



**በኢትዮጵያ የቅንጅት ድጋፍ ኮሚቴ
OAKLAND KINIJT
SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

**Oakland Fundraising Event for the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)
Was a Great Success**

On May 15, 2005 over 25 million Ethiopians went to the polls with an overwhelming majority voted in favor of The Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) to power. Unfortunately, however, the EPRDF Government refused to honor the election result. Instead of accepting defeat and transferring power to the people, the government arrested the leaders of the opposition on fabricated charges, massacred peaceful demonstrators and imprisoned journalists, civic leaders and human right activists.

Commemorating last years historically unprecedented showing at the polls, the support group for the Coalition for Unity and Democracy in Oakland had a successful fundraising event on May 13, 2006 in Oakland. More than three hundred Ethiopians from the Greater Bay Area attended the event. Professor Adugnaw Worku mesmerized the audience by reading one of his poems about the political situation in Ethiopia. This was followed by a short play where actor Tesfaye Sima exhibited his extraordinary talent.

The Keynote speaker was Ato Solomon Bekele, a high ranking official of the CUD Support Group in the United States. Ato Solomon thanked the audience for continuing to support the Ethiopian cause. Also, he gave an update on the political and economic situation in Ethiopia and briefed the audience of the achievements of CUD Leadership in the United States.

He was followed by Artist Tamagen Beyene who called upon all Ethiopians to continue to be vigilant until democracy and the rule of law prevails in Ethiopia. He pointed out that until those democratically elected CUD leaders and all other political prisoners are unconditionally releases and political power is in the hands of the Ethiopian people there will not be a representative government that will conduct its business in a transparent manner. He stressed that until that happens we Ethiopians will not be able to free ourselves from the yoke of tyranny. Congratulatory messages from Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Congressman Ron Dellums and Oakland mayoral candidate were read.

The audience was visibly moved by the presentations. It raised more than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to finance the political activities of CUD. There seem to be a strong commitment to organize and take part in a series of political activities until democracy and rule of law take hold in Ethiopia.