

For immediate release

August 22, 2012

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Congressional Caucus on Ethiopia and Ethiopian Americans Statement:

**Passing of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi**

Early yesterday, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi passed away due to illness after leading the country for 21 years. My sincere condolences go out to his family, friends, and supporters. Meles Zenawi's commitment to Ethiopia was unwavering in spirit and practice. His role in promoting peace and security in the region and developing the economy of Ethiopia was unparalleled. Yet in the wake of his death, it is critical that the governments of Ethiopia, the United States and all Ethiopian allies harness this moment to renew our commitment to achieving a more equal and prosperous future; one which is inclusive of all of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Diaspora and the Horn of Africa. The domestic and regional implications of this moment must not be underestimated. We have an unique and imperative opportunity to work together to chart a path forward towards a robust and comprehensive approach to human rights reform and the opening of political space for democratic reform. As Founder and co-Chair of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus, I look forward to working with the Ethiopian Government to ensure stability, equality and justice in the bright futures of both Ethiopia and the broader Horn of Africa, while also lending support to Ethiopian-Americans during this time of transition.

Sincerely,

s/ Michael M. Honda

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Founder, co-Chair of Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus

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*The Congressional Caucus on Ethiopia and Ethiopian-Americans works to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Ethiopia and is a legislative voice for Ethiopian-Americans across the United States. The Caucus serves the Ethiopian-American community as it continues to grow in population and influence, and supports the community's interests both here and in Ethiopia. For more information on please call (202) 225-2631 or visit [http:// honda.house.gov/ethiopia.shtml](http://honda.house.gov/ethiopia.shtml).*