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ILLEGAL ACTION AGAINST OROMO DISSIDENTS

The regime of Meles Zenawi has for long targeted militants of the Oromo ethnic group and undertaken repression in Oromo inhabited areas. In line with this, a federal court has on March 31 sentenced an Oromo political prisoner to death and another to life in prison while handing down long term prison sentences to 13 other political prisoners, including a TV journalist who is a mother of three children.

Among the convicted, two of them, Tesfahun Chemedo and Mesfin Abebe, were apprehended by the Kenyan government and handed over to the Meles Zenawi regime in April 2007, and have been severely tortured by the regime and finally brought to court in 2008. SOCEPP has repeatedly written to the Kenyan (and also Sudanese) authorities to halt the deportation of Ethiopian refugees. Following is the list of those convicted:

1. Masfiin Abbabaa Abdiisaa, Death Sentence, *Civil engineer,*
2. Tasfaahuun Camadaa Gurmeessaa, Life Sentence, *Civil engineer,*
3. Baqqalaa Nagarii, 12 years without parole, *Businessman in Addis Ababa,*
4. Isheetuu Kitil, 12 years without parole, *Businessman and owner of the Hawi Hotel (Addis Abeba),*
5. Kabbadaa Booranaa, 12 years without parole, *Senior Manager of Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa,*
6. Waabee Hajii, 12 years without parole, *Lawyer with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia,*
7. Baqqalaa Jiraataa, 12 years without parole (in Absentia), *General Secretary of OFDM and an employee of Oromia Water Resources,*
8. Dajanee Dhaabaa, 12 years without parole, *Trader,*
9. Dajanee Booranaa, 12 years without parole (in Absentia), *Brother of Mr. Kebede Borena,*

10. Abarraash Yaadataa, 12 years without parole,
11. Roobaa Gaddafaa, 10 years without parole, *Statistician and employee of Hibret Insurance*
12. Baayisaa Huseen, 10 years without parole, *High School student, Ambo,*
13. Lalisee Wadaajoo, 10 years without parole, *Journalist and wife of exiled television journalist, Dhabasa Wakjira, himself a former detainee,*
14. Olaanii Jabeesaa, 10 years without parole,
15. Haayiluu Dalasaa, 10 years without parole, *3rd year Law student at Haromaya (Alemaya) University.*

SOCEPP strongly condemns the illegal action of the EPRDF regime and calls for the immediate release of all the imprisoned. The EPRDF should also stop its absolute control and manipulation of the courts and the judiciary as a whole,

Release all political prisoners without any condition!

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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