

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

November 28, 2005

Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to express my deep concern with the human rights situation in Ethiopia, and to urge the Administration to take steps to address the deteriorating political crisis and rights violations taking place.

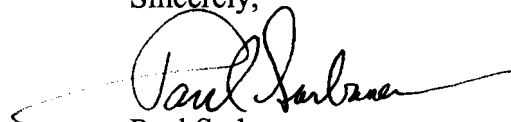
As you know, the unrest in Ethiopia stems from frustration over the disputed results of the May 15 legislative elections. There have been two major violent outbreaks, in June and November, resulting in more than 80 dead and several hundred injured, as well as ongoing protests and a significant number of arrests - as many as 1000 this month alone. I am gravely concerned about the government's indiscriminate targeting of citizens, and the fact that many have been detained without charge or trial, in violation of due process. Further, the government has failed to disclose the location of all of its detention facilities or to ensure that detainees are being treated humanely and in accordance with the basic standards of international law.

Although the United States signed a joint statement on November 6 together with European governments calling on Ethiopia to remedy these problems, there has been little progress to date. I would urge you to make clear to the Ethiopian government that continuing abuses will not be tolerated, and that further U.S. economic and military assistance will be conditioned on substantial improvements in these areas.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to promote an end to the violence devastating Ethiopia and to ensure that basic human rights are restored.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul Sarbanes
United States Senator