In the ever-shrinking space for freedom of expression in Ethiopia, Daniel Bekele has faced heavy-handed government repression as a prominent anti-poverty activist and human rights lawyer. After leading a grassroots effort to promote voter education and participation, election monitoring, and reconciliation following the controversial 2005 parliamentary elections, Daniel was arrested and spent two and a half years in prison on charges of inciting violence against the government. Human Rights Watch honors Daniel Bekele who, at great personal risk, challenges the Ethiopian government to uphold the civil and political rights that protect all people.

Leslie Lefkow—Senior Researcher, HRW

Leslie Lefkow, senior researcher for Human Rights Watch's Africa division, has specialized expertise on Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Lefkow focuses on investigating and documenting abuses in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan, abuses in armed conflicts, and other issues requiring rapid response in sub-Saharan Africa. Before joining Human Rights Watch, she worked as a humanitarian affairs advisor in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone. Lefkow is a graduate of Columbia Law School and Bryn Mawr College.

This event is sponsored by the University of Chicago Human Rights Program, the University of Chicago Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and Human Rights Watch.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please email human-rights@uchicago.edu or call 773-834-0957.