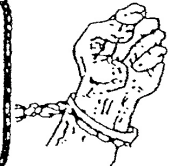




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



August 10/2009

SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS-CANADA (SOCEPP-CAN)

A Canadian citizen detained in Somalia was sentenced for life in prison for terrorism-related charges by an Ethiopian High Court in the capital Addis Ababa. The Canadian branch of SOCEPP (HQ Berlin, Germany) strongly condemns this sentencing. The 40-year old Canadian citizen of Ethiopian origin, Bashir Makhtal was convicted of being an active member of the Ogaden National Liberation Front where the Meles regime has committed massacres and atrocities. Bashir was arrested by Kenyan authorities and handed over to the regime in Addis Ababa.

Makhtal has denied in court any affiliation with the ONLF.

Bashir Makhtal is the grandson of one of the founders of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). He was arrested in 2006 as he was trying to cross the border between Kenya and Somalia after fleeing violence in Mogadishu and has been in custody for the last two and half years. Despite the massive humanitarian aid to Ethiopia. The Meles regime is engaged in a burn all kill all counter insurgency program in the Ogaden.

SOCEPP considers the trial a sham and the charges dubious at the least. And hence, the sentencing is illegal as due process and habeas corpus have not been observed at all.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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