders from Prison

July 20, 2007,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

After over a year of illegal and immoral incarceration of CUD leaders by the Woyane regime, we are elated to hear about the release of our beloved and courageous leaders today. We share our excitement with all those who supported and campaigned for their release. At this happy occasion, we would like to:

- Congratulate their families and friends, who suffered immeasurable agony over the last year.
- Express our gratitude for the Ethiopian community of Minnesota who faithfully showed up at rallies and numerous candlelight vigils demanding the release of our leaders even during Minnesota's frigid winter.
- Extend our gratitude to our religious leaders who upheld the prisoners in their prayers and kept the spirit of Ethiopians upbeat about the struggle.
- Thank our numerous American friends, Congressional Representatives and Senators who supported our cause.

The concerted and universal pressure put on the Woyane regime finally paid-off. The internal and international ostracism and isolation it suffered forced it to finally cave-in and release the CUD leaders.

As we celebrate today's victory we should not forget the sacrifices made by our:

- Fallen heroes and heroine of democracy in Ethiopia who were murdered by the regime after the 2005 election;
- The numerous families whose lives have been totally ruined by the killing of their sons, daughters, husbands, wife, sisters, brothers and close relatives;
- The thousands of individuals who were dismissed from their jobs and other means of livelihood for their “crime” of supporting CUD and;
- Finally we will not forget the hundreds of peasants in the rural districts who are still languishing in jail for nothing other than their support of CUD.

Today’s victory ushers a new chapter in the struggle for democracy, individual freedom, the rule of law and human rights in Ethiopia. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our unreserved support for CUD’s policy of peaceful struggle for political and economic democratization in Ethiopia. We also reaffirm our unflinching support to the fire-tested and mature leadership of CUD.

Long live the struggles of Ethiopian people against tyranny

Long live the Spirit of Kinijit

Minnesota Kinijit Support Organization, Minneapolis, Minnesota