



March 21, 2009

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TÜBINGEN

Universitätsstadt Tübingen
Gemeinderat
Am Markt 1
72070 Tübingen
E-Mail: ob@tuebingen.de ob@tuebingen.de

Dear Mr Palmer,

SOCEPP has learnt that Tübingen has picked the city of Makalle in Tigray as one of its three African sister cities. More than 5 thousand political prisoners languish in the prison of Makalle alone out of a total of more than 35,000 political prisoners in Ethiopia as a whole.

Ethiopia, as we expect you would know, is under the despotic rule of the Tigray people's Liberation Front (TPLF/EPRDF) which practices ethnic politics and discrimination and has in 2005 election repressed the people and the opposition and illegally continued in power. The TPLGF practices ethnic chauvinism with Makalle, the capital of Tigray, being favored in all aspects as compared to other cities. World wide human rights organizations, Reporters Without Borders, Committee to Protect Journalists and others have joined SOCEPP in denouncing the gross human rights violations of the Meles Zenawi regime.

Given this reality, the choice of Makalle as sister city to Tübingen is improper and disassociates your city from the struggle for justice and human rights that is waged by the people of Ethiopia. We ask you to desist from picking Makalle as sister city to Tübingen.

Thanking you in advance,

SOCEPP (Berlin)

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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