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A prayer and candle light vigil held in Los Angeles

A prayer and candle light vigil was held yesterday January 17th 2009 in Los Angeles at Inglewood Great Western Forum during the Ethiopian Timket celebration. The prayer and the candle light vigil were held to pray for Judge Birtukan Midekesa, Artist Teddy Afro, and also for peace and freedom in Ethiopia.

The prayer and the candle light vigil were organized by Los Angeles Andinet Support organization. The event was carefully planned not to use any political terms, not to have any chanting, except to hold a lighted candle, and a picture of Judge Birtukan and Artist Teddy Afro, with Biblical quotes from 1st peter 3:14 and John 8:32

The event quickly attracted several Ethiopians who joined the vigil and stood up for a quick time out praying and thinking for peace, for justice and for the release of political prisoners.

Unfortunately, the praying event did not sit well with the Timket organizers who identified themselves as the chairman of the church board and treasurer of the church board. Even though the prayer was held outside the gated compound to satisfy the organizers request and accommodate those who would like to have a quick time out and join us in the prayer even that was not acceptable. The church board officials end up calling the police to remove fellow Ethiopians from praying around the facility.

The prayer and candle light vigil was cut short.

We are thankful for those who prayed with us for that short period of time. We are looking forward for the day where there will not be any political prisoners in our country, where everyone including the government is abide by rule of law, and where church's speak up and pray for freedom and justice. Above all our Ethiopian churches should take their rightful status of standing up for the truth just like African American churches thought liberation theology to their parishioners during Civil Rights era.

Our unity is our strength.

God Bless Ethiopia and its people.