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DENOUNCE THE REPRESSIVE REGIME'S ILLEGAL SENTENCING OF
JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL DISSENTERS

The State controlled court in Addis Abeba has sentenced a number of journalists and political dissenters to years of imprisonment and thousands of Birr fine. Thus, Journalists Woubshet and (Ms Reyot have been sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment a 33,000 Birr fine. The leader of the Ethiopian National Democratic Party, Zerihun Gebre Igziabher, has been sentenced to 17 years and a 50,000 Birr fine. Hirut Kilfe got 19 years and Elias Kifle, in abstentia, was given a life sentence.

The accusation came under the conveniently broad and all encompassing "terrorism law" decree to stamp out dissent of all sorts. Journalists have been special targets as the repressive regime strives feverishly to finish off the free press. The terrorism accusation did not hold any water or substance but for the State controlled court and judge this hardly mattered. A number of people are languishing in prisons under inhumane conditions convicted of "terrorism" by the same regime that many people accuse of engaging in State terrorism against its own people all over Ethiopia.

SOCEPP condemns the brutal and unjust sentencing of the journalist and political dissidents and calls on those who aid and abet in the violations of the human rights of the people to stop helping the Meles regime so long as it stifles the free press, represses dissent, engages in routine torture, extra judicial executions, invasion of a foreign country and other anti democratic actions.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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