

An Irony of the Sidama Political Prisoners, Sidama Ethiopia

The Sidama political prisoners who were made to disappear from Awassa main prison by the government security forces two weeks ago, are said to have been taken away from their families and people to the capital city of Southern regional state president "Desalegn H/Mariam's" region 'Wolaita' for further torture and harassment. Desalegn H/Mariam who has been plotting his revenge against the Sidamas with his counterpart, the federal TPLF security forces made his dream to be realised. All prisoners are said to have been handcuffed permanently. And, their legs are wired according to eye witness from Wolaita Sodo. Mr. H/Mariam who is Wolaita, is one of those who ordered the massacre of the Sidama peaceful and unarmed demonstrators who were claiming their international human rights, with other bunches of political cadres loyal to the existing tyrant TPLF's regime on May 24, 2002.

None of the perpetrators are brought to justice to date. Instead, the people who ordered the massacre of the peaceful Sidama demonstrators and who are still intimidating, indiscriminately arresting innocent Sidamas to silence their anger over the massacred hundreds of innocent people and the shift of administrative status of their capital city 'Awassa', were assigned to lead the independent investigation for the massacre of the Sidama people. Some of those ones are 'Melese Mariwo' who is a vice president of Southern Ethiopia regional state, Minister, Ministry of Justice at federal level, 'Harka Haroye', 'Galalcha Janje' who is the Sidama region Justice Department head and numerous others political cadres.

Additional Sidamas are made to pay unnecessary sacrifice in allegation. Those who are taken to Wolaita Sodo are part of those innocent civilian demonstrators of May 24, 2002's massacre. According to many critics, setting up the so called "independent investigation team" is simply to deceive international community and regional organizations who requested an independent investigation into the Sidama peaceful demonstrators' massacre.

During and after the massacre of the peaceful demonstrators, the Sidama people expressed their deep hatred towards Desalegn H/Mariam and his cadres who ordered the massacre of the Sidama people under federal government's strict supervision. After the event, he is the one with other cadres who has been intimidating, harassing and imprisoning additional innocent Sidama people in allegation. Day to day intense evaluation (gimgema) to silence the anger of the Sidama people in the region is the priority of TPLF/EPRDF's cadres where tens of millions of Sidama and other nations all over the empire are gravely starving. The tension in Sidama region, since then is immense

The relationship between the Sidama and Wolaita people which has been smooth for centuries is put under question since the event of the massacre due to a number of reasons, the main one being a prescription of Abyssinian colonizers which is causing conflicts between the two sister nations. Secondly, in the capital of Sidama, there are a significant numbers of Wolaita people who have been & are working in different government and private sectors and living in Sidama city for more than half a century. There hasn't been any problem between the two oppressed nations as recently as the Sidamas massacre of May 24, 2002 after which the prescription of the Abyssinian colonizers came to be materialized.

The quest of the Sidama people for self-governance equally infuriated the Wolaita people who have been working in Awassa. Sadly, the Wolaitas have got the Sidamas wrongly. They think that, if the Sidama people fully regain their lost political and economical power in their own city and land, the Wolaitas may lose their economic upper hand compared to natives in the city of the Sidama. As a result, the Wolaitas were directly or indirectly supporting the human rights violations of the Sidama people by Abyssinian colonizers unprecedentedly. The transfer of Sidama prisoners to the Wolaita capital "Wolaita Sodo", therefore, is believed to be a revenge and retribution by Desalegn H/Mariam, by the order of Meles Zenawi according to many Sidamas from Awassa. Therefore, it's conceivable that the Sidama prisoners are taken to be harshly and arrogantly punished by Wolaita security forces ordered by Desalegn H/Mariam and federal TPLF/EPRDF's regime.

To the contrary, the Sidama people, in general, respect the human rights of any groups and individual as long as the said parts live peacefully. This is a core moral value of the Sidama people. Thus, the Sidama people don't have any intention of intimidating others who are living in Sidama land in a peaceful manner without conspiring in the process of Abyssinian colonization. Rather, the Sidama people request the full support of all colonized nations such as Wolaita in the southern Ethiopia and all over the empire in the process of struggle for freedom, democracy, justice and independence rather than conspiring with colonizers who at the end throw all non Abyssinians like rubbish after they have appropriately made use of them.

Federal TPLF/EPRDF's regime, led by Meles Zenawi is using this loop-hole to cause unstoppable conflicts between the two colonized nations who have shared and are sharing the same tyranny. It's a part of Abyssinian colonizers 'divide and rule' policy between given nations of their empire in a suitable ways for them. Obviously, this is the only specialty the Abyssinian colonizers have showed since they forcefully brought all colonized nations into today's Ethiopia form. Apart from this inexcusable and incontestable reality, the Abyssinia colonizers made the country under their empire to be the first from the bottom in the poverty line from the world.

Therefore, we call on all Wolaita people to emphatically condemn the transfer of the Sidama political prisoners from their city to Wolaita Sodo and request the return of the Sidama political prisoners back to their families, people, and land without any pre-condition.

We, the Sidamas request an urgent intervention of international and regional human rights organizations, international community, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations, powerful western nations and international Red Cross to reach the Sidama prisoners in 'Wolaita Sodo' without any pre-condition to save their lives. The prisoners need to be tried in Awassa where their family and people are available and where they were falsely alleged of instigating peaceful Sidama demonstrators. We need to increase the awareness of the international community, in particular the Red Cross, to the fact that the Sidama prisoners are put under constant handcuff and torture, and their legs wired. This cruel and inhuman act by the TPLF led regime is purely against international human rights. Therefore, international community and human rights organizations need to exert its utmost pressure on TPLF/EPRDF led Ethiopian regime to return the Sidama prisoners back to Awaasa without delay.

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