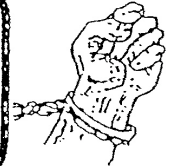




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



June 11/2009

EPRDF POLICE OFFICIAL LIES ABOUT TORTURE

The Deputy Police Commissioner of the ruling EPRDF, Hassan Shifa, has blatantly lied about the practice of torture in Ethiopia under the EPRDF by boldly declaring that "not only we do not do torture but we do not even have one instrument to do it with". Hassan Shifa is a central committee leader of the Tigray Liberation Front (TPLF) and one of those police officials wanted for gross human rights violations. His boss, Commissioner Workineh Gebeyehu, has backed up the "no torture in Ethiopia" lie.

The facts clearly show that torture is routinely practiced in Ethiopia by the EPRDF police and intelligence officials. A number of prisoners whose hands and legs have been amputated after torture, who have had their skins burnt and singed by scythes and other tools, who have been subjected to "wefe illala" or "fellaga" beating of the soles of the feet, etc have been photographed or presented as witnesses time and again. In the secret prisons in Addis Ababa, and elsewhere, prisoners are brutally tortured while in the prison camps of Zwai, Dedesa, Bir Sheleko and Shoa Robit thousands of prisoner are starved, denied medical treatment and routinely beaten by prison guards. Under the EPRDF, cruel and inhuman punishments are routinely practiced and thus the declaration of Hassan Shifa and his boss that there is no torture in Ethiopia is a blatant lie.

SOCEPP calls on all democratic, peace loving forces and on human rights organizations, to condemn the practice of torture (in Ethiopia) by the EPRDF police, security services and special squads.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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