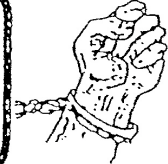




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



August 6/2009

DEPORTEES FROM SUDAN FACING DEATH RISK

Come september 2010, elder (Major) Atananaw Wassie and 14 other refugees deported with him from the Sudan would be passing 2 years of custody in Ethiopia. They were all long time recongized refugees when the Sudanese authorities rounded them up and handed them over to the EPRDF in Ethiopia.

For 16 months, the 15 were held in secret detention centers, subjected to intnse interrogations and mistreatment and then they were transferred to the notorious Kaliti prison. Most of the deportees, espically Major Atanaw Wassie, suffer from different ailments but have received little or no medical care. The elderly Major Atanaw is presently in the hospital, critically ill, strapped to an oxygen machine, denied proper medical care, and with the court case being postponed endlessly the sick prisoners risk death for lack of medical care. This, as is known, is one favorite EPRDF technique to get rid off prisoners: denying medical care, prolonging the court case and causing the deaths of the prisoners in the process. Such a method was used on the late professor Asrat and many officials of the previous regime who are now conveniently dead.

Major Atanaw Wassie needs immediate and adequate medical treatment. His deportation, along with 14 others, is illegal, the case against them trumped up.They need to be released without any delay. SOCEPP regrets that the UNHCR hass not acted properly and vigorously to secure their release. Let us all call for the immediate release of the deportees who risk death from sickness and ill treatment.

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