

Awassa once again under siege: 611th core and other battalions ordered by federal government is surrounding both Universities and the City

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Commentator

Strong army battalions from Bilate and Ziway Army Training Centers are surrounding Awassa city. 'Awassa is under curfew' eye witnesses from Awassa city said yesterday. The students of two southern Universities in the city rejected the politicized University management order that ignored the issues of basic rights of the students. The students are told to leave the dormitory without any pre-condition. As result of this inefficient and inconsiderate judgment of the government according to the students, all of them are taking part in 'hunger strike' the only weapon at hand to convince the government of their recklessness towards its citizens, since the 2nd of August, 2004.

According to the same source; the new legislation of the government that obliges male students to pursue their studies from outside renting houses by themselves infuriated the students and their families all over the empire. The governments only plans to fill the quota for the number of students' entry irrespective of their needs and existing reality. This abrupt and unjust judgment doesn't take into account the real situation of students. In practice, the students have hardly single penny as most of them came from farmers who struggle for survival let alone to pay the University and accommodation fees of their children. Since August 2, 2004 both Universities and the city as a whole are put under military guard according to the source.

Following the students' hunger strike, the people of Awassa city and the entire peoples of the Abyssinian Empire are watching this burning issue attentively. To suppress such feelings and the revolt of the students, central government ordered strong 611th core that has arrived last night at Awassa in addition to the previous army battalion that put the city under the same precarious and insufferable situation as it has been during the May 24, 2002 massacre of the Sidama demonstrators. There is no movement around both Universities apart from all students inside who are under hunger strike.

In another development; it has been learnt that the Mayor of Awassa city who has been appointed by the central government to suppress, intimidate and conspiring to out the Sidama people from their city 'Legesse Wolde' has submitted his resignation letter to the regional government office according to another secretive source. The reason is unknown. However, his health said to has been compromised. The other colleague of him 'Mikael Tobias' who sacked all the Sidamas from any job under the Awassa city council has been himself sacked last week and substituted by 'Yishak Azaj' who himself is a part of his nation Kambata. Yishak's former office 'Housing and Investment Bureau' said to be led by Legesse Haile on secondment.

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