



AEUP SUPPORT IN EUROPE

Attacking & Destabilizing Opposition Organisations is Undermining Democracy and Democratic Governance

THE ALL ETHIOPIA UNITY PARTY (AEUP) is at the forefront of the struggle against the disintegration of the country Ethiopia and the assertion of Ethiopianess as an identity of citizenship. This action of AEUP has put the party at odds with the ruling regime subjecting its members and leaders to severe and sustained repression. These attacks have been intensified against AEUP since the 2005 election when the ruling party lost at the ballot box but retained power through sheer force and brutal repression that terrified the country.

The repressive actions against AEUP have taken a new turn in recent weeks. The organization has been subjected to severe and sustained repression for its popular guiding principles. The disempowerment moves underway have been driven by the ruling party. In a recent statement addressed to “FRIENDS OF ETHIOPIA” issued on 15 December 2011, AEUP has let it be known that the Election Board is creating havoc by intervening in the internal running of the organisation. One aspect in which the Election Board has intervened is by asking AEUP to call a party Conference that would include all people expelled from the party at different times for conspiring and undermining the party. This was done with the intention of replacing the elected party leadership with disgraced and expelled members with the objective of turning around the party organisation to “a loyalist opposition” headed by opportunist groups. The repressive actions against AEUP are now being intensified by conspiratorial moves concocted by external elements that are attacking it from outside. Similar attacks are also being made by infiltrates aided and supported by the ruling front.

The ruling front has taken concerted action against the AEUP membership since the 2005 election. This has seriously undermined the financial strength of the party. With this understanding, the Election Board is now asking AEUP to call a party conference 6 months after the last party conference. According to the rules of the party accepted by the Election Board, the party has to call a conference once in 2 years. This is another way of pressurising AEUP to either succumb to the ruling dictatorship of the TPLF/EPRDF or alternatively handover the organisation to recruits that would follow ruling front instructions.

On December 26, 2011, 27 party leaders and members have been rounded up and imprisoned by agents of the regime in South Ethiopia, Goffa Zone for not submitting the list of members on the spot which had already been submitted and in the hands of the ruling party. In another round of repressive measures, the ruling party has been imprisoning AEUP members of the same region from January 15 to 22 with an excuse of not buying fertilizers from the government suppliers which they do not need nor afford to do so. They imprisoned 38 members of whom 21 are those who joined AEUP defecting from the ruling party. These repressive actions clearly demonstrate that the current dictatorship is determined to destabilize, and/or /take over or undermine AEUP as an organisation. Against all odds, the AEUP has continued to advance its peaceful and democratic struggle against the dictatorship despite the illegal moves of the Election Board and the repressive measures taken against it through ruling party local agents.

The dictatorship in Ethiopia for the last 20 years has waged continual repression of the opposition organisations in general and those who stand for the continuity of Ethiopia as a country and Ethiopianess as an identity of citizenship in particular. AEUP which has a clear stance on representing the will of the Ethiopian people to live together has sustained despicable sufferings that should not be inflicted in this day and age. Their organs have been muzzled, their organisation has been immobilized. In general, despite all the effort of the ruling party to silence the opposition, the scope of the struggle for democracy is now broadening. Citizens of the country are joining party organisations and it is imperative that the combined push will broaden and dislodge the dictatorship. The recent self-immolation of Teacher Yenesew Gebre on 11/11/2011 was a choice of death to life without freedom and democracy. It is a tangible remonstrance of the heightened level of popular resistance. The fire that burnt Yenesew Gebre is not extinguished. The fire that torched Yenesew will definitely torch dictators. The prevailing situation demands the input of all responsible citizens so that the prevailing ethnic dictatorship gives way to democratic governance. If the dictatorship insists to pursue its dangerous and distractive route, its supporters should stand firmly with the AEUP and the Ethiopian people at large and empower the struggle for democracy to its successful end.

Dictatorship will be destroyed.
Democracy, equality and unity will triumph.
Long Live Ethiopia and Ethiopiawinet!

By AEUP Support Organisation in Europe (AEUP SO EU) January 29, 2012