

TPLF/EPRDF's Regime Continues its Cruelty against the Sidamas while Re-appointing Criminals to higher Authority,

**Our reporter from Awassa, March 24, 2006
(Sidama Crisis Update)**

I. Shiferaw Shiguxee, former deputy Criminal becomes SNNRS's President.

Continuing its inhuman acts against the nation of Sidama, Meles's regime appointed Shiferaw Shiguxee as a president of Southern Ethiopia nation's regional state as a reward for his cruelty against his own nation. Mr Shiguxee was one of the government officials who ordered the massacre of the innocent and armless Sidamas on May 24, 2002 with others authorities including Mr H/Mariam Desalegn who is relegated to lower authority as of yesterday, (23rd of March 2006) leaving his presidency to Mr Shiguxee. In addition to previous criminal acts of Mr Shiguxee, at the moment he is the key player to order the arrest and killings of thousands of innocent Sidamas who are suspected of participating in any demonstration that claim regional autonomy. At present time, he is said to be VIP for the regime to sustain its life in southern Ethiopia.

With this understanding, it's believed that the appointment of Mr Shiguxee is a strategy of Meles's regime to diffuse an ongoing Sidama resistance movement on regional autonomy issues. The regime thinks that by appointing criminals such as Mr Shiguxee would remedy the plights of Sidamas. Shiferaw's friend, Mr Melese Marimo also rewarded by Mr Zenawi for his inhuman role against the Sidama people's quest for regional autonomy by appointing him an ambassador to South Africa. He is in Ethiopia to date; no one knows when he is going to pursue his ambassadorial duties.

II. All Over the Sidama Region, Waves of Arrest and Torture Continues

As many as three thousand Sidamas are feared to have been arrested since the first week of March 2006. It's pretty difficult for the Sidamas who are not arrested to get the lists of people who are thrown to jail all over the region. There is no means of communication to keep an underground system up to date. The only means remains a traditional means that reaches from place to place gradually from where we receive this scant information out of thousands.

Nevertheless, it's learnt that, in every districts of the Sidama region all prisons are full of innocent Sidamas. Students are picked up from their parents' homes by the security forces of the regime and districts officials who pursue the agendas of regional and Zone Meles's authorities. They all are daily tortured mercilessly. People who are thought to be very strong are taken to Awassa for further interrogation while those who are thought to be less dangerous are kept in very small rooms under unhygienic and crowded manner without food and family visit. The following are fractions of the arrestees:-

II.1. From Bensa district who're brought and arrested in Awassa on 19th of March 2006

1. Yifaatu Endale, Daayee High School teacher,
2. Tarekegn Hailemariam, Daayee, Primary Secondary teacher,
3. Genene Kawiso, Daayee Primary Secondary teacher
4. Fookora Fichee, Daayee Primary Secondary teacher
5. Effitu Endale, Daye Primary Secondary teacher
6. Kasahun Qaaqamoo, Daye Primary secondary teacher
7. Alemayehu Gaabiso, Business Man
8. Kaafaloo Tamiru, Business Man
9. Abebe Hamaro, student
10. Genene Solomon, Student

II, 2. From Aleta Wondo district, arrested in Aleta Wondo last week

1. Nigussie Oromo, Mekane Yesus Church Worker and Evangelist
2. Belete Gonsamao, agriculture extension worker
3. Kifle Bogale, agriculture extension worker; three of them arrested around Abosto, Wenenata police Training Camp last week.

II.3 From Wondogenet town,

1. Mengesha Tibo, was arrested on 21st of March 2006
2. Argo Adato, disappeared since 21st of March 2006

II. 4. From Awassa district

1. Abera Dukamo
2. Chilota Assefa, 10th grade Tabour High school student
3. Mebrat Kassa, Secondary teacher, Awassa
4. Tibo Ori'a, Farmer, Yumo farmers Association, Awassa district
5. Meseret Esayas, 16 yrs old girl 10th grade student, Tabour high school
6. Nigussie Na'uushaa, 9th grade, Alaamuraa high school

III. Chasing after intellectuals is becoming grave concern,

Almost entire Sidama intellectuals are made prime targets of Meles's waves of arrest since he failed to convince the nation regarding their quest for regional autonomy on 14th of February 2006. For the practicality of their ill-conceived plan against their own constitution and Sidama basic rights, they are intimidating and harassing the Sidamas who are escaped imprisonment and left outside. Most of them are put in prison already and others are receiving death threats on daily bases. Others are being told to resume dialogue as soon as possible with the killer regime if they want to survive. However, genuine and hero Sidama intellectuals as well as entire Sidama students are rejecting such invitation defying Meles's regime cruelty. Businessmen and farmers are also becoming other headaches for Meles's government that is shaken from its foundation. Many Sidamas are calling for more and strong resistance movement until they liberate their land. The inevitability of Meles's failure is at the hands of Ethiopian nations and nationalities resistance movements against his authoritarian regime.

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