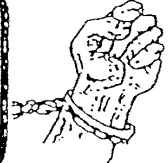




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



May 8/2009

THE REPRESSION INTENSIFIES

The repression unleashed by the ruling EPRDF under the cover of acting against coup makers cum assassination planners is continuing ruthlessly. Brigadier generals Tadesse Mamo and Asaminew Tsige (the latter purged beforehand with air force general Aslemsehet Degfie in an anti Amara action within the armed forces), colonel Fantahun Muhaba, colonel Demisew, Major Sisaye, Major Adamu Getnet, Captain Azeze, Ato Tsige (80 years old and ailing) along with one of his sons, the wife and son of Major Sisaye (who had been purged from the army and was a business man owning a shareholding company) have all been arrested along with others. The total number of people jailed in this wave has now reached 58.

The ruling EPRDF is very well known for taking vendetta actions and for railroading people with fabricated evidence to punish them for their dissidence. That is the case of Abera Yemaneab (in prison since 1993) and the singer Tedros Kassahun. Youngsters as old as ten and eleven have been imprisoned for the alleged "crimes" of their parents whom the regime had failed to apprehend. Ato Tsige and one of his sons are jailed in the place of another son sought in connection with the alleged plot. Major Sisaye's wife and child are also jailed to take revenge on the Major though he is also under arrest. The ongoing wave of arrest in the armed forces targets dissident officers and soldiers from the central and eastern commands which had been protesting against the policies of the EPRDF. The torture of certain prisoners has already been reported.

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