



Citizens League of Ethiopian-Americans

Open Letter to Ethiomedia Readers

On August 26, 2006 Ethiomedia.com carried an article entitled "[Deputy Prime Minister Addisu Legesse's San Jose Meeting boycotted](#)" wherein it reported that Citizens League of Ethiopian-Americans (CLEA) was among the organizers who hosted a meeting for the ministers' visit at Cisco Systems corporate headquarters in San Jose, CA. The Board of Directors of CLEA would like to make it very clear for the record that CLEA was in no way, shape or form involved in arranging this or any other meeting for the minister, and as such, the information regarding CLEA in the said article is patently false.

While we understand the challenges of running an internet news outlet, and that sometimes incorrect information can be published, there is also no doubt that such factual errors, if left uncorrected, erode the confidence of the reader and credibility of Ethiomedia. We therefore respectfully ask Ethiomedia.com to retract the statement regarding CLEA in the report.

Since the posting of the article on Ethiomedia, we have received numerous inquiries. This is not the first time erroneous statements have been made against CLEA. For more than three years in the making, we have encountered deliberate attacks and willful misinformation. We would like to take this opportunity to once again reiterate that CLEA is a transparent, non-partisan, non-profit organization committed primarily to advocate the interest of Ethiopia and Ethiopians living in the US. We strive to build mutually beneficial relationship with elected officials, public offices and institutions. We strive to ensure, wherever and whenever possible, that public representatives develop an understanding about our people, country, and history that will assist them in supporting our communities here in the US and to the extent possible, help point attention to the myriad of challenges our country faces. It is in this spirit that nearly four years ago CLEA established the Ethiopian Caucus in congress with the help of our local representative Congressman Mike Honda.

CLEA welcomes criticism and the opportunity to engage members of our community and their concerns. We are committed to the highest standard of transparency and maintain an open door policy for anyone to come to our monthly board meeting and raise any number of issues. We encourage critics, like we have in the past, to take this opportunity and have an open dialogue towards constructive ends for the benefit our community.

For more information about CLEA please visit www.ethioamericans.com For inquiries please email us at info@ethioamericans.com

Sincerely,

CLEA Board of Directors