

## **New Form of Deceit:- Meles's Plot against the Sidama Continues**

**January 30, 2006**

**Our Reporter from Awassa,**

The situation in Sidama region is deteriorating profoundly since 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2006 when Ethiopian Prime minister Meles Zenawi summoned 's meeting of Sidama political cadres in Addis Ababa to order them to abandon Sidama's quest for regional autonomy. As we have covered on this web site on 20/01/06, most of Sidama political cadres have emphasised to the tyrant dictator, Meles Zenawi that the issue is pretty sensitive to ignore. However, Meles has got angry and interrupted the meeting telling them to reverse the decision of Sidama people by all possible measures.

To implement this mission; regional deputy president, Shiferaw Shuguxee and other Sidama bandas are working tirelessly to reverse Sidama's regional quest. They are using various forms of intimidation, harassment and suppression of potential Sidama targets those who might be able to mobilise resistance against such unconstitutional acts of the regime. To do so, they are directly targeting individuals, groups of peoples with particular emphasis in Awassa. In rural districts, the situation is becoming enormously serious. All Sidama people are telling the bandits not to touch their districts to preach them the gospel of their leaders'. The focus in Awassa is entirely on the people who have rejected the idea of the regime.

On the other hand, the waves of anti-movement have engulfed entire Sidama. Therefore, it became increasingly difficult for the bandits to go to all districts to re-baptise Sidama people with their venoms of deceits and introduce new form of harassment and suppression. As a part of such heinous objectives, regional deputy has taken a key role and is gathering different segments of society from Awassa city. He met Sidama religion leaders and elderly yesterday (28/01/06), and said to have been babbling what he has been strictly told by his smart dictator. He tried to lecture 'majestically silent Sidama elders and religion leaders' that Meles's government is ready to construct an asphalt roads between districts, give the Sidama people administrative power of entire Awassa city and to work on infrastructures that have been forgotten for d14 years. They opposed with one voice telling them that 'the quest for regional autonomy is that for which precious lives of innocents and armless civilians have been indiscriminately lost on May 24, 2002. Thus, they replied, 'they are not the ones to decide, but entire Sidama nation'.

Today, on January, 29/2006, the cadres called 'Sidama business community' and received a bit lax response compared to yesterdays' uncomfortable response of elderly and religious leaders.

Meanwhile, the movement of the Sidama students is spreading all over the region. From 4000 to 5000 Sidama students said to have been gathered in Yirgalem on 25/01/06 and urged district government authority to come and talk to them. They discussed, and emphatically condemned unconstitutional acts of the government and their manipulation

of people to harass and suppress them. They emphasised that they will pay all sacrifices for their ancestors' land. The same waves of movements are taking part almost in all districts of Sidama. On 28/01/2006 Sidama students in Boriichcha district staged out on demonstration seeking the same answer. Such movements of all districts obliged Sidama bandas to be confined in Awassa by holding such deceitful meetings.

In another development, it has been uncovered that regional deputy president, Shiferaw Shuguxee, has signed a cheque for half a million, (a part of federal cash to promote any movements against Sidama people), to run this agenda by bribing as many people as possible. However, the situation remains fluid and the tyrant regime is not getting any step forward. Although the suffering of the Sidama people remains immense and immeasurable, so does their resilience.

**Sidama Nation Online.**  
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