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**Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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Date

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No.

Press Statement

The Government of Ethiopia refutes claims of politicized aid

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has noted with dismay the extraordinary attack launched against it by Human Rights Watch. It categorically rejects the accusation that it politicizes the use of development aid in any shape or form or that it has misused any of the development aid so generously provided by the international community.

The allegations made by Human Rights Watch simply do not reflect reality. In January this year, the Development Assistance Group, a 26 aid agency consortium in Ethiopia, investigated similar allegations. Its report found that safeguards for donor programs were largely working well, that the programs were achieving results and the monitoring mechanisms were sufficient.

Ethiopia is currently achieving considerable success in development. It has reached four of the Millennium Development Goals and is on track for two more. The Government of Ethiopia has been and remains entirely committed to transparency in its dealings with the international community and with aid donors on the basis of mutual trust and responsibility, and of accountability and transparency.

It is impossible to believe from its latest report that these are principles to which Human Rights Watch is prepared to adhere to in any genuine manner. It is therefore hardly surprising that Human Rights Watch should try to threaten the provision of development aid to Ethiopia. Indeed, this would appear to be an attempt by Human Rights Watch gratuitously to blackmail the international community as part of its ongoing vendetta against the Government of Ethiopia.



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