

MELES ZENAWI IS BUILDING MILITARY IN SIDAMA: - People are under hitherto Unheard Tension.

Our Source from Sidama,

Sidama Nation Online, March 13, 2006

1. Military Build-Up in Sidama Region.

Meles's regime is terrorising Sidama people at hitherto unknown scale in its history. Using its loyalists, Sidama PDO's, the regime is making the lives of the Sidama people difficult to comprehend. The problem of the Sidama in such scale didn't draw the attention of international community. Sidama innocent civilians lost their lives claiming their basic rights enshrined in Ethiopian constitution in the past. And at present they are undergoing suppression, psycho-emotional and physical torture for this very similar quest for which 69 Sidamas lost their precious lives to Meles's security forces on May 24, 2002. Ever since, people are harassed on daily bases in every districts of Sidama for their views. In the past two and so days, the regime started to build its military in most parts of the Sidama region including Maagaraa (in Dale district), and Feero (in other corner of Dale district) to diffuse peaceful resistance movement of the Sidama people on their quest for regional autonomy.

The military said to have been roaming on the streets of towns and cities of entire Sidama region for the past three weeks to intimidate them until the PDO's make sure that the issues of regional quest is reversed. However, no arrest has been reported from districts by the military although there were rumours about the disappearance of outspoken Sidamas from some districts. The danger is inevitably looming.

2. Seven Sidama heroes received death threat; Students are constantly tortured and PDOs are planning for another massacre

We have uncovered the issues of seven strong Sidama men, who have stood for their principles that are accepted and internationally agreed basic rights are put under immense pressure. By Meles's cadres, they are considered 'relentless headache and dangerous to the ruling party' for their views. Some of them are made to disappear. No one knows their whereabouts. Some of them are intimidated and made prisoners of the conscious; their survival depends on international community's urgent intervention. Otherwise, they may not be able any more to enjoy a peaceful life.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Sidama University to high level school students have been emphatically condemning the acts and behaviours of the incumbent regime and their cadres who are making the lives of the Sidama people misery; defying the acts of cruelty. During their peaceful meeting held in Awassa on 11th of March 2006 they have been surrounded by the government security forces and were mercilessly beaten. At least 10 students are arrested and about two were seriously wounded and taken to hospital by the security forces. No reports on their whereabouts and progress.

In another development, on the meeting of PDO's held on 10th of February 2006 regarding the remediless fire burning in Sidama region, some PDO's such as **Galalcha Jaanje** (who ordered Sidama massacre of May 24, 2002) and **Petors Woldesenbet** (one of the previous conspirators) have emphasised that there will not be any solution unless some of the resistance leaders and students are killed. This emphatic suggestion of mindless and cruel hyenas created a bit different views among the PDO's and caused divergence in its out-comes. However, the PDO's are working hard to satisfy Meles Zenawi at the expense of voiceless 5million Sidamas although they can't achieve their goals.

3. Peasants' are called for urgent meeting in all districts.

On 11th of March 2006 peasants were called for urgent meetings in all, 10 districts of the Sidama region and told by PDO's to abandon their old-fashioned quest fro regional autonomy. The cadres emphasised to follow new order of Meles Zenawi that has been preached on the 14th of February 2006 when Meles came down to Awassa to speak to Sidama elders that failed to yield any fruit. In Awassa districts the assignment was of Tufaa Hoyicha's (former Sidama zone President) to lecture Sidama peasants on reversal of regional quest. The peasants told Tufaa 'shame on you' to speak such historic and inescapable failure standing on the blood of innocent Sidama people who have been massacred claiming these basic rights three years ago.

In Aleta Wondo district all peasants who were gathered boycotted after the preliminary orientation of the agenda of the meeting. In Aleta Wondo and Arbegoana districts **Woldeamanuel D. Hankerso** went with PDO's using Sidama Microfinance car plate No **3-11995** specially ordered by **Shiferaw Shuguxee** (so that Mr Hankerso support them to diffuse the tension in the region thinking that people didn't know for who he is standing for); and said to have been trying to preach Sidama people telling them that it's not time to answer for the governments Sidama quest for regional autonomy as the government has got bigger issues than the Sidamas, such as CUD's trouble. This mindless moron, Mr Hankerso, received disgustingly ugly and emphatic response from both districts Sidamas and obliged him and other cadres to abandon the meeting without their will.

4. Sidama Development Corporation (SDC), said to have been sealed off

The only NGO in the history of the Sidama nation, SDC (that has been inadequate in the past 4-5 years by removing its founders), has been sealed off in allegation of helping to duplicate anti-EPRDF fliers that alerted Sidama people in entire region to rise against anti-Sidama governments' and their cadres' plans. And, some of the seven Sidamas who have been pin-pointed by the ruling party and their cadres work in SDC and received death threat. In the meantime, on the meeting held on 9th of February to persuade Sidama intellectuals who work in SDC that has been counterproductive by drawing more resistance from entire SDC staff; the PDO's revealed their failure by preaching their wrong ideology against the basic rights of the Sidama people despite the resistance. Second day after the meeting, the SDC was sealed off and all documents feared to have

been looted and scavenged. Today, 13th of March 2006 is feared not to be hellish day for entire SDC staff who haven't volunteered to sell their principles for trash ideology of belly-minded Meles's cadres while wider Sidamas are expecting its children to protect their basic rights trusting that they are supposedly are there to represent the nation.

5. Arrestment is stretching it horizon in Sidama

As we have mentioned above, 10 students have been arrested on 11th of February 2006 in Awassa alone, and this trend has continued everywhere in the region. In Awassa vicinity farmers' association called, Yuuwo, the following are some of the prisoners:-

1. Abuuree Asaafaa
2. Tadesse Cefa
3. Alito Kambata
4. Edasoo Ebisoo.

There are numerous reports on disappearances of the people from rural Sidama region and in general the region is under tremendous pressure.

Sidama Nation Online
March 13, 2006