



Negussie Mengesha **VOA Africa Division Director**

Negussie Mengesha has more than 30 years of experience at the Voice of America, and has led the Africa Division since November 2014. Previously, he served as the Africa Division's Program Manager for 14 years, overseeing daily operations and providing editorial guidance to the division's language services. He was instrumental in launching VOA programs to Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Somalia and Mali. Mengesha also served as Chief of the Central Africa Service for four years and was Chief of VOA's Amharic Service for more than a decade.

Earlier in his career, he was a writer, reporter, editor and on-air talent in the Amharic Service, where he gained a huge audience as host of flagship panel discussion programs. Mengesha has extensive experience in Africa, covering stories as a reporter, recruiting new talent and training stringers, and organizing VOA "on the ground" activities, including highly successful town hall meetings in Nigeria.

Mengesha started his journalism career as a reporter and anchor for radio and television in his native Ethiopia. He studied political science at the Albertus Magnus University of Cologne and got his practical training in radio and TV journalism at the West German Broadcasting Corporation (WDR).