

Ethiopians March in May Day Procession

Ethiopians in Oslo took to the streets yesterday (the 1st of May – International Labor Day) and participated in the Labor Day procession, in answer to the call by EPRP Norway Section and The Ethiopian Common Forum in Norway 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 leaflets to the crowd. The leaflets bore the title “Solidarity with Ethiopians languishing under the heavy yoke of tyranny” and (from EPRP Norway Section) “Etiopiske arbeidere forene dere mot undertrykkelse – i år også (Ethiopian Workers Unite against Oppression – This Year Too)”.

Under these titles the leaflets 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 the territorial integrity of Ethiopia**
- **Respect human rights in Ethiopia**
- **EPRDF kills children and woman**
- **Release teddy afro**
- **Stop the occupation of Somalia.**
- **Ethiopia Democracy versus tyranny**
- **Kinijit's principle shall prevail**
- **EPRP for a better tomorrow**
- **EPRP stands for workers' rights, against oppression**
- **We'll reclaim our country**

Finally, EPRP Norway Section would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part, and the organizers, The Ethiopian Common Forum in Norway and EPRP's Action 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