

# Press Release: Enough Project Releases Policy Statement on Bush Administration's 'Transition Land Mines' in Somalia

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**WASHINGTON D.C.** – The Enough Project at the Center for American Progress issued the following statement today regarding the growing crisis in Somalia:

As the Bush administration prepares to leave office, it is taking three ill-considered actions that threaten to exacerbate the already catastrophic situation in Somalia and tie the hands of the incoming Obama Administration. The Bush administration is: 1) urging Ethiopia to keep its armed forces in Somalia until after the administration leaves office; 2) pushing for authorization of a U.N. peacekeeping mission to protect the fractious and impotent Transitional Federal Government after Ethiopia's departure; and 3) moving to place Ethiopia's arch-rival Eritrea on the U.S. State Department's State Sponsors of Terrorism list. There is little indication that the Bush Administration has thought through the implications of these major steps that would not only prolong the violence on the ground, but would hijack the incoming Obama Administration's policy prerogatives while leaving it with an even more intractable crisis in the troubled [Horn of Africa](#).

"These eleventh hour shifts in policy will only create more blowback for the United States in the region, and serve as a de facto recruiting tool for the hard-line Islamist militia, or [shabaab](#), that is wrapping itself in a mantle of Somali nationalism fighting foreign forces," said Enough Project adviser,

and long-time Somalia expert, Ken Menkhaus, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Davidson College.

Ethiopia is currently scheduled to withdraw its forces from Somalia by the end of 2008 as part of the fragile U.N.-led Djibouti peace process. The two-year Ethiopian occupation of southern Somalia has been a magnet for violence and a growing insurgency in Somalia. By urging Ethiopia to maintain its presence in the capital, Mogadishu, the Bush administration is handing the shabaab a recruitment bonanza while undermining the credibility of moderate Somalis seeking to advance the Djibouti process.

“The Bush administration policy in Somalia has not only been ineffective, it has made the situation on the ground considerably worse,” said Enough Project co-Chair John Prendergast. “It is not too much to ask that the Bush team practice the maxim of ‘first, do no harm’ before they depart. The incoming Obama administration should have the chance to rethink Somalia policy, including its counter-terrorism dimensions, without having to react to a firestorm of bad ideas weeks before the inauguration.”

The Bush Administration is also pushing for a U.N. Security Council resolution to authorize a U.N. stabilization force for Somalia to replace departing Ethiopian troops. This is a bad idea on a number of fronts, and there is zero indication that the administration or the U.N. is serious about putting in place a genuinely credible force. There is no thirst among member states to contribute troops in Somalia at the current moment, and whatever U.N. forces could be scraped together would surely become the main target of insurgent attacks. In short, the Administration is pushing the United Nations to authorize a force that is designed to fail. This policy is the worst of both worlds: U.N. forces would be unlikely to create political or military stability in Somalia while giving shabaab militias a new foreign occupying force to attack.

Finally, by placing Eritrea on the U.S. State Department's State Sponsors of Terrorism list, the Bush administration would push Eritrea into a corner precisely at a time when they are willing to demonstrate some flexibility. There may or may not be sufficient evidence to make the case against Eritrea, but such a strategically significant determination should not be made by a lame duck administration. This determination has the potential to spoil U.S. peacemaking efforts in Sudan and Somalia, and could deepen the crisis in the Horn of Africa by fueling already intense antipathies

between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Designating Eritrea as a State Sponsor of Terrorism would have no purpose other than to shrink the Obama administration's diplomatic room for maneuver in the region while possibly making the very real counter terrorism imperatives in Somalia more difficult to achieve.

