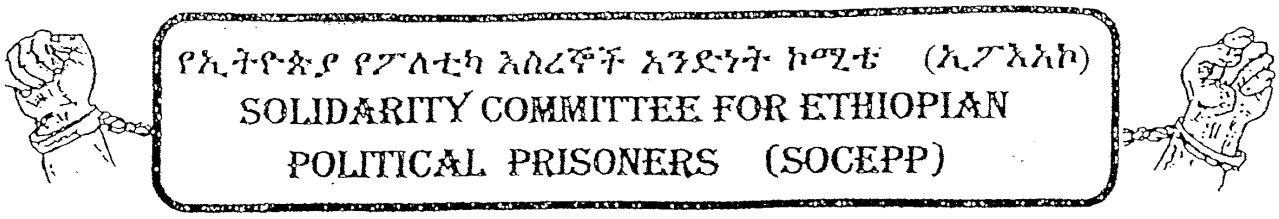

JUNE 14/2011

ETHIOPIA: TORTURE AND DISAPPERANCES REPORTED

SOCEPP has received the following letter of ALERT from concerned sources. " Six Female Students of Wollo University, Kombolcha campus (Amhara Region) were abducted by security forces on June 01,2011. Three days after the day the students were taken from their dormitories, their whereabouts is still unknown. Six female and two male Muslim students of the university were taken by security personnel of Kombolcha town. The students were told that they were required by the town administration and would be back after giving their word to office. The students were called from their respective room through the student council (Ato Shumet) of the campus. This happened on June 01, 2011 at around Magrib Prayer (around 6 pm local time). Once they entered the car that was waiting for them outside the campus, the eight students were taken to the town municipality. The female and male students were then separated and at around 7pm the female students were taken to unknown location. After intense interrogation that runs for several hours, the two male students were released late in the night. They were told that they will be KILLED (Gedilen demachihun entetawalen) if they leak out any information on the incident. By the time this information was known no one knows the where about of the six female students and the condition they are being held in.

A few weeks ago the six Muslim Female students were suspended from their study for wearing their Islamic dress (Jilbab) for two years. Later on two more students were

suspended for the same reason. These were students from Kombolcha Campus. Another six students were suspended for similar reason from Dessie Campus. The Muslim Community representatives of Kombolcha town and the Zonal Islamic Affairs council brought the situation to the higher body which condemned the measure of the university unconstitutional and one that contradicts the educational policy of the Ministry of Education for Higher institutions. The university was then ordered to re-admit the suspended students. Just ten days after the 14 students started their study again, the six students were abducted on Wednesday June 01,2011.

The abduction of the six female students and their unknown situation and location is very alarming. The regime's proclivity for brutal torture is well known and there are fears that these students might be abused.

The following are the 6 female Muslim students abducted on June 01, 2011.

1. Fatuma Mohammed - 2nd year electrical Engineering department (Afar)
2. Hadya Nega - 2nd year Statistics Department (Afar)
3. Zemzem Ahmed –3rd year Mathematics Department (Amhara,Gonder)
4. Zemzem Mahmoud –3rd year Mathematics Department (Amhara,Gonder)
5. Naima Yimer –3rd year Mathematics Department (Amhara,around Desse)
6. Hayat Mohammed –1st year Textile Department (Amhara,Bahir Dar)".

SOCEPP demands that the regime of Meles Zenawi should account on the disappeared, release the political prisoners and stop the repression altogether.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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