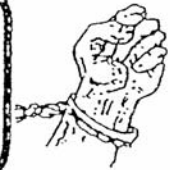




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



January 10/2009

PLIGHT OF ETHIOPIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WORSENS

The bodies of two Ethiopian women frozen in the Doha morgue, Qatar, for the last two months—unclaimed. Two more young Ethiopian girls have died this week in the same town from what police conveniently call "suicide". Every week at least one domestic worker dies in Lebanon and in 95 % of the cases it is an Ethiopian woman who loses her life either "by suicide or by falling from balconies". The plight of Ethiopians, mostly women, has worsened all over the Middle East.

The Meles Zenawi regime which profited from trafficking young girls to the Middle East was hit by the scandal of the deaths and the mistreatment of Ethiopian women in Lebanon and in May 2008 decreed that no domestic worker will be sent to Lebanon. Too little and just a cover up. Ethiopian women do still arrive in Lebanon and those already there (36.859 says Lebanon officially but close to 45,000 say others) continue to suffer racism and other indignities. Numerous young women have been beaten and raped by their employers, have had acid thrown on their faces, they have been denied their wages and chased out onto the street without their passports and just plainly murdered (thrown off balconies, hanged, beaten to death). They have had no protection from no quarter though SOCEPP had time and again written to Lebanese and Middle Eastern human rights bodies on the plight of Ethiopian women in the Middle East. Ethiopian women trafficked brutally and denied their rights are pushed to suicide too. When will their suffering end?

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE  
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