

## **Sidama: - the Nation with immense Courage and Determination, but without Leadership and Representation; More Death, Arrest and Torture,**

**Our Reporter From Sidama, March 21. 2005**

### **I. What Terrifyingly Chaotic Situation Sidama Nation is under!!**

Words can't explain under what chaotic situation the nation of Sidama are under at the moment. Students, as young as 12 years olds are being targeted with other Sidamas by the security forces and army of the regime that is ordered to terrorise them. People are dying without any protection while those who are supposed to protect the rights of their citizens are slaughtering innocent civilians in day lights while they are claiming their basic and constitutionally guaranteed rights. In entire 10 Sidama districts, the people are tortured, arrested or being killed by the security forces and military of Meles's regime assigned for the purposes of dehumanising Sidamas. The conditions of prisons all over the region remain pathetic and overcrowded.

We have tried to raise the awareness of the international community since the massacre of peaceful Sidama demonstrators who are claiming their basic rights of regional autonomy, on May 24, 2002 by TPLF/EPRDF's security forces. At the moment, the Sidama are paying precious sacrifices of lives for the very reason for which 69 Sidamas have died. No one was held responsible for the lives lost indiscriminately to date.

Instead people such as Melese Marimo (who didn't go yet to South Africa), Shiferaw Shguxee, Galalcha Janje, Akie Hidana, Adana Dingama, Tufa Hoyicha, Petros W/Senbet, and other PDO's are appointed to various upper authorities while innocent souls of the Sidamas are crying for justice. For instance, Melese Marimo was appointed an Ambassador to South Africa by the Dictator Meles Zenawi's regime to reward him for the role he played and is playing to sustain his regime's life in south Ethiopian including Sidama region. We have tried to raise our voices loud on behalf of voiceless and strategically marginalised Sidama nation although the world remained silent.

### **II. Death toll increases as is the torture**

It's been confirmed that as many as four students have been killed in the past five days since 14th of March 2006. The killing is taking place randomly in all districts by the army and security forces of Meles's regime to scare Sidama student demonstrators as well as the society at large. However, such inhumane and malicious tactic is proving deadly and mobilising more and more demos throughout the region. In this process, the death of the Sidama people is increasing. It has been difficult to get the names of those who have been killed although an eye witness confirmed that the security forces kept removing dead bodies to unknown locations. Some of the dead ones are:-

1. Desta Abraham, 17 years old, grade 9<sup>th</sup> Awassa, Tabour High school student was killed on 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 in the outskirts of Awassa city while demonstrating with other students and Sidamas.

2. Teshome Sidaa, Grade 9<sup>th</sup> student, from Bensa district was wounded (after the eruption of violence against 'Woldeamanuel D. Hankerso, a British citizens' involvement in the program of intimidating Sidama people with other PDO's) and brought to Yiraglem Hospital who died on 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2006.
3. One unnamed student of Awass Betekihnet Primary Secondary School (girl student), age 16 years was died on 20<sup>th</sup> of March after being beaten by the security forces of the regime who remained in the hospital for three days
4. Others unnamed 8-12 students from Awassa Tabour high school said to have been in comma for the past week; no one knows their fate.

### **III. Arrestment of innocents increases**

Sidamas, regardless of their political opinions and districts are undergoing untold havoc unless they conform and or comply to the order of Meles's PDO's. Every one will be jailed, tortured and or be killed under these waves of harassments and intimidations. According to this premeditated and properly planned executions; some of the following are fractions of people, in particular, students who are thrown to jail since last week.

1. Bati'ra Beyene
2. Zerfu Shalamo
3. Ana'sha Gadaa
4. Lema Ledamo
5. Kafaloo Goneesa
6. Shante Abraham
7. Abera Ayanoo
8. Chasa Ayanoo
9. Wo'ma Lema
10. Merkebe Mengistu
11. Abrahma Toyoo
12. Kalbesaa Bekera
13. Helamo Hargamo
14. Abebe Abraham: - all of these are students from grade 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> were arrested on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 from Boricha district.

50 Peoples are brought from Gaara Riqata farmers association, Awassa district on 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 and jailed in allegation. We have received some of the victims names such as:-

1. Jombola Hewisoo
2. Agansa Tiiramo
3. Abera Dukamo
4. Hirphato Yota
5. Lanqamo Faareso
6. Beexela Daasa

7. Tiisee Godana

8. Bogale Jombola and others more thousands are in jail.

#### **IV. High profiles and intellectual Sidamas are to be jailed and some of them arrested so far for no reason.**

Our sources from Awassa uncovered that all Sidamas all over the country to be hunted and tracked down from any where they hide or even work to suppress and kill Sidamas nationalism and national interests resistance movement. According to this piece of information escaped from PDO's and Federal governments offices, 56 strong Sidamas with particular attention on 7-11 very influential and people who haven't been persuaded and deceived by any benefits including 'Tadesse Washo' who has been already arrested on March 14, 2006 are seriously targeted.

The first victim who has been arrested from out of Sidama region on March 20, 2006 is;- **Desalegn Garsamo** (Academic Division advisor), who works for USAID in Addis Ababa's country office. The USAID Ethiopian representative fellow person said to have been furious when the security forces of TPLF/EPRDF have taken Mr Garsamo away from his office on 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 at about 4pm local time; and reported to the US embassy in Addis. Mr Garsamo said to have been in Ireland for his post graduate study and returned back to Ethiopia trusting to help his people to help them out of poverty, just in 2004. It's been learnt that Mr Melese Marimo with Mr Hankerso (a British citizen), Shiferaw Shuguxee (who is planned to take over regional presidency from H/Mariam Desalegn very soon), are the ones who select the names of Sidama people to be jailed and tortured.

In another development, the wave of arrestment is planned to reach all 56 particular Sidamas until late today or so. Additionally, **Musie Alemayhu**, (an Engineer by profession, Sidama Zone, Building, Design and Construction Department head) was jailed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 in Awassa city as part of this wave of arrest.

#### **V. Military Build-ups in the region Continues**

Sidama region is entirely remains under military occupation. All districts including the capital, Awassa are full of federal polices and special army that is terrorising the nation as a whole. Women are feared of continued sexual assault. People who are thought to be capable of organising anti-regime's anti-Sidama movement are targeted in all districts and students entirely are under scrutiny. Meanwhile all schools in the regions remain closed.

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