

Sidama: - Unjustifiably Suffering people

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Sidama people remains under constant violations of basic rights and deliberately caused underdevelopments by successive rulers'. Its democratic and basic rights have been mercilessly crushed. Sidama people have got vibrant culture and ways of life that has been compromised by the unjust system imposed on them by the rulers. As others southern Ethiopia nations and nationalities, Sidama nation wasn't lucky enough to use its languages and to exercise its distinct culture simply because they are not allowed to. The people of Sidama are deprived of their administrative rights and remain under their colonial masters' cruelty that is clearly noticeable on daily lives of the people.

During Emperor Haile Silassie's era and consequent Derg's inhuman and criminal regime, Sidama people suffered almost the same injustices and its rights have been entirely remained unchanged. However, Sidama people didn't peacefully accept such an unjust system imposed on them. They resisted heroically defying such acts of rulers' although the balance was not equivalent simply because of the rulers' modern Western weaponry upper handedness.

Therefore, the Sidama people were obliged:-

1. To abandon their administrative power and being ruled by alien people
2. Not to own and administer its natural resources
3. Not to use its language and accept rulers' language and way of life
4. To abandon its cultural heritage and others basic rights

These all indiscriminate acts against the Sidama people obliged them to raise arms on various occasions to reverse inhuman acts of the rulers against the Sidama people. The struggle continues in various forms and its people are non-violently claiming their lost administrative and socio-cultural rights to date. Meanwhile, many thousands lost their lives while claiming internationally recognised basic rights. The May 24, 2002's massacre of innocent and armless Sidamas who were claiming their constitutional rights makes good example for this argument. Additional armless and peaceful civilians have been indiscriminately arrested immediately aftermaths of the massacre. The massacre is actually a part of continued killings of the Sidama people by the successive rulers. In the era of tyrant red-terror dictator Mengistu H/Marian, more than 30.000 Sidamas perished seeking justice from early 1970s to early 1990s.

TPLF/EPRDF led current Ethiopian regime is not different from the past rulers since it came to power. The tyranny continued changing its tactic without any change in its substances. Innocent Sidamas are imprisoned on constant bases; no legitimate organisation is in place for the Sidama that addresses its people's problem and needs. Various forms of suppressions, intimidations and practical denigration are also parts of

daily lives of Sidama people. They don't have any say on their issues; every thing is decided by rulers' patronising politicians. Despite these all problems, Sidama people are still resilient and are tackling ongoing oppressions with united efforts.

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