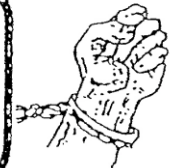




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



July 2/2013

JUSTICE FOR JATTENE (Mebatsion) ALI

On July 2, 1992, Jattene (Mebatsion) Ali was shot twice in the head by three TPLF assassins sent to Nairobi by the late Hailem Araya. Jattene Ali, a former major and governor of Borena during the Mengistu regime, was gunned down in Tea Zone Hotel Room by two TPLF assassins who fled while two other accomplices were captured, jailed and brought to trial. Bribery has been mentioned to account for the release of the two jailed accomplices in the brutal murder of Jattene Ali.

The decision to assassinate Jattene was made by top leaders of the Tigrean front like Hailem Araya, Kifle Gebre Medhin, and Meles Zenawi who are all now deceased, and locally in Nairobi by Leul Yehuala of the embassy who is now an official in the Foreign Ministry in Addis Abeba. The TPLF has also executed Afework Alemesged, brother of the current TPLF ambassador to Rome, in Thika refugee camp (the assassin used a silenced pistol and escaped). The Tigrean front in power had also tried to murder other opposition figures in Kenya and Uganda. The embassy in Nairobi organized the transportation of the assassins of Jattene from Wilson airport (Moyale) to Nairobi and they stayed in the embassy before and after the operation. They were later exfiltrated to Dar es Salam in a diplomatic car. Jattene Ali was opposed to the regime but did not belong to any opposition organization. However, his murder was ordered because of reports that he had made contact with at least two opposition organizations.

The Nairobi Law Monthly of March 1996 presented the case as follows:
"After the murder) Two Ethiopians, Haile Kidu Gemechu and Goba Libani Gabriel, were later arrested. On the basis of their confessions, the two men were finally brought to stand trial for murder on November 6, 1995. The delay in bringing them to court indicated that there were more than usual "behind the scenes

obstacles". Lawyers who took the case dropped out claiming "pressure". After a three week trial both men were acquitted" though the High Court judge Samuel Oguk did acknowledge that the killing was "well organized and carefully executed". The lawyer/court fees for the two arrested was paid for by the embassy. The two actual killers who hid in the embassy, were taken out to Tanzania months later. Goba Libani's girlfriend, who was a witness for the prosecution, was reported two weeks before the trial began.

Meles Zenawi is dead, Kifle Gebremedhin is dead. Hailom Araya is dead. The two leaders and Haile Kidu are in Addis Abeba and Tigray. Leul Yehuala, the intelligence officer and de facto ambassador (the nominal one at that time is now dead too) is alive and working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Addis Abeba. He has to be tried for his crime.

SOCEPP remembers Jattene Ali and calls on the arrest and trial of Leul Yehuala and the killers of Jattene.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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