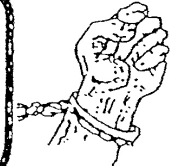




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



FEBRUARY 20/2009

CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF JOURNALIST WOKEN SEGED GEBRE KIDAN

The editor of the former Harambee newspaper, Wosen Seged Gebre Kidan, has been thrown again into the notorious Kality prison, because he was unable to pay the 3000 Birr payment imposed upon him for bail. Woseen Seged closed down his Harambee newspaper when print and paper costs sky rocketed shortly in a clear attempt by the regime to shut down some newspapers.

Wosen Seged was previously imprisoned in kaliti along with opposition party leaders and wa released through the pardon charade orchestrated by the Meles Zenawi regime. His newspaper was financially ruined by numerous fines imposed upon it since his release. The latest accusation against him stemmed from his truthful report that the last local by election was more or less boycotted by the people. The harassment of relatively autonomous newspapers is stepped up under the notorious Bereket semon, the regime's hatchet man against the media and the independent press.

SOCEPP has observed that some advocates of the freedom of the press have been duped by the regime's manoeuvres and consider pro regime newspapers or those indirectly owned by it as independent newspapers. In actual fact, almost all the independent newspapers have been muzzled and denied permission to reappear and the few that wiggled through are now being silenced.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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