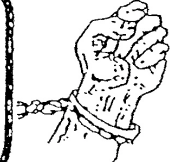




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



May 3/2009

UPDATE ON THE REPRESSION

After arresting close to 40 people on dubious grounds (accusation of a coup plot at first and then on charges of planning assassination of ministers and officials, and sabotage of public facilities) the regime in Addis Ababa has undertaken further arrests especially among military officers. Thus, Brigadier General Asaminew Tsige, colonel Fnatahun Muhaba, colonel Demisew, Major Sisaye, Major Adamu Getnet and Captain Azeze have been jailed.

The wave of arrest begun last week with the ruling front alleging that it had captured around 35 people (both military like Brig general Tadesse Mamo and civilians like former political prisoner Melaku Tefera) who "had been planning a coup d'état". State controlled TV showed a dozen or so Kalashnikov rifles, a few pistols, Chinese stick grenades and computers as well as Euro and US dollar notes allegedly found in the houses of the detained. Within a day or two, the coup plot was cancelled and the regime's mouthpiece Bereket Semon ( the very man who boldly claims there is not even one political prisoner in Ethiopia) said instead that the plot was to assassinate ministers and officials and to commit sabotage for the benefit of an opposition political group that has reportedly declared war on the regime. The said group has denied any involvement in any plot. Using the incident as a pretext the regime has arrested many officers involved in protest actions within the armed forces. It is a repression that is expected to continue and in the end the usual railroading and fabrication of evidence will happen to put away the victims.

SOCEPP denounces the ongoing repression especially aimed at military officers and calls for the immediate cessation of this illegal action.

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