

ETHIOPIAN AMERICAN CIVIC ADVOCACY

Attention US Tax Payer!

Your money is being used to reward a brutal regime

The World Bank is giving a quasi-blank check to the Ethiopian government, supposedly to help the country's poor population.

Here are just some of the Ethiopian government's accomplishments in the past 14 years:

- Committed genocide against a small and marginal ethnic group, the Anuak of Ethiopia, by raping Anuak women, and torturing and killing educated Anuak men in front of their family
 - Massacred over 200 innocent civilians for conducting peaceful demonstration in Awasa
 - Gunned down in broad daylight over 100 innocent civilians in June and November of 2005, for peacefully demonstrating against election irregularities
 - Shot a mother and wife in front of her husband and daughter for crying and pleading with a soldier not to arrest her husband, an elected government official
 - Threw over 40,000 innocent civilians into military camps in remote parts of Ethiopia heavily invested with malaria. Shaved detainees heads using single razor blades, thus subjecting them to the risk of HIV/AIDS
 - \$21 BILLION dollars of your and other Western country citizens' tax dollars given in foreign aid over in the last 14 years, and Ethiopia is still one of the poorest countries in the world.
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Sadly, the World Bank has a history of financially supporting governments run by ruthless dictators. Not only disregarding the lives of the poor but also that of their own staff: "In late 1970's a Zairian army unit attacked uncooperative resident representative of the IMF and World Bank. **The soldiers beat him up and raped his wife and daughters** with strong sign of complicity. The two institutions nevertheless kept lending."

-William Easterly, The White Man's Burden, p. 149

The World Bank, which provided \$18.5 billion in aid in 2003, should withhold money from governments that are antidemocratic, or that violate their people's human rights. To lend money to tyrants is to strengthen them and to become complicit when they stamp on their people's rights, especially the rights of their impoverished citizens. To lend money to one-party states is to lock in their hegemony, and to ridicule the dignity of people outside the party. To lend money to well-kept dictators

is to enslave their citizenry, who even after the **dictator is gone must repay principal and interest** — to the bank.

-Shirin Ebadi, a law professor at the University of Tehran, won the Nobel Peace Prize for 2003.

***-Amir Attaran is a professor of law and population health at the University of Ottawa
- New York times June 16, 2004***

What Can I do? There is a LOT you can do to avoid your tax money being used to coddle the Ethiopian dictator!!!

1. Call World Bank representatives listed below and demand that all your tax dollar money for Ethiopia should be spent directly on investment projects only rather than budgetary support which is basically a blank check to the Ethiopian Government. The World Bank is now distributing the money through regional government offices indirectly to the government budgetary accounts.

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