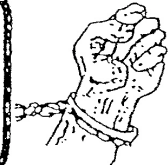




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



March 22, 2012

REPRESSION INTENSIFIES AGAINST ARENA TIGRAY ORGANIZATION

Arena Tigray, an opposition organization operating in Tigray region and grouped within the Medrek front has denounced the repression unleashed by the Meles regime against it all over Tigray. It is to be noted that two years ago Arena member and candidate for the election, Ato Aregawi Gebre Yohannes, was murdered in cold blood by the regime's assassins.

According to the report, 13 members of the Arena leadership including Central Committee member Engineer Abdulwahab Bushera and executive committee member Asgede Gebre Sellasie have been illegally detained, beaten and harassed by the regime's police. Others, teachers and journalists, have lost their jobs as the Meles regime uses its all out control of power to and the bureaucracy for punishing Arena members and sympathizers. Arena Tigray is presided by the former politburo member of the ruling TPLF and now dissident Gebru Asrat. Apparently, the Meles regime wants to stifle the organization and remove any meaningful political presence of Arena in Tigray.

SOCEPP calls for the immediate halt of the repression against Arena Tigray and the release of all the detained Arena members. Arena Tigray is a legally registered party that vows to conduct "peaceful struggle" and the repression against it only goes to highlight the repressive nature and policy of the Meles Zenawi regime.

**INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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