

Meles's Regime Deceit: - Obfuscating the Issues on Sidama's Quest for Regional Autonomy

February 21, 2006; Our Reporter from Awassa,

1. Meles Ordered the Re-naming of the South University.

As per his deceptive rhetoric and promise that was planned to dilute Sidama people's quest for regional autonomy on the meeting of February 14, 2006 in Awassa, Meles has called for urgent federal Ministerial meeting in the capital and ordered the ministers to sign an agreement to temporarily re-name 'South University' to 'Awassa University' simply to dilute Sidama's quest for regional autonomy. As we have uncovered on this web site on the same day; Meles went to Sidama to answer Sidama elderly question on regional autonomy and continued violations of Sidamas basic rights in the past 14 years. However, Meles has escaped bubbling simply unnecessary promises. The temporarily change of the name of the South University is a part of such deceitful tactics. Nevertheless, his failure to address critical and burning quest of the Sidama's regional autonomy remain unanswered and thus continues to be his headache. Contrarily, Sidamas diligence and formidability on their quest for regional autonomy continues unabated.

2. Abate Kisho said to have been released

Former southern Ethiopian regional state president Abate Kisho has said to have been released on February 17, 2006 late afternoon from Addis Ababa's Federal prison. Abate Kisho was arrested four years ago with other authorities; allegedly corruption of 71million ETB. However, Mr Kisho's family was kept alive by the support of and by the good will of friends and relatives. The wife was not able to send their children to Scholl let alone to have such amount of money at their disposal. The issues that surround his arrest remain purely political and his being Sidama person although he served their purposes. During his time in prison without justice for the past 4-5 years; discontents and scepticism has grown immensely. Elders and entire Sidama nation were asking for his release ever since. Therefore, his release again is believed to be a part of Meles's strategy to make Sidamas abandon their quest for regional autonomy by answering all burning issues raised by the nation in the past 14 years.

3. Melese Marimo is said to have been in a serious trouble

Former southern Ethiopian regional state deputy president, Melese Marimo, who ordered with his other politicians the massacre of 69 innocent and armless Sidama demonstrators who were seeking their constitutional and international basic rights on May 24, 2002, at Awassa city is said to have been under tremendous pressure. He's been appointed an Ambassador by Meles Zenawi and given the role of intimidating and harassing the Sidama people on the regional quest prior his departure to South Africa to resume his Ambassadorial duty. But, the response of the Sidama people on regional autonomy is becoming more unmanageable and thus, obliged Meles Zenawi to come and to talk to Sidama elders on the issue on February 14, 2006 that produced nothing.

Meanwhile, Sidama people who escaped Meles's tyranny and living in exile including in South Africa said to have been worried after they've heard that the tyrant's appointees are following them where they sought protection. Therefore, they are organising anti-Meles and his tyrant Ambassador, Melese Marimo's demonstration in South Africa and determined to expose their criminal acts against civilian Sidamas and other nations of Ethiopia. On the other hand, Melese Marimo is said to have been tried to contact some Sidama people in South Africa to divide and get some support of the Sidamas in exiles.

4. A Dilapidated SLM; it's meeting ended in Chaos,

Having efficiently served TPLF/EPRDF's regime, former SLM leader W/Amanuel Dubale Hankerso was obliged by the pressure of the Sidama people to hand-over historic Sidamas struggle movement that he used it for his mere egocentrism under the pretext of Sidama since 1970s to the Sidama people. Accordingly, there was a one day meeting of all districts of the Sidama region representatives on February 18, 2006 in Awassa city. Shameful Mr Hankerso who doesn't learn from his past 40 years mistakes and doesn't regret for entire misdeeds of all forms against the Sidama people once again tried to appoint Executive committee members of the party that works with him. His undemocratic and usual dictatorial approach received emphatic resistance and he's been told by entire participants that the time of his deception and conspiracy against the Sidama people is over. And, most of the participants boycotted the meeting that's ended up with moaning of Mr Hankerso to hand over entire organisation by calling general meeting as soon as possible. Many believe that this promise is his usual mantra since early 1990s that failed to materialise.

5. New Waves of arrestment in the Sidama region

In Borrichaa district of the Sidama region many students have continued to be arrested. In the last week alone about 9 students have been arrested:-

1. Samuel Eyassu
2. Elias Simeon
3. Maaja Gikisoo
4. Tesfaye Hiifamo
5. Endale Samuel
6. Bookana Hamaaro
7. Bolka Rooba
8. Yonas Paulos
9. Amanuel Aruusaa; and other Sidama person that works for Sidama Microfinance on a clerk position in Awassa, Mr Terefee Soodo, has been arrested on February 16, 2006 allegedly helping to duplicate anti-Sidama's oppression papers and conspiring with anti-government movements. Alemayehu Gujo, who is appointed by Shiferaw Shiguxee to head the Sidama Micro-Finance and being promised to go abroad to with him is said to have called Mr Soodo to harass him telling that he will be thrown to jail forever if he doesn't agree with TPLF's cadres. No information received their whereabouts and health status.

Sidama Nation Online, February 21, 2006