

**We Do not Turn a Blind-eye on an Unfolding
Tragedy in Sidama Land, and no more tolerate
Praia's.**

Press Release

August 31, 2005

Sidama National Liberation Organisation (SNLO)

The Sidama nation lives under precarious situation both politically and economically since the nation had fallen under Abyssinian colonial yoke in late 1890s. In recent years, however, such strategic enslavement and subjugation shifted its tactic and intensity without significant change in its ideology and principle. The rulers work shoulder to shoulder with Sidama banditries and traitors and fractions of people who conspired with the colonisers to sell the very interest of the Sidama people silencing any potential resistance under the pretext of democracy, peace and stability and self administration. In practice, the domination and strategic marginalisation remains pervasive.

Nature on the one hand and man-made treacherous political situation that doesn't let the nation think about development activities other than the daily political rhetoric on the other made the lives of the Sidama nation utterly difficult. The nation of five million doesn't have genuine political representation at all levels other than those who are living for their mere private benefits using the name of Sidama as a shield. Knowing the fact of the traitor's weaknesses, the rulers are exploiting available advantages by keeping them at federal, regional and Zone level as puppets. While the Sidama people trust its children believing that they were the people of value and principle as their ancestors, sadly the traitors continued to behave inhumanely virtually implementing the policy of intimidation and harassment with no regard to humanity. The nation is left in the middle of the ocean without rescuer. At the moment, no one talks on behalf of the Sidama nation. Contrarily, all the puppets accomplish the need of the rulers.

At present, famine and man-made hunger has stricken most of the Sidama districts while the politicians are running the agenda of deceit on the election that took place 4 months ago to guarantee the continuation of the dictatorial TPLF/ EPRDF rule. Hundreds of thousands of children are emaciated gravely due to famine caused by neglect and hundreds are eternally perishing on daily bases with no attention from suppressive central regime as well as regional puppet PDO's. In his position, regional puppet government's president is ignoring the issues of the Sidamas; but distributing their lands for his people at the Sidama capital, Awassa and Lake Abaya's vicinity that neighbours his ethnic group, Wolayta's.

Three months ago, former Sidama Liberation Movement (SLM) leader who was invited by the ruling TPLF/EPRDF' regime to campaign for their May 15, 2005's election in Sidama land in order to silence the Sidamas that trusted this traitor who has been a part and parcel of rulers since the monarchy; arrived couple of days before the May 15, 2005's election and accomplished his duty effectively. He saw the poison of deceit that was heroically resisted by the Sidama people. However, in the end he managed to

penetrate into the Sidama land after pouring tens of thousands of monies funded by the central government to some irresponsible traitors selected by regional and central government that helped the regime to pretend that they re-ran the election and won in entire Sidama.

In practice, the Sidama nation is emphatically condemning the act of deceit and at the moment they're discussing the issues at all levels. However, they don't have any power and voice to publicly protest for fear of the repetition of May 24, 2002's massacre of peaceful demonstrator should they continue to demonstrate as per constitutional rights. There is a looming danger as military presence signals the past experience to the Sidama's resistance and its counter-productiveness without sound protection from global community. As result, the Sidama nation is under hitherto unknown ordeal that has failed to draw the attention of the international community yet again.

Therefore, we in the Sidama National Liberation Organisation have duty and moral obligation to take this historical responsibility to champion the causes of our suffering peoples and hence help bring these issues to the international community's attention and to enable the Sidama people to decide on their issues.

Thus:-

1. We emphatically condemn such inhuman act of the Ethiopian regime towards the Sidama nation and call the international community to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of starving Sidamas
2. We are utterly disgusted by an undignified and irresponsible act of former SLM leader by conspiring with those who are killing innocent Sidamas; and warn this traitor to refrain himself from selling the interest of the Sidamas.
3. We call on International aid agencies, human rights organisations and other like minded humanitarian organizations to take urgent action to save the lives of starving Sidamas.
4. We urge the entire Sidama people to continue their peaceful protest against the previous result of election and other inhuman acts against the Sidamas politico-economic interest, and condemn former SLM leader who is pretending to be a champion of Sidama rights where as he is selling their very interest.
5. We call upon all human rights activists, liberation organisations, those who aspire for common goal of basic human rights to stand on Sidamas' side by exposing the hidden face of TPLF/EPRDF's regime.
6. We call upon western nations to take robust action against such inhuman acts of Ethiopian regime against the basic rights of the Sidama nation and urge the regime to take a corrective measure.
7. We emphatically condemn the behaviour of Ethiopian regime with regard to the May 15, 2005's election result. We fully appreciate the observatory feedback of the EU representative while calling on international community to intervene in forgotten Sidama region's election result that is causing untold havoc to the Sidamas at the moment.

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