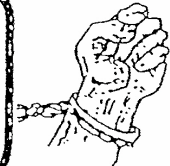




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



SEPTEMBER 15/2008

THE SALE OF ETHIOPIAN WOMEN
UNTO MODERN SLAVERY MUST STOP

The regime of Meles Zenawi has signed a deal with Saudi Arabia to send thousands of young Ethiopian women as maids and the agreement is being put into practice. Thousands of young Ethiopian women are in Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries in a situation that has been characterized as modern day slavery. Many have committed suicide, dozens have been tortured, thousands have been denied their wages, deported penniless and many more subjected to rape and brutalities including crude racism.

Over the years, SOCEPP and very many human rights organizations had been calling for an end to the trafficking of women to the Middle East, an operation controlled by the ruling EPRDF and its cronies. The treatment of then young Ethiopian women (some of them only 15 years old) by their employers in Lebanon, the Emirates, Kuwait, etc has been condemned as brutal and gross violation of basic human rights. Helpless, many of these young girls have killed themselves while many have been deported after having been denied their wages. The Saudi government has now signed this agreement with the Meles Zenawi regime because they found other domestic workers (from Indonesia and other places) "expensive" and the Ethiopian ones "cheap". Previously, many Saudi employers of Ethiopian maids have proved to be racist and cruel and arrogant violators of rights.

SOCEPP once again condemns the EPRDF practice of trafficking young and poor women unto modern slavery by exploiting their desperation. SOCEPP calls on international human rights organizations to denounce this action and practice. Once again, SOCEPP launches a special appeal to human rights organizations in the Middle East to raise their voices against the cruel treatment of young Ethiopian women trafficked by the repressive regime in Addis Ababa.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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