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A LETTER OF TESTIMONY

DR TILAHUN MEKONNEN

My name is Wondimu Mekonnen, a retired academic from the University of Buckingham and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. I have also been an active human rights activist for several years, leading the Ethiopian Civic Consortium UK, which includes the Ethiopian Teachers Association Support Group, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission Support Group, and Ethiopian Free Press Journalist Association Support Group.

I am writing this testimony regarding Dr Tilahun Mekonnen, an academic and a human rights advocate.

I came to know Dr Tilahun Mekonnen under his Pen Name “Yegonchaw Tilahun” in the 2000s through his intellectual contributions communicating on the “Ethiopian Electronics Distribution Network” regarding the human rights violations in his birthplace in Ethiopia. He was not just a prolific writer, but also an accomplished poet, whose poems mainly concerned the killing, detention, disappearances, and vanishing of people into exile. An example of his poem can still be seen on my personal blog:

<https://wondimunekonnen.blogspot.com/2011/12/yegonchawyahoo.html>

Dr Tilahun is known through multiple articles and literary works published on multiple social media platforms. He gave interviews to Ethiopian Satellite Television and radio.

Dr Tilahun organized Ethiopians living in Sheffield and surrounding areas and led them to many demonstrations and vigils held in London to air the concerns of British citizens of Ethiopian origin and refugee Ethiopians living in the UK.

Dr Tilahun never missed a single conference held in the UK. On several occasions, he led and participated in public gatherings and meetings to raise awareness in the international community about the plight of Ethiopians under the yoke of successive tyrannical regimes, from the Dergue era, through the TPLF to this day, the Prosperity Party, dominated by OPDO, one of the components of the previous EPRDF.

Right now, he is actively campaigning for the daily bombarded Amhara region of Ethiopia to stop the drone attacks on civilians and the ethnic cleansing of Amharas from the Oromia region. On top of that, he is playing a vital role in consulting community groups on how to form lasting alliances and a joint approach to advance common interests.

For anyone interested in knowing more about the activities of Dr Tilahun Mekonnen, I will be more than happy to give more information on his role in advancing democracy and the rule of law, as well as what I know about his academic achievements.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wondimu Mekonnen', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Wondimu Mekonnen

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