



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 6, 2007

**OEA FORUM TO FOCUS ON HORN'S STRUGGLE FOR PEACE**

The Organization of Eritrean Americans (OEA) will hold a forum on “**the Quest for Peace in the Horn of Africa**” as part of the three-day annual Eritrean Festival scheduled at the Show Place Arena in Upper Malboro, Maryland.

Speaking at the forum will be **Dr. Assefa Jalata** of the University of Tennessee, and **Dr. Ghidewon Abbay Asmerom** of Virginia Commonwealth University. Also speaking will be **Congressman Jim Moran of the 8<sup>th</sup> District of Virginia** and **Congresswoman Betty McCollum**, who represents the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Minnesota

Explaining the rationale for the forum, OEA said, “Intrastate, and global wars, whose consequences have been famine, drought, death and destruction, continue to plague the Horn of Africa,” and cited the clouds of war hanging over the Eritrean-Ethiopian border conflict because of Ethiopia’s lawlessness, and the unfinished peace process in the Sudan. And “when we add Ethiopia’s invasion of Somalia to this volatile mix,” the organization said, “we see another tragedy whose consequences are likely to haunt the region for a long time to come.”

**Professor Jalata will speak on “*Ethiopia: The State of Terror and War in the Horn of Africa.*” Dr. Ghidewon will speak on “*Eritrea and Ethiopia: One for Peace, the Other for War.*”**

The two-hour forum is set on August 11, 2007, from 7: 00 to 9 p.m., at the Tack Room of the Show Place Arena, 14900 Penn Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.