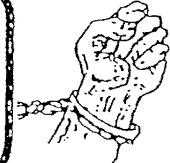




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



October 16/2010

THE RIGHT TO FOOD VIOLATED BY MELES ZENAWI REGIME

The right to food is a basic right that remains grossly violated by successive regimes in Ethiopia. Presently 12-14 million people depend on food handout from international sources and hunger has become a constant and deadly companion of millions.

The regimes, past and present, allege that hunger and famine in Ethiopia are caused by drought but the truth remains that the bankrupt agricultural and economic policies of the regimes caused the food shortage. The ruling Meles Zenawi regime has destructive policies concerning land ownership, agriculture and market for grain produce. Rampant inflation has aggravated the impoverishment of the people and millions skip meals even in the capital city. The much trumpeted double digit economic growth remains an illusion when confronted with the reality of millions starving daily, many dying from hunger and thousands of street children rummaging through the garbage to search for food. The food producers, the peasants, are still the most oppressed and disadvantaged people in Ethiopia whose economy is controlled by the ruling group. Huge tracts of fertile land have been leased dirt cheap to foreigners who take the produce back to their own countries as Ethiopians starve and continue to depend on foreign food donation.

The violation of the right to food is one more indictment of the Meles Zenawi regime that has continued to grossly violate the human rights of Ethiopians.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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