

**SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL
PRISONERS – CANADA (SOCEPP-CAN)**

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P. O. BOX 413 STATION E, TORONTO, ON. M6H 4E3 CANADA.

Email: socepp.can@sympatico.ca

August 7, 2007

TO: Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva)

- Amnesty International, London & Ottawa; info@amnesty.ca
- Human Rights Watch, New York, Toronto, hrwnyc@hrw.org; herltj@hrw.org
- The Ambassador, Government of the Republic of Sudan, Ottawa;
sudanembassy-canada@rogers.com

Re: Update on the status of Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan who faced involuntary repatriation to Ethiopia.

On July 20, 2007 SOCEPP Canada issued an urgent action appeal regarding the new wave of mass arrests and possible involuntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees suspected of having affiliations with and/or support opposition political groups such as Oromo Liberation front (OLF), Ethiopian People Patriotic Front (EPPF) and others.

Following a massive protest by the international community as well as by Human rights groups from within Sudan, it now appears that some progress has been achieved. It is reported that many Ethiopian refugees who were rounded up and placed in detention are now freed with bail. It is anticipated that the remaining will be freed soon.

SOCEPP Canada commends the government of Sudan for halting this disturbing activity and calls upon it to free all the rest without any conditions. We continue to be seriously concerned about the fate of 20- 30 Ethiopian refugees who are still in detention suspected of having affiliation with Oromo Liberation front (OLF), Ethiopian People Patriotic front (EPPF) and others.

Reliable information from the region indicates that these refugees including the elderly **ATANAW WASSIE** continue to be held in a prison known as **DEBEK** just out side of Khartoum. It is further reported that these prisoners do not have access to medical care and are denied visitation by family and friends. They also have not yet been given any access to legal council.

We are gravely concerned that these refugees still face involuntary return to Ethiopia where they could face cruel and inhumane treatment including torture and “disappearance”.

- We urge the Sudanese authorities to continue respecting international conventions on refugees and human rights and release these refugees immediately.
- We urge the UNHCR to immediately intervene in this matter and secure the release of the detained refugees and ensure their ongoing protection.
- We call on International and Canadian humanitarian groups, religious leaders and refugee organizations to intervene and advocate for the respect of the right of asylum of Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan.

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