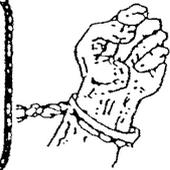




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



March 9/2010

DENOUNCE THE BRUTAL MURDER OF AREGAWI G/YOHANNES

The father of six children, Aregawi Gebre Yohannes (39), was brutally murdered by a six man death squad member belonging to the ruling Tigrai People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Aregawi was a member of the legal opposition MEDREK coalition.

As an active member of the opposition group, Aregawi had previously been harassed, imprisoned, and subjected to open threats on himself and his whole family. On the fateful day, the TPLF agents had cased out the bar belonging to Aregawi's sister (where he was dwelling) and at night six of them reportedly came and soon entered into a fake drunken brawl among themselves. Aregawi's sister asked them to pay up and leave as it was late and she did not like their rowdy behaviour. They refused and started breaking beer bottles and it is at this point that Aregawi awoke and came to the bar to investigate. Once they saw him, two of them grabbed and neutralised him while the others stabbed him and slit his wrists. As he lay in the floor bleeding and dying the six who were pretending to quarrel calmly walked out together--murder mission accomplished. It took the police and the ambulance some two hours to arrive and take the body of Aregawi to the Shire Enda Sellasie hospital.

As expected, the perennial liar of the regime, Bereket Semon, has gone on record denying the political murder and alleging that it was a private conflict for which "one suspect has been arrested". However, the denial has fallen on deaf ears as people know quite well that the TPLF carries out political killings and then allege the victim died in a private personal quarrel. This was how; back in the 80s; Nasser, a member of the TPLF from Saudi Arabia who had fallen out with the Meles Zenawi group was stabbed to death in Gedaref, Sudan. This was how human rights activist and lawyer Tesfaye Tadesse was murdered (he was brutally stabbed to death outside of his house) in Addis Abeba. There is no doubt that Aregawi was killed by the orders of the TPLF officials with Tsegay Berhe, the president of Tigrai, in their forefront of the culprits. The ruling TPLF, despite the fact that it has practically rigged up the coming May 2010 election, continues to kill, jail and hound opposition members and supporters.

SOCEPP condemns the brutal murder of Aregawi Gebre Yohannes in Tigrai.

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