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Ms. Leigh McCumber

**UPR 19, May 6, 2014**  
**Recommendation by Canada**

**Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**Question:**

In 2009, Ethiopia agreed to take measures to provide for free and independent media and take steps to ensure civil and political rights were upheld, including freedom of expression. Could the Ethiopian delegation inform us of what progress has been made in these areas, including removing restrictions placed on Ethiopian civil society organizations, journalists and activists?

**Recommendations:**

Canada recommends that Ethiopia:

1. Protect and promote the right of Ethiopians to practice their religious faith or beliefs, including by enhancing the dialogue between different faith communities to address inter-religious tensions.
2. Fully protect members of opposition groups, political activists and journalists who are exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly from arbitrary detention.
3. Take necessary measures to enable all citizens to fully take part in the democratic process in advance of the 2015 elections, including allowing open and inclusive electoral debate, civic and voter education, election monitoring and the active engagement of civil society organizations and independent media.

**Observations (if time allows):**

Canada is encouraged by the action Ethiopia is taking to address child, early and forced marriage and urges continued work at the national and community level critical to achieving meaningful changes for girls and their communities. Canada also welcomes the establishment of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and encourages Ethiopia to allocate adequate resources for the full and rapid implementation of its National Human Rights Action Plan adopted in November 2013. However, Canada is concerned about reports of increasing restrictions placed on Ethiopian civil society organizations, journalists and activists, particularly those engaging in human rights and advocacy-based activities. Canada sees the recent arrest of nine Ethiopian bloggers and journalists as a discouraging development.