



## EVANGELICALS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

### **Evangelicals for Human Rights (EHR) Joins With The Solidarity Movement For a New Ethiopia in Calling for End to Genocide and Dictatorship in Africa**

***For immediate release –September 10, 2009***

(Atlanta, GA) Evangelicals for Human Rights (EHR) hopes to raise awareness of the mounting problems in Ethiopia and other nations in the Horn of Africa by joining with the Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia (SMNE) in issuing a call to end genocide and tyranny. This effort includes an invitation to all Evangelical Christians to join SMNE and other coalition members who are sponsoring the march, in front of the US Capitol on the afternoon of Sunday, September 13, 2009 to shout with one voice, *“We have had enough genocide and dictatorship in Ethiopia and Africa!”*

“The leaders of Evangelicals for Human Rights have been profoundly influenced by a growing understanding of the role of the church in Nazi Germany which stood by silently or, in some notable cases, actively supported Hitler as the spectre of the Holocaust grew in Europe,” said Executive Vice President Steven D. Martin. “The cry of 'Never Again' extends across the globe to include all of God's people, especially when the world's attention turns a blind eye toward growing threats of genocide.

According to a recent press release from International Crisis Group, ethnic strife is exploding in Ethiopia, reaching the level of an emergency.<sup>1</sup> The church in the west must not be silent. Whenever ethnicity comes before humanity, or differences of religion, culture or nationality, the Great Commandment to love God and neighbor is violated to all of humanity's detriment. We are called to stand firmly with those victimized by tyranny, wherever and to whomever it occurs.”

The Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia (SMNE) emerged out of an ethnically based human rights advocacy group, which itself was founded in response to the brutal massacre of 424 educated leaders from the tiny Anuak ethnic group of southwestern Ethiopia in December of 2003, which has been defined as meeting the definition of genocide by Genocide Watch. Evangelicals for Human Rights (EHR) grew first as response by evangelical Christians to the abuse and torture of prisoners in US custody after the attacks of 9/11. EHR joins with SMNE in stating clearly that **“no one will be free until all are free.”**

Evangelicals for Human Rights urges all people of faith, especially evangelical Christians, to prayerfully listen for news coming out of Ethiopia and other east African nations in the days and months ahead.

**Evangelicals for Human Rights** (David P. Gushee, President), seeks to reaffirm the centrality of human rights as an unshakable biblical obligation fundamental to an evangelical Christian social and moral vision.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6300&l=1&m=1>