



የኢትዮጵያ ሕዝባዊ አብዮታዊ ፓርቲ (ኢሕአፓ)
ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP)
ፕሮግራም ክፍል Norway Section Norge avd.

29.04.2008

Ethiopian Workers Unite against Oppression – This Year Too

Things have not changed in our country, Ethiopia. Since the situation is as it was last year, and has been for many years, we must do as we did last year in Oslo, and as many have done elsewhere for many years. We must renew our call to Ethiopian workers to unite against oppression, and we must maintain and be sure to express our support for them.

Thirty-two years ago today large numbers of Ethiopians were mercilessly massacred by the forces of the Derg regime as they took part in the International Labor Day celebrations, most of them in Addis Ababa. On that historic day more than a thousand were killed on the pretext of their alleged membership of EPRP (Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party). But this did nothing to kill the Ethiopian Labor Movement or public support for its struggle.

Today, this 1st of May 2008, as we march in support of the ideals of May Day, we are marching in support of the Ethiopian Labor Movement and its struggle for justice, and to express our condemnation of the suppressive illegal Ethiopian regime, in this case the Woyanes who are doing their utmost to weaken and destroy the Labor Movement by dividing it along ethnic lines for the purpose of conquering it, and who are ruling the country through intimidation, repression, imprisonment, torture and extra-judicial killings.

The EPRP, one of the oldest political parties in Ethiopia and a pioneer of democracy and justice, has fought fiercely, incessantly, and without counting the cost, and continues to fight for multi-party governance, the rule of law, the democratic and inalienable human rights of citizens, the economic, social and cultural development of a united Ethiopia's different nationalities and regions, and the protection of the welfare of the people as a whole. Today, as always, EPRP stands with Labor, for workers' rights, against oppression in whatever form it takes.

In today's Ethiopia, as in yesterday's, workers' rights are violated and suppressed. The original workers' movement in Ethiopia was dismantled by those in power and replaced by a puppet organization loyal to the interests of the illegally constituted government. The leaders of the original movement are now living in exile, and there is now no legal framework in Ethiopia that protects workers' rights or that protects workers from exploitation. The present government has sold out to foreign powers, and suppressing the people, workers and human rights in a way that supports and furthers the interests of these powers, so labor in Ethiopia is subject to gross exploitation. Workers can be and are summarily dismissed with loss of pension rights on the orders of foreigners. Workers are discriminated against and oppressed on the basis of their national and ethnic affiliations. Workers do not have the right to withdraw their labor (the right to strike) and no right to negotiate with employers, and women's rights are not protected. In today's Ethiopia there is no dialogue, workers are not heard, and suppression and exploitation is rife and on the increase.

The Ethiopian Labor Movement is part of the International Labor Movement and supports its ideals on a world basis in general, and in particular supports the struggle of our people against those who seek to divide us and conquer us, a struggle we are forced to wage in order to survive. The Ethiopian Labor Movement must now reclaim its organization that has been hijacked by those in power, protect and fortify its unity, and wage the struggle to protect the well-being of the country locally and nationally exercising their rights to strike. EPRP will continue to support the struggle in a coordinated, unified and determined fashion.

Respect for Workers' Rights!!!

Unconditional Release of All Political Prisoners!!!

Let us Honor Our Martyrs by Continuing the Struggle with Renewed Fervor!!!

EPRP Norway Section