



Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Minister of Foreign Affairs
German Presidency of the EU

April 26, 2007

Dear Minister,

Brutal repression and massive unrest took place in the aftermath of the 2005 Ethiopian general elections, which the EU Election Observation Mission declared short of meeting international standards for free and democratic elections.

A trial of many prisoners, including elected MPs, journalists and human rights defenders, all of whom contested the outcome of the elections, began in May 2006. Charges can potentially lead to death penalty sentences.

The fairness of the trials has been seriously questioned. The EU Council and the Commission have been paying for the observation of the trials, but no reports on that observation have been shared with the European Parliament, despite repeated requests. Are we to understand that the EU Council and Commission will continue to cover up for the Ethiopian regime in what these political trials are concerned?

Or will you seek to put an end to the prevailing secrecy policy and lead the Council to agree to share with the European Parliament the reports already submitted by the EU observers experts, namely Mr. Michael Ellman, Mr. Roger Briottet or any others who have been following the trials in Addis Ababa on behalf of the European Commission and the European Council?

Yours sincerely,

Ana Gomes, Member of the European Parliament
Head of European Union EOM to Ethiopian elections in 2005

Anders Wijkman, Member of the European Parliament
Head of the European Parliament EOM to Ethiopian elections in 2005

Jan Marinus Wiersma, Member of the European Parliament
Vice-president of the Socialist Group