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Schibbye and Persson are Our Heroes

Press Release

Ginbot 7: Movement for Justice, Freedom and Democracy strongly condemns the Tigrayan People Liberation Front's (TPLF) Kangaroo court verdict against the Swedish Journalists, Martin Schibbye and Johan Persson.

One of the important roles of journalism is to ensure government accountability and effectiveness by reducing the information gap between officials and constituents and inform citizens to defend their interests. Unfortunately, this role has never been recognized by P.M. Meles Zenawi, his government and his party, the TPLF. In the context of P.M. Meles Zenawi's journalism, "journalists" are those who amplify what he and his party says.

Since Meles Zenawi's ascend to power in 1991, the independent media, the free press and journalists have been his regime's prime targets. As a result, hundreds of them are thrown to jail, tortured and maimed; and yet many more are forced to exile. Currently, dozens of young Ethiopian journalists and columnists are languishing in the Meles Zenawi's prisons. In all of these cases, Ethiopia's kangaroo court has been instrumental in indicting and convicting the journalists.

As long the message is not in line with the whims of his ruling party, P.M. Meles Zenawi's hate to journalists knows no border. The two Swedish journalists, Martin Schibbye and Johan Persson are among the very few foreign journalists who are paying a huge price for trying to tell the truth about the man made problems in Ogden. Their case has also served as an eye-opener to the world at large to what has been done in Ethiopian courts for the last twenty years.

Ginbot 7 pays tribute to Mr. Martin Schibbye's and Mr. Johan Person's courage and professional sanity. They are Swedish heroes; but they are Ethiopian heroes as well. Ginbot 7 and the Ethiopian people stand with peace loving people of the world for the immediate and unconditional release of Martin Schibbye and Mr. Johan Person.

Ginbot 7 appeals to world community to take actions against Meles Zenawi's tyrannical regime. The regime could not have survived so long without the unreserved support it gets from the Western world.

Ethiopia shall be free from tyranny!