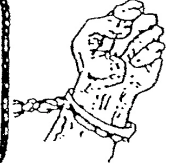




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



APRIL 20/2010

**MELES REGIME ATTEMPTS TO MURDER
JOURNALIST ARAYA TSEFAMARIAM IN NEW DELHI**

Journalist Araya Tesfamariam, better known as Eysersualem Araya and much admired for his incisive articles (in the now banned ETHIOP newspaper/magazine) exposing the human rights violations of the Meles regime, was attacked on the evening of April 16 in New Delhi by thugs identified as agents of the Meles Zenawi regime. Araya is a refugee in New Delhi with his 14 years old daughter who is sick and needs constant medical care.

The Meles regime had over the years tried to intimidate and also kill Araya Tesfamariam. The potentially fatal attack on him in New Delhi by thugs wielding iron bars (he blocked strikes to his head with his arms and had to be hospitalized) was supposed to be the actualization of the murder of this courageous journalist. However, he called for help and the attackers had to flee. Prior to the evening attack (Araya was leaving a hospital) he had received several threatening calls from the Meles agents in New Delhi.

Araya has escaped death for now but his life is in danger in the dire situation of helpless refugees that he finds himself in. SOCEPP calls on Ethiopians and human rights bodies to extend their support to Araya Tesfamariam. The regime of Meles Zenawi must not be allowed to ride roughshod over the rule of law and to murder independent journalists both inside and outside the country. It should be remembered that agents of the Meles regime had murdered Jattene Ali and Afewerki Alemseged in Nairobi in the nineties and neither the killers nor their commanders had ever been brought before a proper court of law.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
SOCEPP, POSTFACH 51213, BERLIN 13372, GERMANY
SOCEPP, 30 RIGA COVE, WINNIPEG, MB R2P 2Z7, CANADA
E MAIL: SOCEPP @AOL.COM
WEB SITE: WWW.SOCEPP.DE