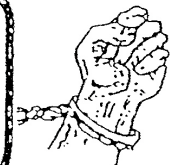




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



May 25/2010

CONDEMN THE RIGGING OF THE GENERAL ELECTION IN ETHIOPIA

The ruling EPRDF has won almost all the seats contested in this year's general election and by making the one party state official has once again blatantly violated the right of the Ethiopian people to have not only fair and free elections but to enjoy multi partism and democracy. The claim by the ruling front that no less than 29 million people voted all over the country is false as people had refused to register and more have boycotted the election altogether as was seen in Addis Abeba itself and many Northern and Southern towns.

The ruling front committed gross human rights violations by harassing and attacking the opposition forces during the last five years, jailing opposition militants and leaders on trumped up charges, forcing many into exile, banning the independent press, decreeing draconian laws against the press and NGOs concerned with human rights, etc. Independent observers were restricted from moving freely, opposition election observers were chased away from polling stations, food aid and State patronage were used to pressurize people to vote for the ruling front and the State controlled media was used to push the agenda of the ruling front. BY all standards, the election was unfair, the electoral laws served the ruling front and the electoral commission was handpicked by the regime itself. All in all it was a broad daylight violation of the rights of Ethiopians and the so called demonstration of supporters of the regime was also, as in the past, organized by the State itself using the carrot and stick to get the people out with slogans in English written by the EPRDF itself.

SOCEPP condemns the violations of the rights of the people by the Meles Zenawi regime and denounces the charade of an election, More ominously, SOCEPP has learnt that the regime intends to jail and prosecute certain opposition leaders on the usual trumped up charges of organizing violent dissidence. SOCEPP condemns this planned action and calls on the donors financing this repressive regime to stop doing so and to support the struggle for the respect of human rights in Ethiopia.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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