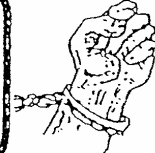




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



MARCH 24/2010

POLITICAL PRISONER BIRTUKAN MIDIKSA  
DENIED MEDICAL ATTENTION

The irresponsible statement by Meles Zenawi ("Birtukan Midiksa is fine but she may have gained weight due to lack of exercise") highlights the callousness of the person leading the repressive EPRDF regime that has illegally imprisoned former Judge Birtukan Midiksa. The fact is Birtukan Midiksa, who was in solitary confinement for long in the notorious Kaliti prison, needs urgent medical care.

Former Judge Birtukan Midiksa is also the leader of the opposition UDJ organization and her imprisonment is illegal and an act of vendetta by the Meles Zenawi regime. In Kaliti, Birtukan is presently denied visits from journalists, diplomats, her close relatives (only her mother is allowed to visit). Birtukan has one little daughter who is not taking her mother's incarceration in stride and there are reports also that the harsh conditions in Kaliti and the harassment by prison guards have had their toll on Birtukan too. Meles Zenawi has time and again publicly trampled on the alleged independence of his judiciary (State controlled actually) and declared that Birtukan will never be released and so forth. Birtukan was "pardoned" along with many other opposition prisoners, released and then rearrested on the flimsy ground that she has violated the terms of her pardon.

SOCEPP calls on those with the clout to put pressure on the regime of Meles Zenawi to stand up for the release of Birtukan Midiksa and all other political prisoners and to demand her immediate access to proper medical care.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE  
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