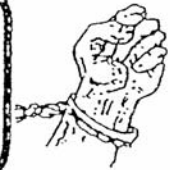




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



September 30, 2006

SOCEPP PROTEST LETTER TO THE FRENCH MINISTER OF JUSTICE

It is with deep regret that SOCEPP has learnt the fact that in the "tribunal correctional" of Bobigny in Paris the sentence demanded against the frontier police accused of murdering Ethiopian refugee, twenty four years old Getu Hagos Mariam, in January 2003, is a two years suspended sentence,

Getu had come to France to seek asylum. This was denied and he was subjected to deportation. During the process of forcefully putting him on a plane to deport him policemen Axel Dallier and Merwan Khelladi roughed up Getu, held him down with his head on his knees and made him succumb into a coma. He died on January 17 as a result of the policemen's brutal action. This being the case it is more than surprising that the sentence asked for the crime is a two years suspended sentence. If this is not a travesty of justice SOCEPP wonders what is.

The regime in Ethiopia is a condemned repressive regime that routinely violates the rights of Ethiopians. Citizens are confronting immense hardships and even possible death because of the grim reality. It is also no secret that the Fortress Europe mentality is dominating official Europe and this closed door approach leads to such incidents as that which happened to the young Getu. However, murder is murder and, whether it is negligent or not, those who kill must pay for their crime. To let the killer of Getu go free is to commit a mockery of justice.

SOCEPP calls on you, the Minister of Justice, to stop this travesty and to uphold justice in the case of Getu Hagos Mariam.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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