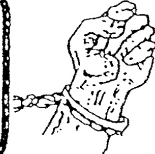




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



8 November 2011

SOCEPP CALLS AGAIN ON EGYPT TO STOP THE CRIMES

AGAINST REFUGEES

One report put it as follows:

"There are currently about 300 Eritrean refugees being held in the Aswan prison in appalling sanitary conditions and subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment. Most of the refugees have come from the prison camps run by traffickers in northern Sinai, where they have been subjected to torture, beatings and rape.

These refugees are also witnesses of the murders, extortion and atrocities perpetrated by the traffickers against their fellow countrymen".

More than 118 Eritreans forced to sign a desire to repatriate are awaiting deportation though they have complained that they would be facing persecution in Eritrea if they return. Egyptian police have collaborated with the traffickers to hold refugees for ransom demanding thousands of dollars from the relatives for the release of the refugees. Worse still, mass graves of refugees have been discovered in the Sinai, many with their hands tied behind their backs and executed. The theft of organs from the refugees has also made the headlines. Ethiopian, Eritrean, Southern Sudanese refugees have been shot dead by Egyptian border police more often than not. It is crime after crime against defenseless refugees whose fate has been ignored by the UNHCR and many other agencies.

SOCEPP, on its part, has time and again written to the Egyptian authorities to take prompt action to stop the violation of the rights of refugees from the Horn of Africa, the Sudan and other African countries. The new authorities have not taken any action to protect the refugees. This has to change.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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