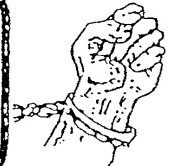




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



APRIL 4/2009

KIDNAPPING OF CHILDREN FOR SALE INCREASES

Reliable reports from Addis Ababa reveal that in the last few months the number of young girls being kidnapped from private schools and the number of children being snatched by groups of men travelling in vans has increased. The police are denying this is taking place though some schools like Gelan number 2 have reported that four young girls have been kidnapped in the last two months alone.

The children are reportedly being snatched by gangs linked to high echelon officials who are running a child for sale racket. The kidnapped children are being sold for adoption by foreigners. Instead of going through the usual adoption process, which is by itself derisory, the gangs assure that a child is available and the necessary papers ready within a short delay for a "reasonable price". The police who have been informed of the racket have chosen to deny such a crime is taking place.

SOCDEPP calls on foreigners engaged in this illegal action to stop collaborating with criminals and committing crimes against the children. The traffic of young girls to a life of prostitution or sale for paedophile tourists must also be condemned and stopped. The regime, whose officials are behind the illegal actions and kidnappings must be condemned and forced to stop.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
SOCEPP, POSTFACH 51213, BERLIN 13372, GERMANY
SOCEPP, 30 RIGA COVE, WINNIPEG, MB R2P 2Z7, CANADA
E MAIL: SOCEPP @AOL.COM
WEB SITE: WWW.SOCEPP.DE