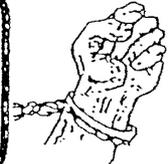




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



September 16/2001

DENOUNCE THE INTENSIFIED REPRESSION IN ETHIOPIA

The ruling EPRDF regime is panicking. It has arrested and tortured many journalists, dissidents and political personalities in the last few months so viciously that may be suggesting it is in a state of panic. Referring to a convenient anti terrorism law it has unleashed its repressive dogs against all and sundry and detained many political personalities.

The latest detainees are the well known actor Debebe Eshetu, the political personalities like Andualem Aragie, Asamnew Berhanu, Natnael Makonen and Zemene Mola. Zemene is the secretary of the All Ethiopia Democratic Party which had called for a mass protest demonstration next week. The Meles regime is in a wild repressive spree and has already been accused of brutally torturing detained journalists like Wubshet Taye. It is using the questionable anti terrorist law to arrest dissident left and right and to accuse them of so called terrorist crimes. Political dissent is thus being blatantly repressed by the Meles regime.

All this clearly shows that the Meles regime is in a panic mode. The numerous arrests and credible reports of torture have exposed it as an enemy of human rights and the worst predator of the free press. The Meles Zenawi regime is arrogantly violating the human rights of the people as the same time it panics and desperately takes brutal measures against citizens. The recent arrests of journalists and political personalities highlight the panic and desperation of the Meles regime and its determination to resort to torture and brutality to break the opposition. SOCEPP vigorously condemns the brutal violations of the rights of the people by the Meles Zenawi regime and calls on those foreign governments giving it support and aid to desist from their condemnable alliance with the anti people regime.

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