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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0606**

October 22, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C., 20520

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C., 20220

Dear Secretaries Pompeo and Mnuchin,

I write to you as the Representative of the Congressional District that has the largest population of Ethiopian constituents in Colorado. My Ethiopian American constituents and I are highly concerned about the actions and abilities of Getachew Assefa, former head of the Ethiopian National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). Getachew Assefa was one of the nine executive members of Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and a former member of Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) executive committee. He has been implicated in numerous serious crimes, including ethnic based violence in different parts of Ethiopia.

While there have been conflicting media reports on his whereabouts, it is entirely possible that Assefa remains in Ethiopia, specifically in the Tigray region, and he was recently appointed to a leadership position within the TPLF, where he will have the continued opportunity to inflict harm on his own people. Due to the countless human rights violations that he is reported to have committed and due to his current path of avoiding any accounting for them in an Ethiopian court of law, I urge you to consider the imposition of Global Magnitsky sanctions against Assefa. I also ask you to consider additional measures against those colleagues who acted as his enablers and who also appear to have committed egregious crimes.

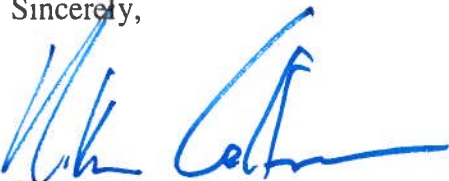
The application of the Magnitsky Act will allow for the President of the United States to impose visa and asset sanctions against Assefa and show that the United States stands with the Ethiopian people and will not tolerate abuses of human rights nor corruption. By specifically targeting Assefa, the United States will also demonstrate that no one will be beyond the reach of being held accountable and will face the consequences of their actions.

Originally from the Tigray region of Ethiopia, Assefa served as the country's head of intelligence for many years under the TPLF controlled government. He was removed from his position in early June after Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the new Prime Minister of Ethiopia, took power in April 2018.

Assefa's tenure as head of the NISS was marked by his arbitrary abuse of power, as he oversaw countless number of Ethiopian dissidents killed, abducted, tortured, harassed, jailed and exiled. The NISS and the Defense Forces have also been accused of deep nepotism allowing Assefa to embed the leadership of both institutions with those sympathetic to him.

Getachew Assefa is by all accounts a criminal and a ruthless human rights violator. Over the years, he has overseen serious crimes against his own people. I believe that by imposing upon him the sanctions provided by the Global Magnitsky Act you can demonstrate to Assefa, and others in Ethiopia who have committed similar crimes, that the United States stands with the Ethiopian people and will not tolerate the continuance of such appalling actions or sanctuary for those who commit them. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Coffman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Coffman  
U.S. Representative  
Colorado's 6<sup>th</sup> District