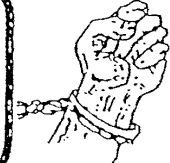




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



October 17/2009

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

"The right to food is a human right and is a binding obligation well-established under international law, recognised in the [Universal Declaration on Human Rights](#) and the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), as well as a plethora of other instruments. The right to food has also been recognised in numerous national constitutions. The right to food has been well defined in the [General Comment No. 12](#) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This defines the right to food as: "the right of every man, woman and child alone and in community with others to have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement in ways consistent with human dignity."

In Ethiopia, no less than 14 million citizens are in dire need of food help. The Meles Zenawi regime has denied this fact and continues to reduce the number of the people needing help and has stubbornly minimized the impact of the famine gripping the land. Numerous people, especially children, have died of famine already. The regime has also restricted food aid to the needy to achieve its counter insurgency objectives mainly in the Ogaden. The Ethiopian people have been denied the right to food and the starvation of the majority has become a fact of life for long. The cost of living has reached alarming levels and disabled millions in the cities from having proper meals. The country's economy is monopolized by the ruling clique that profit mongers to the detriment of all. As the world observes the Right to Food Day (October 26) we cannot lose sight of the fact that the repressive regime uses food also politically not only in exposing

the people to starvation but using food aid as a political weapon to gain allegiance and loyalty. The human dignity of Ethiopians has been violated in this respect time and again by the ruling front. Presently, the Meles regime not only denies the exact number of millions facing famine but has taken no concrete action to combat the catastrophe. Food aid donated by foreigners has been misused and sold in the open market too by the regime itself. In short, the Meles regime has violated the right of Ethiopians to adequate food and exposed them to famine and death. SOCEPP raises its voice against this gross violation of the rights of the Ethiopian people.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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