**7 December, 2009 “Ethiopian editors close paper and flee”, The Guardian**

One of Ethiopia's best-read non-government weekly newspapers has shut down and three of its senior staff have fled the country. The editors of **Addis Neger** say they have faced a government campaign of intimidation and black propaganda.

The closure of the Amharic-language newspaper, known for its lively discussion of political issues, comes as campaigning heats up in advance of next May's parliamentary election.

In a news release, the paper's editors blamed their decision to close on what they called "another crackdown on free speech and freedom of the press in Ethiopia".

The Paris-based press freedom watchdog, **Reporters Without Borders**, condemned the "climate of fear" prevailing in Ethiopia. It says the spectre of the media and opposition crackdown that followed the disputed 2005 election is resurfacing.

*Sources:* [VoA](http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Ethiopian-Newspaper-Shuts-Down-Editors-Flee---78646927.html)/[Reporters without Borders](http://www.rsf.org/Weekly-forced-to-stop-publishing.html)

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