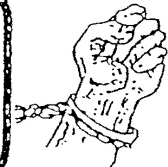




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



March 26/2012

Repression against AEUP Members Intensifies in the South

The Meles regime holds too many members of the All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) in its secret jails and labor camps like Zwai, Dedesa, etc. In the eyes of the regime this party is considered as Amhara, an ethnic group much hated and repressed by the Tigrean chauvinist Meles regime. Recently eight leading members of the AEUP have been detained in Southern Ethiopia.

According to an AEUP communiqué, eight of its members and officials were sentenced to nine months imprisonment by a judge called Abraham Adagne for allegedly refusing to labor on the farm of an individual, a made up accusation to take repressive action against the party given the fact that six of the imprisoned are the AEUP executive members for the Denba Gonfa district. Other party members have been fined and also charged. The Meles regime has, over the years, tried to dismantle the AEUP, to split it, to decapitate it by harassing and jailing its leaders, etc. It is a repressive and ongoing campaign that is fired by the regime's hatred for all real opposition and especially for parties it considers pan Ethiopian (or, in its reasoning, Amhara).

SOCEPP vigorously condemns the repression launched against the AEUP and calls for the immediate release of all jailed AEUP members as well as all political prisoners.

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