



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mike Lindberg, Commissioner
1220 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 248-4145

PRESS STATEMENT 11/14/88

FROM COMMISSIONER MIKE LINDBERG

I AM APPALLED AND OUTRAGED AT THE SENSELESS MURDER OF MULUGETA SERAW, AND MY SYMPATHIES GO OUT TO HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY. IN THE SHADOW OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALNACHT WE CANNOT LET THIS TRAGEDY PASS WITHOUT A THOROUGH RESPONSE.

THERE MUST BE VIGOROUS PURSUIT OF THESE CRIMINALS AND A STEPPED UP LEVEL OF INVESTIGATION OF SKINHEAD AND OTHER WHITE SUPREMACY ORGANIZATIONS. WE CAN NO LONGER PASSIVELY DESCRIBE THE ACTS OF THESE RACIST THUGS AS ISOLATED INCIDENTS. THESE ARE SICK AND DANGEROUS GANGS JUST LIKE THE BROWN SHIRTS OF GERMANY FIFTY YEARS AGO AND THE KLAN OF OUR RECENT HISTORY. THEY ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY CRIPS OR BLOODS. THE VIOLENCE THESE NEO-NAZI'S VISIT UPON INNOCENTS IS DELIBERATE.

THE CITY OF PORTLAND AND THE STATE OF OREGON MUST ORGANIZE IMMEDIATELY TO TURN BACK WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RISING TIDE OF INTOLERANCE. THERE CAN BE NO ACCOMODATION TO BIGOTRY. OUR FAILURE TO AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE THIS MATTER WOULD BE GREEN LIGHT TO THOSE MORE DANGEROUS PEOPLE, THE ONES WHO ARE ON THE FRINGE, WHO SUPPORT THE EVIL WHILE HIDING IN THE SHADOWS.



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dick Bogle, Commissioner
1220 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-4682

November 14, 1988

Contact: David Hedges
248-4682

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER DICK BOGLE

The murder of Mulugeta Seraw is more than senseless tragedy. It is the visible eruption of a community cancer existing just below the surface of our everyday lives.

Every citizen of this city deserves to be able to walk on any street at any time, day or night, without fear of insult, injury or death. The ability to do that is one of the foundations of a city's livability.

Mr. Seraw's death is, of course, a loss to his family and loved ones. It represents an immeasurable loss to Portland, as well, since we have to face the fact that hatred has killed. We cannot deny that racist hate groups do practice what they preach.

I have full confidence that the Portland Police Bureau will bring his killers to justice.

At the same time, we who claim to be pure of heart and open-minded must not allow the deadly virus of retribution to infect our spirit and direct us down a path of violent confrontation.

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I Read this to John - Robert

(- Two paragraphs -
(a) condoleance
(b) Repeat their behavior
Too much in their #

November 16, 1988

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is outraged at the senseless murder of Malugeta Seraw at the hands of whites apparently motivated by race hatred. Since we have been documenting racially-motivated attacks against persons and property dating back to October 1987, the death of Mulugeta Seraw is yet another, although the most traumatic, injury to our community and our way of life.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Seraw for their loss. Their loss, however, is our loss as well, for this ultimate violation of the Seraw family's civil rights rapes us of our dignity as a community and a society which articulates as fundamental protected principles, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

This community -- this nation -- was built on the backs of many, with the blood, sweat and tears of persons of every hue. Our diversity has been our beauty and our strength. On Sunday Morning, some of that strength -- that beauty -- lay in the street with Mulugeta Seraw.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission urges that the wheels of justice turn with dispatch; that the perpetrators of this heinous crime against humanity be caught and prosecuted to the

fullest extent of the law. We also urge that each of us make a personal commitment to defend and protect our dignity as a community and as a nation. To the Seraw family, . . . your pain is our pain. The shame, however, is ours alone.

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

November 17, 1988

STATEMENT FROM THE
METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Mulugeta Seraw, who was brutally murdered by a group of whites motivated by bigotry and hatred. The family's loss is our loss as well; such traumatic acts of racism rob us all of our dignity as a community and a nation built upon the principles of equality and justice.

We urge local, state and national law enforcement offices to implement an all out effort to capture the perpetrators of this most heinous crime; and we urge the judicial system to be thorough and swift when called upon to act.



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



6/20/90

Dear Ms. Owens;

Please convey my heart-felt appreciation which I am expressing on behalf of my family and myself, to your group for your kindness. In view of what happened to Muluzeta, my nephew, your kind act helps us not to lose sight of the good in humanity.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Engedew Berham

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has my permission to add

Forever free from sorrow and grief

to my nephew's head stone at the Riverview Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Engedaw Berhanu 6-20-90
Signature Date

*The Road of Holiness
Isaiah 35:1-10*

*The desert will rejoice,
and flowers will bloom in
the wastelands.*

*2 The desert will sing and shout
for joy;
it will be beautiful as the
Lebanon Mountains
and as fertile as the fields of
Carmel and Sharon.*

*Everyone will see the Lord's splendor,
see his greatness and power.*

*3 Give strength to hands that are
tired and to knees that tremble
with weakness.*

*4 Tell everyone who is
discouraged,
"Be strong and don't be afraid!
God is coming to your rescue,
coming to punish your
enemies."*

*5 The blind will be able to see,
and the deaf will hear.*

*6 The lame will leap and dance,
and those who cannot speak
will shout for joy.*

*Streams of water will flow
through the desert;*

*7 the burning sand will become
a lake,
and dry land will be filled
with springs.*

*Where jackals used to live,
marsh grass and reeds will
grow.*

*8 There will be a highway there,
called "The Road of
Holiness."*

*No sinner will ever travel that
road;
no fools will mislead those
who follow it.*

*9 No lions will be there;
no fierce animals will pass
that way.*

*Those whom the Lord has
rescued
will travel home by that road.*

*10 They will reach Jerusalem with
gladness,
singing and shouting for joy.*

*They will be happy forever,
forever free from sorrow and grief.*