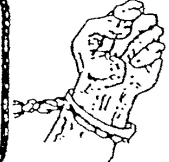




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



FEBRUARY 27/2013

SURI PEOPLE IN OMO REPRESSED BY REGIME

The Suri people inhabiting the Lower Omo region are being chased of their lands, imprisoned, tortured and even killed by the regime in Addis Abeba that is overseeing the huge Gilgel Gibe III project and because it has given vast tract of land in Lower Omo valley (500,000 hectares) to mainly Malaysian (Indian and Chinese are also present) firms that plan to grow cereals, palm oils, etc for export. Water has been diverted to the plantation, grass and tress cleared and the life of the local people disturbed in a big way. The Gibe dam is opposed by Kenyans who claim it will affect the Lake Turkana and the environment in the region.

As of last year more than 76 people have been killed by government forces (2000 soldiers are stationed), many leaders arrested and a number of people also sentenced to 20 years of prison. The regime claims the dam and plantations will provide jobs to at least 200,000 people in the area but observers have found this to be a total lie. Famine is actually threatening the whole region as people lose their land and are forced to flee to the jungle. The regime in Addis Abeba is selling Ethiopian land on the cheap to Asian and Arab agro industry firms and causing havoc to the lives of millions and causing disaster to the environment by destroying forests and historic sites including nation forests and monasteries.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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