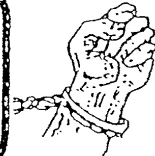




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



January 9/2011

## THE TERRIBLE PLIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

The recent drowning of more than 89 Ethiopian asylum seekers near the Yemeni coast has cast a dark and urgent light on the plight of Ethiopian refugees. Yemen holds close to 1500 refugees in a desert prison and the UNHCR has proved totally incapable to protect the right of the refugees.

Kenya continues to imprison, mistreat and even deport Ethiopian refugees. The Omar Beshir government does the same in Northern Sudan. Some of the deported are still in the Kaliti prison in Addis Abeba. Ethiopian Christian refugees have recently expressed their grief over their inability to get a burial place for their dead compatriots. Western embassies in Addis Abeba and their respective governments maintain the fiction of a non existent democracy in Ethiopia to declare it a safe country and to deny asylum rights to refugees. In Yemen and the Middle East, and in Libya where dozens are kept in containers in the deserts. Ethiopian refugees are suffering immensely. The situation Greece is no better.

Ethiopian refugees deserve asylum rights for a variety of reasons but all based on the fact that the Meles regime has violated their rights. The right to life, to food and shelter, to enjoy the rule of law, freedom of the press, and more. The refugees flee because they cannot live safely and decently in their own country due to the violation of their rights at all level and their fear for their lives. Sad to note once again that the UNHCR has failed the refugees in all these dangerous places.

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