እዘን ኣብ ላዕሊ ብዝተፈላለዩ ሕብሪ ንምግላጽ ብዘሸግር ተጻሒፊን ብምርኣይ ገለ ከይርኣናዮ ዝተረፍና እንተሎና ንክትርእይዎ ብማለት እዩዎ ጀባ በሉ። ነዚ ሓሳብ እዚ ዝገለጸ ናይ ኢናፍ ፕሮጀክት ሓላፊ ብዘይ ሓደ ጸገም ንሓደ ሰሪሑ ንህዝቡ ዝሓሰብ መንግስቲ ብሓንቲ ናይ ስራሕ ብስለት ዘይብላ ወይዘሮ ጃንዳይ ፍሬዘር ነቲ ናይ ኦሞ ምምሕዳር ዕንቅፋት ንምፍጣር ዝተኣልመ እዩ ነይሩ ይብሉ። መንግስቲ ኣሜሪካ ብዝኾነ መልክዑ ምሉእ ሓበሬታ ብዘይብሎም ኣባላት ወጻኢ ጉዳይ ሚኒስተር ንመንግስቲ ኤርትራ ኣብ ዘይግብኦ መዝገብ ንምስፋር ዘይተኣደነ ግዜ ፈተነታት ተጌሩ ግን ከም ኢናፍ ፕሮጀክትን ካልኣት መስተውዓልቲ ፖለቲከኛ ከም ዶናልድ ፕይን ዝኣመሰሉን እቲ ሓቁ ኣብቲ መሬት ምስ ረኣዩ ዝበሎ **“እዞም ህዝቢ ብዘይ ስራሕን ድሌት ሰላምን ካልእ ኣበር ዘይብሎም ንጹሃት ህዝቢ እዮም”**። ስለዚ ጠቕኑን ጸለመን እምበር ነዚኣም ሰሪሕና ርእስና ክንክእል ንዝበሉ ኣገናዕ ምተባህሉ ነቶም ብብልሽውና ዝተቐማጥዑ ድማ ካብቲ ዝኣተውዎ ዓዘቕቲ ዓመት መጻ ምልማን ንክድሕኑ ከምቲ መንግስቲ ኤርትራ ትገብሮ ዘላ ቅዱስ ኣሰራርሓ ንክክተሉ ምትብባዕ እዩ ዘድሊ ነይሩ። እዚ ግን ብኣንጻሩ ሓገዝ ኣይደልን ንዝበለሰ ግድን ተቐበል ንሕና ኣሎናልካ ተዘይኮነ ከምዚ ክትከውን እናበልካ ምፍርራሕ እንታይ ኣድለዩ። እቲ ዝገርም ድማ ናይ ዝሓለፈ ምምሕዳር እንተበልናስ ሕጂውን ዝገደደ ማዕቀብ ዝብሃል ደርፊ ክድረፍ ንሰምዕ ኣሎና። ከም ዝከከር ኣብ ግዜ ቃልሲ ዝሰማዕናዮ ድራማ ድምጺ ሓፋሽ ትዝ ይብለኒ፡- ድሙ ቆብዕ ፈላሲት ጌረን ንኣናጽ ይዕድመኣን እሞ፡ እዚ ቆብዕ ከጥዕመልክን ይብላ ኣናጽ፡ ኢታይ ድሙ ድማ ዝሓለፈ ናይ ጽልኢ ዘበናት ይትረፍ ሓድሽ ዝምድና ንፍጠር ኢላ እዩ ፈሊሰ ይብላ፡ ኣዩ ኣደይ ኢታይ ድሙ፡ **ወዲ ድሙ ነይገድፍ ገብረእሙ** ንስክን ክትሃድናና ንሕና ኣብ ጉድጓድና ኢለን ተፈልዖ። ነዚ ድራማ ምክንያት መበገሲኡ ድማ ብቐሻ ካርተር ዝተኣልመ ናይ ደርጊ ዕርቂ ከም ዘይሰርሕ ንምግላጽ ከም ዝነበረ እንዝክሮ ሓቂ እዩ። ኣብ 2006 እዋኑ ናይዚ ወርሓት እዩ ነይሩ ናይ ወያኔ ወታሃደር ተሃንዲዱ ንሶማሊ ኣትዩ ከም ናይ ጎይቶቲ ንስክላ ብክንደይ ክሳራ ተኣርሚዱ ወጹኡ። ኤርትራ እቶ ኣይበለቶ ውጻእ ውን ኣይበለቶን። ተገዲዱ ኣትዩ ከምታ ናይ ኣጅካ በሃልቲ ድማ ናይ ሶማልያ መስርሕ ሰላም ከይሰርሖ ብምትራፉ ዘሕምቐ ኣለኒ በትሪ ሃቡኒ ኮይኑ ማዕቀብ ዝበሃል ኣረጊት ደርፊ ንእዝንና የጽምሞ ኣሎ። እሞ እዛ ዓለም እትብሃልሲ እዝና ድሙ ድያስ ኣንጭዎ በሊዕዎ ዘይትሰምዕ ? ፍትሒ ዘይትህብ ብዓመጽ

