

The Ordeal of the Sidamas by the Name of Re-Settlement: more than 5 people said to have been devoured by wild animals.

Awassa, Sidama, January 4, 2004

Commentator;

It has been learnt in the last few weeks and few days that brutal TPLF/EPRDF led Abyssinian regime is causing unstoppable sufferings to the Sidama people. According to eye witnesses and people who escaped from the resettlement wild forestry of Bench-Maji Zone and who have arrived back to their land and people, many Sidamas have been devoured by wild animals of Maji Zone jungle in their way to escape from so called 're-settlement camp' in the past two to three weeks. Three weeks ago, the regime has uprooted 1,100 Sidamas from whom five have been devoured by wild animals. On January 2, 2004 they forcefully uprooted additional 1,500 Sidamas to the same area.

Astonishingly, the regime propagates and maneuvers the people and the international community telling that, it is a volunteer resettlement. But it is a complete lie! As to the same commentator, TPLF/EPRDF regime is effecting the same policy of destruction on Oromo and Ogaden Somali people. The resentfulness of the people every where, in effect remains.

The place the Sidama people were thrown was said that doesn't have access to safe drinking water, schools for children, clinics and market places to meet people and to buy things for basic necessities. The people, as a result are suffering water borne diseases and starvation since their arrival. Ironically, the loyalist of current regime, the PDO's (mushroomed political parties after the failure of derg regime in 1991) have been propagating day and night to deceive the Sidama people telling them that the people who have been taken are enjoying life. In addition to this, they bribe some people who are relatives of the cadres to get registered so that they can relate forced uprooting with the volunteer re-settlement. This mystery is strictly confidential which couldn't be disclosed to outsiders, out of the political cadres of TPLF.

The Sidamas who were taken away from their land and people to where they don't know and anticipate to go without their will and consultation, found the area terribly distressful and horrifying. The atmosphere where there is nowhere to go in the middle of jungle and to speak to is equivalent to death for the people of the Sidamas who had vibrant culture of socialization.

According to the same commentator from Sidama land, it is utterly inconceivable and unacceptable for the Sidamas the way the regime and their loyalists are treating the nation. The commentator adds that this is a part of Abyssinia's plan to destabilize the Sidamas and other subjugated nation by the name of their new and deceiving plan of 'resettlement'. In practice the regime is replacing the northerners who having and is colonizer's of the Sidama, Oromo and Ogadenia at the place of ousted people respectively.

For instance, they are replacing enormous numbers of their people after they have massacred the Sidamas on May 24, 2002 on peaceful and unarmed demonstration which had caused the death of hundreds of innocent Sidamas by the security forces of

the regime. Many agree, according to Sidamas, that the TPLF regime is uprooting the Sidama people from their land and people simply to silence their resistance and anger over administrative shift of their capital city and their surrounding lands to federal Abyssinian brutal rulers. Secondly, the plan of resettlement is to devastate the national interest and nationalism of the Sidama people which has been in place and has got value and morality.

The entire Sidamas have lived in their region. Their togetherness and resistance against the invaders despite the toughest colonial yoke, has been fierce for past century which has infuriated the colonizers to take revenge and retaliation against the Sidamas at present. Thirdly, to get more access to replace northerners underground at the place of those who are taken away?

Finally and mainly, the over all objective of re-settlement program in addition to the mentioned points above is to raise fund for their political agendas and military superiority. They are pretty determined to pursue this program to mask the hidden agenda of devastating non-Abyssinian nations of Ethiopia by maneuvering international community. While such heinous act against humanity continuous without global attention, the regime continues to enjoy the support of the powerful nations. The ordeal of Sidamas and other subjugated nations will continue unless this inhuman act has been tackled on time before the lives of millions is brutalized.