



## **Ethiopians in the Bay Area Mourn the Passing of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi**

Santa Clara, CA, August 26, 2012- It is with utmost shock and disbelief that Ethiopians who reside in the Bay Area heard the sudden and untimely passing of the honorable, well respected, passionate, compassionate, charismatic, intelligent and visionary leader Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

After individually grieving the previous several days, Ethiopians in the Bay Area came together at St. Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in Campbell, CA for religious service to honor both, his holiness Aba Abune Paulos and the great Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Soon after, memorial service was held to pay tribute to the two leaders at the American Legion in Santa Clara, CA. During the memorial service, attendees mourned wholeheartedly as video clips were showing the life and legacy of the great Prime Minister Meles Zenawi as well as video clips showing the life of his holiness Aba Abune Paulos and the lifelong commitment and contribution he made to the betterment of Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo churches within Ethiopia and abroad.

In addition, individuals in all age groups took turns to express their heartfelt grief, sorrow and gratitude for the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and his holiness Aba Abune Paulos. Some reminisced on the personal experiences they had shared with then tegadalay Meles Zenawi when he visited the Bay Area during the 1980's and others shared the impact that the great Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had on their lives as well as their family's lives.

In the end, although heartbroken due to the passing of his holiness Aba Abune Paulos and the sudden death of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, attendees vowed the only way to move forward is to accept the unfortunate tragedy and take it as a challenge to strengthen the unity and to act together to fulfill the dreams of the two great leaders. With togetherness, their legacy will live on.

Eternal Glory to Our Martyrs!!

God Bless Ethiopia!!

Coordinating Committee

*Please see next pages for more pictures*























