

## **Killings in Ethiopian Capital: - Sidama People Celebrated their New Year in Heroic and Disciplined Manner in Awassa City**

**Our Reporter from Awassa & Addis Ababa, November 1, 2005**

The Sidama Nation Celebrated its New Year 'Fichee' Yesterday, 31/10/2005, in the capital Awassa in a majestic and glorious manner despite the presence of heavy military and police forces to stop them from doing so. Tens of thousands of Sidamas are turned up from all corners of Awassa vicinity and entire districts flocking to the city in a disciplined and heroic spirit by chanting and demanding their regional autonomy. The Sidamas were not allowed to celebrate last years Fichee. This peaceful and non-violent resistance of the Sidama shook the foundation of regional and federal regime that obliged them not shoot on any Sidamas fearing worst knowing that people's determination should they answer the Sidamas quest with live ammunition as they used to. Capital city's tension played significant role in obliging the rulers not to shoot into Sidama demonstrators according to this source.

However, there have been beatings of youths who were angry at the regional puppet government's president Mr H/Mariam Desalegn by expressing their feelings, mentioning his name, by polices. Nevertheless, the celebration, which is one of the greatest ever Sidama had, was finished peacefully at about midnight local time amid looming danger. Awassa city remained fluid for the fear of any consequences related with this event that ended achieving its goal. Mr Shugute was obliged to confess that he is not standing for the Sidamas.

Mean while, this source disclosed that there has been Sidama Zone general meeting that comprised entire Sidama district representatives with the aim of convincing them to abandon Sidamas' regional autonomy quest on October 30, 2005. The meeting was led by Shiferaw Shugute (regional Deputy President) who is anti-Sidamas regional quest campaigner on behalf of Meles Zenawi and regional president. His attempt to manoeuvre the Sidama people has failed and met with emphatic objection from all district representatives despite intimidation. In the end Mr Shgute only tried, on and on what his bosses told him to say; but hasn't got any thing to convince the Sidama people.

Amid ongoing volatility of the political situation in entire country since the May 15 2005's disputed election result; the consequences is proving deadly. Just we received information of shootings in various parts of the capital city, Addis Ababa today at about 1pm local time. Police shot dead at least 5 peoples wounding 13 at Merkato and others 12 were shot dead in other parts of the city protesting the May's election result; according to our reporter from the capital. The riot is continuing and the death toll is expected to rise in the next few ours. The city remains fluid. On the other hand, African state leaders are having regional meeting amid this chaotic situation caused by Meles's arrogance.

**Sidama Nation Online, November 1, 2005**