



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A creative COVID safe Campaign is being curated by 20 Melbournians who are undertaking a hunger strike for 48 hours. Australian Oromo communities have rallied to support a campaign against 2019 Nobel Prize recipient, PM Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia for imprisoning Oromo opposition leaders in Ethiopia.

Locals are angered that Ethiopia's most prominent political commentator, Jawar Mohammed (pictured centre), who featured in sold out Australian tours is in danger of dying; he is currently on hunger strike in a notorious Qalitti prison in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa after surviving attempted assassination and being blocked from participating in the national elections of Ethiopia in 2021.

Mohammed and fellow government opposition leaders, Bekele Gerba and Hamza Borena (pictured) are also imprisoned, despite supporters in Ethiopia numbering 50 million. Their fate remains dire and concerned Melbournians are angered by the Ethiopian ruling party's lack-lustre response to grave human rights abuses. Blatant abuses include security forces that defied Ethiopian court orders to grant opposition leaders access to healthcare services in civilian hospitals. Military vehicles barricaded the hospital gate; leaders refused to be treated there for fears of being poisoned to death.

On Wednesday 24th February, local Melbourne Oromos will undertake creative covid safe ("#StarvingForJustice") campaign, which will comprise dressing in yellow to support the striking prisoners, hiring mobile trucks to rally around the Melbourne city, conducting a 48 hour hunger strike sit in at parliament house in Victoria and allowing multiple small but passionate groups to collectively voice their anger, frustration and concern in a responsible and creative way: They seek to attention the Ethiopian government responsible for its gross human rights violations and degradation of human dignity.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=TLGG-NULsIWvYZkyMzAyMjAyMQ&v=WXyYdlpnpPY&feature=emb_title

Media enquiries are encouraged and welcomed.

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