

## **Sidama: - Post-Election Pressure intensifies: Ruling party lost entire seats in Sidama region and urging for re-election.**

**May 27, 2005, Our reporter from Sidama-land**

Since the May 15, 2005's election of Ethiopia, the pressure in Sidama land is intensifying with tactful deception of Sidama TPLF/EPRDF's bandits who lost their entire seats to independent Sidama candidates, UEDF and CUD. This to them is utterly impossible to comprehend. All Perpetrators of the May 24, 2002 Sidama peaceful demonstrators massacre including federal Minister of justice and regional deputy president were paid off with staunch popular opposition shown during the May 15, 2005's election despite the presence of armoured battalions to terrorise Sidama people in and around Awassa city; including district towns such as Arbegona, Aleta Wondo, Yirgalem, Hula, Bansa Daaye and the likes.

In several regions preliminary results have been declared; the Sidama one remains mystery. In most of Sidama districts there have been re-scheduled re-voting on Sunday, May 22, 2005, where the ruling party cadres played their role of deceit. However, no result to date has been declared; the situation remains fluid.

Sidama nation as usual revealed their strength by strongly emphasising their repugnance for the cruel and inhumane system of EPRDF/TPLF's rule that had shaken their foundation in Sidama region than anywhere else in the country despite the fact that there is enormous ongoing intimidation and harassment.

In some parts of Oromia, Amhara, and Southern regions the results have been officially declared with significant numbers of irregularities. In Oromia where many surrogates lost their seats for instance, they confiscated ballot boxes with pre-organised armed forces and the rulers are asking for re-voting so that they can do their work as is the case in Sidama region. Some good examples are Arusi and Bale Zones where observer has lost is live to such armed gangs organised by ruling party.

Meanwhile, Ethiopian Election board officially promulgated 373 seats from which the ruling party claimed majority with the said irregularities. According to their today's (May 27, 2005) report, EPRDF/TPLF claimed 215 seats; CUD 106; UEDF 31; OFDM 7; BGPDF 6; ANDP 5; and the rest 4 independent and affiliated parties claimed 1 each respectively.

Therefore, out of 545 parliamentary seats the rest 172 are thought to be for TPLF/EPRDF's loyalists that lost their seats all over the country by causing havoc to the citizens of given regions including Sidama. To make sure this is the case TPLF/EPRDF's leader declared curfew immediately after the end of May 15, 2005 election to appease any would be resistance.

Citizens all over the regions are put under house arrest while the ruling party is playing a deception drama of re-fabrication of ballot boxes with new election papers. All observers who have been in Addis-Ababa; where obviously has been relatively fair election and the ruling part lost entire 23 seats to opposition because of observer's presence have left the country 3-5 days after the election. However, EEU observer is still in Addis-Ababa where she can't know what is happening in Sidaama, Arusi, and Bale or in Gonder, Jiggijaa or Jimma.

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