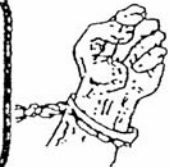




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



January 9/2009

FURTHER REPRESSION AGAINST THE FREE PRESS

After passing a very repressive Press Law and repressing the independent journalists, the regime in Ethiopia has now raised the price of printing newspapers in an apparent attempt to force the closure of some surviving papers not owned by the State.

By government order, all newspapers have to print at the State owned Berhanena Selam Printing Press. This Printing Press has now informed all publishers that "due to the increasing price of paper " the cost of printing newspapers has been raised by 12%. This is not the first time the cost of print has been increased even though this time there is no increase in the price of paper actually. It is believed that quite a few of the remaining newspapers will have to fold as they cannot sustain the cost of printing. Yet another deliberate move by the State to close down newspapers in a country where freedom of the press has become close to absent.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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