

To Long for Change  
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To long for change is a heavy burden. Every time I try to speak about the troubles on my mind—the suffering of our people and the state of Ethiopia—I am often met with responses like:

"Yes, but what can you do?"

"What can I do?"

"What can any regular person living in Ethiopia do?"

Others say:

"I don't think this is healthy."

"You shouldn't worry yourself too much about politics."

But the more I listen to the news, the more I witness the pain and suffering of our people worsening each day. I can't help but ask: what will it take to break this chain once and for all?

The fear is real—being hunted, being afraid to speak out, afraid to stand out for fear of imprisonment, death, rape, or torture. As a person in my mid-twenties, I feel compelled to act. I find myself drawn into political discourse, engaging with fellow Ethiopians at work and in daily life. Why should I feel guilty for reminding my brothers and sisters that our future is being mocked, trampled, and discarded?

The absence of political engagement among many of my peers leaves us vulnerable to the devastating consequences of this regime. The last seven years—years that should have been filled with growth, creativity, and contribution to Ethiopia's development—have instead been marred by continuous war, a lack of support and direction, forced and voluntary migration in search of better lives, and mandatory military service, whether willing or not.

As we begin another year marked by bloodshed, rising living costs, starvation both in rural areas and within cities, and continued impunity for those responsible for atrocities across Ethiopia, let us remember: every act of resistance against this injustice adds one more drop to the storm that will inevitably bring reckoning.

To my fellow youth: Let us speak out. Let us connect, become more aware, and take responsibility for what's happening around us—politically and socially. We must engage, because whether we like it or not, we are both the victims and the victors in this struggle.

To our elders: The image of Mistire Selassie of the EPRDF sitting among political veterans was an inspiring one for many young Ethiopians. While generational gaps may bring ideological and communication differences, it is crucial to open platforms and reach the younger generation—both inside Ethiopia and across the diaspora—to build a strong, unified foundation.

To every Ethiopian: Know this—this day shall pass. And when it does, we will grieve, we will heal, we will remember, and we will demand justice.

Now is the time to hold hands and unite against a regime that does not represent us. Together, forward.