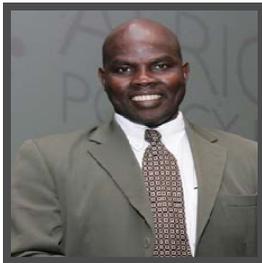




## July 2013      Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia

### WILL YOU JOIN US IN FREEING ETHIOPIA?

#### A WORD FROM SMNE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OBANG METHO



Are you someone who will join with others to free Ethiopia? As I said in my testimony at the recent US Congressional sub-committee hearing on: *Ethiopia After Meles*, we cannot give the responsibility to others and expect them to do it for us. Although some great friends of justice may be willing to come along side us; basically, it is still up to you, me and our fellow Ethiopians. With God's help, Ethiopians will free themselves!

The **Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia (SMNE)** was founded because we knew the New Ethiopia we all so hoped for would only be possible if Ethiopians crossed the lines of their own ethnicity, religion, gender, region, political party, socio-economic background or viewpoint to care deeply about the freedom, justice and well being of other Ethiopians. Freeing our minds of our "tribal or feudal thinking" is the first step forward. A primary source of our oppression is built on our own willingness to rigidly hold on to division, alienation, apathy, suspicion and self-interest. **Are we willing to change? Are we able to see the God-given humanity in the faces of all our diverse Ethiopian brothers and sisters? Freedom will never come to just one group. Thinking it so keeps us all stuck in our pain.**

Instead, if you are willing to embrace the struggle of those beyond your own group, join us by standing up **RIGHT NOW** for the rights and dignity of others— as we already do for ourselves— and just see the foundations of tyranny crumble. You do not have to leave your own identity behind or give up working for changes needed in your own community, but let us work together by doing our share— more keenly aware of each others' needs— to bring the kind of broad, systemic and sustainable change to Ethiopia that will ensure a voice for its minorities, majorities and those in-between. Let us repair our broken relationships with genuine change. Reconciliation in Ethiopia is not only about recognizing the wrongs of the past or about forgiving others for what they have done to us, but it also is about restoring justice and implementing meaningful reforms for all— bringing healing and renewed life to this ancient land.

Achieving our freedom is only the first step. Preserving that freedom for all our people in the years ahead is the greater challenge. With that goal in mind, let us start now to build a New Ethiopia based on universal principles of truth, justice, equality, civility, hard work, accountability and respect for the rights of all our people. We do not always have to agree, but we should agree on these core principles. These principles should become a part of the fabric of our society, laying the foundation for our government, constitution, institutions, electoral process, development plans, financial practices, economy and of every sector of our society.

*Continued on next page:*

The SMNE is working hard to achieve these goals and invites you to join us. Our work has included international human rights advocacy, raising awareness regarding land and natural resource grabbing, refugee advocacy, human trafficking, investigation and analysis, reconciliation work, networking and nation building.

May God bring new life to Ethiopia!  
Obang Metho, SMNE Executive Director

## HOW TO DONATE TO THE WORK OF THE SMNE

We hope you will advance the work of the SMNE by making a financial contribution on a onetime or regular basis or even become a recurrent monthly donor through Paypal or through your online bank account. Your contribution will be used to bring freedom and justice to all Ethiopians. If you prefer to send a check or money order by mail, here is our address: **SMNE, P.O. Box 857, Stillwater, MN 55082, USA.**

### For Recurrent Paypal Donations:

This option has now been added to our website at: [www.solidaritymovement.org](http://www.solidaritymovement.org) to accommodate those of you who have been asking for an easier way to automatically donate without having to remember do so every month. Please visit our website and choose recurrent donation and enter an amount. You may use a bank or credit card for this transaction. This is the best option for international donors.

### Automatic Bill-Pay Through Online Banking:

Another option is to set up an automatic recurrent check payment to be made from your online banking account. Go to Bill-pay and choose an amount, a day of the month and give the SMNE address: **SMNE, P.O. Box 857, Stillwater, MN, USA.** Your bank will issue a monthly check which will be mailed to the SMNE. There usually is no charge for this banking service. Please note, this option may not work for international transactions.

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SMNE

Any individual who agrees with the [unity statement](#) of the SMNE and is willing to work in cooperation and in good faith toward these goals is welcome to join the SMNE. To become a member of the SMNE, please enter your contact information on our membership form, using this link: <http://www.solidaritymovement.net/index.cfm> . Please also forward this link to your friends and family who support the SMNE so that they may do the same.

We strongly encourage our members to take an active role in supporting the work by forming a chapter in your own area. If you are interested, please contact us for assistance in this process.

Our ability to continue as well as to expand our work greatly depends on the strong commitment of our members and friends. Together, as each of us does our “*dirsha*” share, and with God’s help, we can be agents of change in bringing justice, reconciliation and peace to Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa and beyond. If you have any questions, please contact us.



Contact number for Obang Metho: (202) 725-1616

E-mails: [obang@solidaritymovement.org](mailto:obang@solidaritymovement.org)

[smne@solidaritymovement.org](mailto:smne@solidaritymovement.org)

Website: [www.solidaritymovement.org](http://www.solidaritymovement.org)

**The Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and donations received are tax-deductible in the United States.**