



News From Tebeka , April 2017

Dear Friends and Partners,

Tebeka serves over 1000 members of the Ethiopian community every year in a diverse variety of ways. Out of a community of 140,000 individuals, nearly 40% of the community members are native-born Israelis. Today's younger generations attend school, military service, receive higher education, and integrate into key leadership positions in Israeli society. These successful individuals are not only empowering the community, but are becoming effective role models for younger generations.

Tebeka has made great strides in expanding rights and correcting injustices for the Ethiopian community and society as a whole. Through persistent activity and ongoing collaboration with decision makers to eliminate the effects of discrimination and racism, Tebeka ensures the continuation of the community's values in Israeli society. Despite the daily struggle to create a tolerant and

egalitarian society that respects the other, Tebeka has been able to create social and policy changes.

I would like to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership and support. Together we have had many successful achievements which have created a positive and critical impact on society as a whole, and particularly the integration of the Ethiopian community. The community continues to strengthen through our work to foster sustainable legal aid, ensure equality, and maintain respect for the cultural identity and character strength of the Ethiopian community.

Sincerely,

Fentahun Assefa-Dawit, Executive Director

TEBEKA at AIPAC

Executive Director Fentahun Assefa-Dawit participated in the 2017 AIPAC Conference. Fentahun was commissioned by The Israel Project (TIP), a non-partisan American NGO dedicated to informing the media and public discourse about Israel and the Middle East, to speak about the challenges of the Ethiopian community and Tebeka's work to 20/20 Leaders of America. This bipartisan group is comprised of African-American mayors, state departments, prosecutors, defense lawyers, political strategists, community leaders, police, and other law enforcement personnel to fundamentally change the way the American political system deal with issues of criminal law.

Demas Fekada- Filing charges against the cop

Demas Fekada and Tebeka petitioned the High Court of Justice against the decision of the former Attorney General, Yehuda Weinstein, to close the case file against the policemen who beat up Officer Fekada in April 2015. The current Attorney General, Avichai Mandelbilt, decided to reopen the case file. Tebeka strongly supports the reopening of the case to convey the message that violence by the police, in general and

particularly against Ethiopians, is unacceptable. Following the reopening of the case, Tomer Marcia, Director of Tebeka's Legal Department reassured that, "Tebeka is working day and night to combat the phenomenon of racism and violence. The court's decision today has a large influence on the conduct of the police and public trust in the judicial system."

Legal Department

Since January 2017, Tebeka has handled 380 references. The cases include:

Success Stories

- | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|
| | Discrimination | 60 |
| | Health | 4 |
| | Housing | 32 |
| | education | 17 |
| | Family | 20 |
| | Torts | 22 |
| | Work | 105 |
| | Immigration | 2 |
| | Criminal | 33 |
| | Others | 70 |
| | Public service | 15 |
- Officers referred to an Ethiopian worker at a restaurant as a "nigger." The employee was granted 8,000 shekels due to the racist comments made by the police officers.
 - A Magen David Adom (MDA) volunteer presented the Ethiopian community in a negative light. A letter was sent to the MDA Director General for the negative labeling of the population. Tebeka will continue to monitor the situation.
 - The Ethiopian population was referred to in a negative light in a school textbook. The book was disqualified from being used after a letter was sent to the Minister of Education.

Racism Conference in the Knesset

Tebeka played a major role during the Knesset's (Israeli Parliament) day dedicated to combating racism. Tebeka collaborated with partners to create changes on the topic of, "Racism Against Children and Youth: Law Enforcement and Education." Through meetings with Knesset members, planning with partners, and advocating for the rights of the undeserved, Tebeka continued to forge a path for a more equitable, fair society. Additionally, a report was prepared for the day which provided recommendations on this topic. The Knesset accepted the list of recommendations.

[Report approved by the Knesset](#)

[Channel 1 Article](#)



Looking for Racism in the Eye – Together NOT Separately

On March 21st, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Tebeka hosted five public lectures following the day in the Knesset. The best experts in the field – Attorney Amy Palmore, Barak Cohen, Dr. Hani Zovida, Michal Avrah Samuel, and Shlomi Chatocha – discussed how combating racism requires that “we look it into the eye – together and separately.”

The topics of the talks include:

- Racism in Advertisements.
- Racism & the Police: Enforcement, Violence, and Over-Policing.
- Ministry of Justice: Racism and Enforcement.
- Teaching against Racism in Education.
- Institutionalized Racism in Government Institutions: Ethnic Diversity as a Combative Tool.

These talks are part of Tebeka’s continual work on community engagement. By creating space for greater understanding, Tebeka is actively promoting change at all levels of society. Due to the success, we plan to create a tradition of offering public lectures.

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