



August 24/2009

MAJOR ATANAW WASSIE PASSED AWAY IN DETENTION

Major Atanaw Wassie, in his late seventies, has passed away after two years of detention by the repressive regime of Meles Zenawi.

Major Atanaw was a longtime refugee in the Sudan and he was forcefully deported and handed over to the Mles regime by the Sudanese authorities though it was clear he would be risking death in Ethiopia. Major Atanaw was deported with 14 others and all were disappeared for more than a year. They reemerged in the notorious Kaliti prison and Major Atanaw was in a state of bad health because he received no medical care. When his situation got aggravated, he was taken to the hospital but the mistreatment and illness had taken their toll on him and he has now passed away.

SOCEPP sends its condolences to the family of Major Atanaw, a founding leader of the opposition EDU in the mid 1970s. SOCEPP holds the Beshir regime and the ruling clique in Ethiopia responsible for his suffering and death. There is no doubt that one day the violators of human rights would be brought before a proper court of law to answer for their horrible crimes.

Major Atanaw was buried in Gondar on Sunday August 23.

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