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ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP)

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Norway section

Norge avd

Oslo, 11.01.2009

Campaign for the Release of All Political Prisoners in Ethiopia

EPRP Norway denounces the violations of human rights in Ethiopia, and supports the international campaign for the release of all prisoners of conscience in Ethiopia.

Notwithstanding the claims made by those foreign powers busily engaged in organizing elections and “supporting democracy” in Ethiopia, the intensity of the repression and persecution of all political dissent has not decreased, but increased since the Woyanes came to power. When the Woyanes came to power, a number of EPRP leaders like Tsegaye Gebre Medhin and Yishak Debre Tsion, journalists like Kumsa Berayu and Berhanu Ijigu, trade unionists like Abebe Ainekulu, women political activists like Aberash Berta, and many other leaders and members of various organizations were arrested, and since their disappearance eighteen years, no information has been forthcoming about their whereabouts, and we want to know where they are!

Many educationalists, human rights activists, political leaders, journalists, students, religion leaders have been subject to extreme suffering in the form of harassment, persecution, imprisonment, torture and execution. In addition many innocent people, older people, younger people and children have suffered the same fate without having done anything to deserve it. When Ato Abera Yemaneab travelled to Addis Ababa at the invitation of of the Woyanes to attend a reconciliation conference, the Woyanes arrested him, and have as yet not released him. Just recently the popular and much loved musician Tedros Kassahun (aka Teddy Afro), whose only crime was to sing on behalf of the people and make their sufferings known through music, was arrested, and the leader of UDJP, Mrs Birtukan Midiksa was re-arrested. Those mentioned above are just a few. In addition to these, there are thousands of people illegally imprisoned and kept under illegal conditions, many of them in prisons whose locations are kept secret, and which are therefore inaccessible to inspectors from human rights authorities.

To support and participate in the campaign for the release of these prisoners of conscience must be the duty of all democratically minded and peace-loving individuals. This campaign will, however, only succeed if led and organized by genuinely oppositional organizations and individuals, and will be doomed to total failure if hypocrites and Woyane operatives are allowed to have a hand in things. This campaign will only succeed if conducted steadily and persistently on an ongoing basis for all prisoners by genuinely motivated organizations and individuals, and will be doomed to total failure if conducted sporadically and fitfully according to the agenda the Woyanes try to set for us by well-timed arrests, as it will be if organized by hypocrites and Woyane operatives who co-operatively react hysterically to these arrests.

EPRP Norway begs to direct the attention of all genuine Ethiopians, the people of Norway, the government of Norway, all those who subscribe to the ideals of democracy and all persons of good will to the developments which are having such an extreme and brutal effect on the lives of all

prisoners of conscience in today's Ethiopia. EPRP Norway calls upon all genuinely oppositional organizations and individuals to come forward and lead this international campaign for the release of all prisoners of conscience, and to expose the hypocrites and Woyane operatives among us.

EPRP's struggle for the triumph of democracy and justice, for the establishment of multi-party governance, for the rule of law, for the respect for the inalienable human rights of citizens, for the furtherance of the economic, social and cultural development of all nationalities and regions within a united Ethiopia, and for the protection of the welfare of the Ethiopian people as a whole, will continue until there are no longer any prisoners of conscience!!!

EPRP Norway Section
