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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

**MARCH 8—INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
NO CELEBRATION FOR ETHIOPIAN WOMEN**

The only fact we can affirm without hesitation is that Ethiopian women have not stopped to fight for their rights. During all the decisive stages of the Nation's history women have been, with men, in the forefront of the struggle for liberty, sovereignty, equality and democracy.

The condition of women and the girl child, we should add, is deplorable in Ethiopia. By all accepted criteria, the situation is dismal. Child marriage is rampant, child prostitution spreading, young girls and women are sold unto modern slavery which has entailed humiliation of all sorts, rapes and murders too. An Ethiopian woman gang raped in the Sudan has now been condemned by the Sudanese authorities on the grounds of indecency and adultery. Female genital mutilation still exists, women are not paid equal to men, the right to own and control their own bodies is not respected, women do not have rights to education, health care and work. The majority of women being rural based their plight is grave and thousands of them have been trafficked to the Middle East to serve as modern slaves. Domestic violence is unchecked, young girls are kidnapped and forced to accept marriage with their abductors.....The propaganda about the liberation and equality of women is as fake as the existence of democracy in a country that is viciously rule by a pro West demagogic and ethnic chauvinist regime. Women from certain ethnic groups (Amhara, Somali, and Oromo for example) have been subjected to a deliberate policy of ethnic and sexual discrimination and oppression. The regime uses sexual violence as an instrument of war committing rapes not only in the various insurgency ridden areas but even abroad in Somalia.

The previous totalitarian regime murdered thousands of women during its cruel and infamous Red Terror and women (young and old) wrote valiant chapters in the history of our people confronting death with indomitable courage. The present repressive and anti-people regime has also been confronted by women struggling for their rights and many women are behind bars in horrible prisons and in labor camps. Many girl child are also imprisoned much to the shame of the regime in place.

March 8 for Ethiopian women is a day that calls them for more struggle to set up their own autonomous organization around their basic and justified demands. To continue the struggle against a regime that stands against the rights of women.

March 8. 2014

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