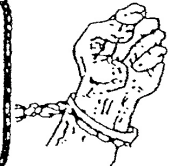




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



JUNE 15/2009

DENOUNCE THE TORTURE AND MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS

The charade of the kangaroo court of the ruling EPRDF is in full swing. Citizens accused of plotting assassination and other terror actions are being parade before State controlled judges who trample on due process as a matter of routine. Military officers and civilians brought before the State controlled court were denied due process, had no lawyer to represent them and their being tortured did not solicit any reaction from the cynical judges.

More than 58 people have been rounded up as part of the regime's crackdown on alleged charged of planning a coup and then organizing a terror campaign. One of the detained is an 80 years old man jailed because one of his sons is sought by the regime. This particular repression has also an ethnic scent in that most of the detained officers and civilians come mainly from one ethnic group considered as an enemy by the Tigrean ruling group. Relatives of the jailed have made it clear that the prisoners have been tortured, some interrogated for twenty hours straight, denied sleep, some beaten and one prisoner subjected to beatings on his private parts and denied hospital treatment.

Unlawful detention, denial of due process, brutal torture-- the violation of rights by the Meles Zenawi regime knows no limit. SOCEPP calls for the immediate release of the recently jailed political prisoners, for an end to the brutal treatment and the violations of rights. Moreover, a world wide campaign must be intensified to assure the release of more than 35,000 political prisoners in Ethiopia.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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