

02.05.2009

Ethiopians March in May Day Procession - This Year Too!

Ethiopians in Oslo took to the streets yesterday (the 1st of May International Labour Day) and participated in the Labour Day procession, in answer to the call by EPRP Norway Section for Ethiopians to unite against tyranny and oppression, and to reaffirm and express our solidarity with Ethiopian Workers.



As Ethiopians marched in the procession they “showed the flag” quite literally by carrying it and even adorning themselves with it while distributing leaflet to the crowd. The leaflet bore the title (from EPRP Norway Section) “Etiopiske arbeidere forene dere mot undertrykkelse – i år også (Ethiopian Workers Unite against Oppression – This Year Too)”.

Under this title the leaflet described the historical development of the situation in Ethiopia, gave a brief summary of current conditions in the country – the plight of employees who can be summarily fired with loss of all accumulated pension rights, who are denied the elementary right to negotiate with the employers and to withhold their labour, who are exposed to brutal discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, who have no voice, and who lack even the right of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, and made the point that matters are getting steadily worse and more extreme. Finally they call on all working people and all other forces of democracy and freedom to give their support to Ethiopians and their trade unions in their struggle for fundamental, universal human

rights.

The placards carried by the marchers bore slogans like

- **Respect for workers' rights**
- **Unconditional release of all political prisoners**
- **Respect human rights in Ethiopia**
- **Ethiopia Democracy versus tyranny**
- **EPRP for a better tomorrow**
- **EPRP stands for workers' rights, against oppression**
- **etc.**

Finally, EPRP Norway Section would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part, and the organizers, EPRP's Committees (Action Committee, Youth Committee and Women Committee) in Norway who made this successful event possible, and we appeal to everyone to continue the struggle in a coordinated and concerted manner in the same spirit of unity that was exhibited by everyone yesterday.



EPRP Norway Section