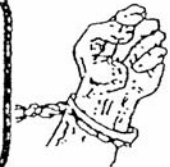




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



Februray 27/2007

UPDATE ON THE DEPORTEES FROM THE SUDAN

Four of the Ethiopian refugees deported from the Sudan along with elder (Shaleka) Atanaw Wassie have been released and instructed to appear in court to follow their case. They were held in Kailiti and are accused of fomenting an armed rebellion against the regime in place. The released are: Anteneh, Shebabaw Assefa, Mamaye Abebe and Abebe Yigletu.

The Sudan has been deporting dozens of Ethiopians and the last batch involving the elder Atanaw Wassie was sent to a possible "death" as the regime had accused all of inciting a rebellion against it, transporting arms across the border, belonging to an illegal armed group, etc.. Atanaw Wassie is 75 and ailing. His whereabouts is not known and there are fears for his safety both because of maltreatment and of lack of adequate medical care. The Sudan, on its part, continues to hold very many Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in horrible conditions of detention and threatens to continue with the deportations. The bleak and dangerous situation has delivered the hapless refugees to unscrupulous traffickers who take the refugees across the Egyptian desert to Libya or Israel and to more suffering and possible death. Israel and Libya have also deported the refugees and the condition of detention of Ethiopians in the Libyan desert is very inhumane.

SOCEPP calls on the Sudan to cease the mistreatment and deportation of the refugees and demands the EPRDF to immediately release elder Atanaw Wassie and all the other deportees kept behind bars.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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