

ETHIOPIA AT A CROSSROADS: WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT CIVIC SPACE REFORM?

**SIDE EVENT AT 38TH
SESSION OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, 19 JUNE
12:00–13:00
PALAIS DES NATIONS
ROOM XXIII**

Ethiopia has a new Prime Minister and Government. Can it change the country's recent human rights record? Since January, the new government has made significant strides by releasing thousands of political prisoners, including a number of activists, bloggers and journalists who had been prosecuted under the country's notorious Anti-Terrorism Proclamation. Authorities have also dropped charges brought against prominent dissidents in detention or in exile and have made commitments to reform the country's legal framework. At this critical juncture in modern Ethiopian history, this side-event aims to look into the measures the government should take to tackle some of the more entrenched repressive laws and practices through a deep reform process. Additionally, the panel will look at the role of the United Nations legal mechanisms to hold those responsible for the human rights violations, committed since the beginning of the protest movement in November 2015, where a State of Emergency was instituted, and over a thousand protesters were killed and tens of thousands of citizens were detained in Ethiopia.

SPEAKERS:

- Biniam Abate Adgo, Human Rights Council Ethiopia
- Fisseha Tekla, Amnesty International
- Estella Kabachwezi, DefendDefenders

Moderator: Clementine de Montjoye, CIVICUS

Coffee/croissants served at 11:45

For more information contact: clementine.demontjoye@civicus.org

The event will be livestreamed on the @CIVICUS Facebook page

Event Organisers

