

**Suppressing Democratic Movements with Gun Doesn't
Bring about Lasting Solution for Lingering
Injustice.**

Press Release,

Sidama National Liberation Organisation, SNLO

February 10, 2006

Meles's TPLF/EPRDF regime is crushing the rights of Ethiopian nations and nationalities since its authoritarian government came to existence in such a way that compromised fundamental rights of citizens including Sidama people. The regime has promised to respect the choices and protect rights of the people whose very rights are being crushed on daily bases. Their rhetoric at the beginning was embellished promises and beautifully decorated policies that are strategically planned to deceive Western donors.

They promised to let the peoples of Ethiopia to decide on their issues for which at present many people are paying precious sacrifices. Tens of thousands have been indiscriminately slaughtered by the security forces of the regime while they were peacefully seeking their basic rights in a constitutional manner. Many hundreds lost their livelihoods, others' thousands made to disappear or flee the country simply because of their political views and many thousands are suffering extra-judicial arrestment for decade and a half.

Ethiopian peoples' life standard is deteriorating drastically from time to time purely due to incumbent's ill-conceived economic and socio-political policies. Democracy galvanised, but deceitful Meles's authoritarian regime doesn't let independent minds to flourish and to create ideas and thoughts to bring the country out of lingering poverty. Peoples with such thoughts and ideas will not be able to live peacefully let alone thinking about development issues unless they make their conscious subservient to their inhumane and criminal rule.

Students of Ethiopian nations and nationalities from high school to higher educational institutions, supposedly the bases for future development are kept under constant

surveillance of the regime not to think about peace and development or have an ideological principle on the basic rights of individuals and nations and nationalities. Therefore, learning teaching institutions are virtually remaining as areas of ill-conceived political discourses where TPLF/EPRDF's henchmen intimidate other nation's students because of their views with underground armed student TPLF's securities. Therefore, every thing every where remain pathetic with no bright future.

Freedom of expression is considered a criminal act under Meles's regime. His politicians at all levels are well-equipped with immoral and inhuman psyche that neither benefits their nations' and nationalities' nor the country as a whole; but their egos. Their acts toward humanity and basic rights of citizens remain rampant. Meles has got good lip-service that is eventually exposed after the massacre of innocents and armless demonstrator's in the capital in the aftermaths of the May 15, 2005's rigged election when the incumbent suffered, actually irreversible defeat.

In Sidama region, the situation remains fluid since the May 24, 2002 indiscriminate massacre of armless and peaceful Sidama demonstrators by merciless security forces who were sought to protect their rights. Tens of thousands became the target of strategic intimidation and continued harassment. Despite relentless pressure and suppression, Sidama's quest for regional autonomy continued at hitherto unknown intensity. And so does PDO's pressure against Sidama's basic rights. In particular, the situation is getting worse since 19th of January, 2006 after Meles Zenawi urged Sidama bandits to take whatever the measure to reverse such a move after he held informal Sidama PDO's meeting in the capital.

Not only PDO's are playing unconstitutional and criminal acts of suppression; but also so called former SLM leader, Woldeamauel Dubale Hankerso is also fully serving this purpose. Mr Hankerso went to Ethiopia a couple of days before the May 15, 2005 election from the United kingdom, where he sought refuge and granted indefinite leave to remain for his fear of persecution should he return to Ethiopia. Paradoxically, he went back and campaigned for the ruling party from whom he feared persecution, up on his arrival urging all Sidama people to vote for EPRDF although he faced ferociously emphatic resistance from entire Sidamas.

After Mr Hankerso returning to the UK to collect his state pension from the UK government, he again went back to help neutralising Sidama's quest for regional autonomy with other anti-Sidama elements. Therefore, the tyranny the Sidama people receiving is two fold; one from the enemy and the other is from its children, traitors who sold their principle for the sake of their egocentrism. However, Sidamas anti-tyranny resistance continues unabated. Their indefatigability is unshakable despite inhuman acts of Meles's regime toward the entire nation.

Thus, we in Sidama National Liberation Organisation, SNLO;

1. Emphatically condemn such an unconstitutional act of Meles's regime and urge it to respect Sidama's basic rights and quest for regional autonomy without any pre-condition
2. Call upon democracy loving human rights organisations, Countries, liberation fronts and movements, and international community to urge tyrant Meles's regime to respect Sidama basic rights.
3. Urge Meles's regime to stop accumulating military in Sidama region to intimidate and repeat the massacre of May 24, 2002 for which no one held responsible.
4. Urge all Sidama traitors to re-think their actions against their people and join Sidama peaceful and constitutional movement to halt looming catastrophe.
5. Urge entire Sidama people to continue their peaceful and non-violent resistance movement and stand shoulder to shoulder during this historical juncture in Sidamas history to defend its unity, democratic rights and liberty by defying Meles's acts of cruelty.

Executive Committee,

Sidama National Liberation Organisation, SNLO

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