ዝተመልኤ ከስዔ ሓዛ ነቶም እዝና ዝቐረጽዎ ተፈራርሓዮም እምበር ሓኾተ ዝኾነ ህዝቢ ኤርትራ ምትንካፉ ቀፎ ንህቢ ብቐትሪ ምትንካፍ እያ ትመስል። እቲ ብ2003 ዝተፈርደ ናይ ዶብ ጉዳይ ኣብ ግብሪ ንኸውዕል፡ ናይ ጎረባብቲ ሰላም ምውሓስ ንኸፍጠር ጸዕሪ ምክያድ ናይ ለባማት እንከሎ ናይ ባሃማት ሓዊ ምንዛኡ እንታይ ኣምጽኦ። ሱዳናውያን ነቲ ምስ ሓደ ክፋል ነይቲ ሃገር ዝነበሮም ዘይምርድዳእ ምንባሩ ይዝከር። እታ ልምስቲ ኣስናን ዘይብላ ሕቡራት ልሙሳት መንግስታት እትበሃል ይኹን፡ እታ ተረፍ ናታቶም እተልምጽ ናይ ኣፍሪቃ ልሙሳት ማሕበር ኣብ ኣዲስ ኣበባ ዝተደከነት፡ ወይከኣ ኢጋድ እትበሃል ብህጻና ዝለመሰት ማሕበር ነዚ ጉዳይ ጎስዮንኦ እየን ሓለፊን።ንማለቱ ዝገበርዎ ፈተነውን ኣይነበረን። እቲ ጉዳይ ግን ቦታ ንእሽቶ ኢሎም ዝዛረቡላ ግን ዓብን ውሕሉልን ዝኾነ መንግስቲ ዘለዎ ሃገረ ኤርትራ ነቲ ጉዳይ ኣድቂቓ መርሚራን ዘትያን ናብ መዕለቢኡ ኣብጹሓ ሰላም ኣብ መንጎ ኣሕዋት ሱዳናውያን ከምዝሰፍን ምግባራ ምስክር ዘደድልዮ ሰናይ ተግባር ኣመዝጊባ እያ። ሰብኣዊ መሰል፡ ደሞክራሲ ወዘተ ዝብልዎ ድማ ናይ ለምቅነ ምዕዝምዛም ይገርመና ኣሎ። ነዘን ቃላት እዚኣተን ኣብ መዝገበ ቃላት ናይተን ሃገራት ከመይ ከም ዝትርጉመኦ ዝፍለ ኮይኑ እምበር ኣብ ሃገረን ዘሎ ግዕዝ ከይጸረጋ ናይ ዘይምልከተን ጉዳይ ብዝነደዩ ናይ ወያኔ ሳምቡእ ዘተንፍሱ ውሑዳት ክቐዘም ምስምዑ እቲ ገመል ይኸይድ እቲ ከልቢ ድማ ዒራ ኣስናኑ ወዲኡ እዩ ይነብሕ ንብለኩም። ዝተረፈ ኣብ ላዕሊ ሰፊሩ ዘሎ ከምዘለዎ ቀሪቡ ስለ ዘሎ ሰናይ ንባብ።

### ሓውኩም ደላይ ሰላም

Enough is a project of the Center for American Progress to end genocide and crimes against humanity. Founded in 2007, enough focuses on the crises in Sudan, [Chad](#), eastern Congo, northern Uganda, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. Enough’s strategy papers and briefings provide sharp field analysis and targeted policy recommendations based on a “3P” crisis response strategy: