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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



JUNE 5/ 2007

STOP THE REPRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS

The following is a letter from the Ethiopian Teachers' Association exposing the repression against its members

Letter from Addis Ababa ETA Head Quarter

Dear colleagues and human rights defenders

It is regrettable to inform you that arbitrary detentions of activist teachers in the ETA have been resumed in Ethiopia since 30 May 2007.

1. **Anteneh** **Getnet**
At 6:00am local time in the morning on 30 May four men in police uniform and seven government security agents in plain cloth surrounded Anteneh's house in Addis Ababa. They recaptured and drove him to Addis Ababa Police Commission located adjacent to Criminal Investigation Bureau commonly known as Maekelawi. He is there on detention now and was told the reason for his arrest is the previous case which the Federal First Instance court dismissed for the prosecutor failed to produce evidence against Anteneh who was allegedly accused of involving in criminal activities acting as a member of an illegal organization called **Ethiopian Patriotic Front**.

2. **Meqcha** **Mengistu**
It is reported that at 5:00am local time in the morning on 30 May Meqcha's house in Dejen town, East Gojam, was occupied by the police and security agents. They recaptured and took Meqcha to Dejen police station. He is there on detention now and the reason for his arrest is similar to that of Anteneh.

3.

Tilahun

Ayalew

At about 6:30pm policemen and security agents surrounded Tilahun's residence at Dangla town in Pawi zone. They intended to recapture him but without success as he was not there at that moment. They asked his wife, Mrs Azmera Shiferaw, to tell them whereabouts of her husband but she could not. As a result they took her to police station. Until now Azmera is on detention and Tilahun possibly is hiding.

It is to be recalled that these colleagues encounter heavy tortures and ill treatment in their previous detentions. Anteneh was abducted, heavily beaten and left in a dark forest for hyenas in October and detained in December last year and went free out of jail in April this year. Meqcha has got a problem of hearing with his left ear and Tilahun's leg fractured. Please have a look at their lawyer's report submitted to ETA shortly after their release. We are very worried that these inhuman acts may be repeated by perpetrators and they may have concocted false evidences this time to keep these innocent colleagues behind bars for longer time and the arbitrary detention will also be extended to other prominent activists in the ETA. I will keep you informed further developments to be observed.

Ethiopian teachers are desperate for international solidarity to alleviate this problem.

Yours

ETA HQ, Addis Ababa

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