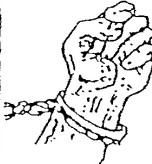




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



JUNE 20/2009

World Refugee Day: The Plight of Ethiopian Refugees Worsens

The deplorable human rights situation and the economic crisis have led to the increase in the number of Ethiopian refugees. Hundreds have perished this year alone trying to reach Italy or Yemen. Thousands of young women have also been trafficked to the Middle East and Europe to face a precarious existence as refugees/sex workers.

In the refugee camps of Kakuma (Kenya), the Sudan, Djibouti, in South Africa and Europe the plight of Ethiopian refugees has worsened. Their right has not been respected in most countries, they are jailed in containers in the deserts of Libya, imprisoned in Mozambique, beaten and assaulted in South Africa, deported by Djibouti, raped and mistreated by Yemen, massacred by Islamic hardliners in Bosasso, etc...The regime of PM Meles Zenawi grossly violates the rights of the people, is engaged in burn all kill all campaign in the Ogaden and other places thereby causing internal displacement and flight to neighbouring countries. The overall crisis in the Horn of Africa region should also be taken into account as we observe world refugee day and note that the plight of Ethiopian refugees has not improved one bit. The so called safe country designation with Britain and others attempting to list the repressive regime in Addis Ababa as democratic has almost closed the doors of resettlement to third countries. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other countries are not taking in Ethiopian refugees who are thus forced to languish in Kakuma, Umrakuba, Tawawa and other camps in neighbouring countries. It is also essential to note that as concerns Ethiopian refugees the UNHCR has not also performed its tasks as a protector of their rights.

An end to the repression and the human rights violation, to the absence of good governance in Ethiopia would be essential to reduce the number of refugees. Those governments and countries who give aid to the repressive regime should stop doing so and should call for the respect of human rights in Ethiopia.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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