

## **The Wrath of God or TPLF's revenge against the Sidama people? Killings and intimidation continued....**

February 13, 2004

Commentator:

It has been learnt that in Sidama region native Sidamas are suffering indiscriminate and rampant human rights violations, extra-judicial killings, imprisonment, intimidation and harassment, displacement by the name of re-settlement and sacking of Sidama intellectuals from their government offices. As we (the Sidamas) have repeatedly tried to increase the awareness of international community on the heinous and malicious act of deceitful TPLF's (Tigray People's Liberation Front) regime against humanity under the guise of democracy, the regime is making the lives of native Sidamas horrendously difficult. People are arrested or killed without formal/informal judiciary involvement. Their language, value, culture, socio-political and socio-economic life, way of life and their identity are put under hitherto unknown risk.

The people who head justice system themselves are ordering the killings of the Sidamas from federal to the Zonal level. People who are ordering and have ordered the massacre of the Sidamas are appointed to better authority by Meles Zenawi whereas innocent other Sidamas are being criminalized. When the authorities of southern Ethiopian nations and nationalities heads are requested to explain about the human rights situations in Sidama region by any international bodies, they allege innocent Sidamas who were raising the issues of Sidamas human rights abuses. International community echoes their words not that of the indiscriminately deprived Sidama people's rights. Is this God's wrath against the voiceless and powerless Sidama people?

We don't know why the international community is kept quite in the lights of such human rights violations and killings by the security forces of the regime all over the country. Instead, the international communities are rewarding the regime with encouraging aid packages from which most of it goes to the war preparation to invade sovereign nation, Eritrea and their loyalists according to many critics. Military recruitment all over the Sidama is underway since the first week of January 2004 for these undisclosed agendas. They are forcefully snatching 12 young boys from each locality of the Sidama land according to eye witness.

Day-to-Day life of the Sidama people.

At present, the Sidamas are mourning for their beloved ones after the security forces of TPLF led regime had massacred innocent civilians in their houses mercilessly in the past two to three weeks. According to Eye witness from both Cire and Laalesa kebeles in Hororessa (also called 'Aroresa') district, two people have been killed by the security forces of the regime.

Tadele Kawiso from Laalesa kebele in Aroresa district was killed on 10th of January 2004 by security forces of TPLF. Many were arrested. No one has been brought to justice ever since.

In the same week, unidentified Sidama person from Aroresa district was killed and his body has been transported by pick-up Toyota from Majo, Hororessa district capital, and dumped in Woranchcha kebele around 'Logiita' river fall, in Harbagona (also called Arbegona) from 10th of January to 12th of January 2004. Such act is believed to be that of the security forces' of TPLF. And the body has been dumped in the mentioned kebele to pave a controversial ground to arrest potentially strong people from that locality. This is simply because they think that there are a strong people in that locality who have been resisting the human rights violations of the Sidama people by the government security forces. Today, this is happening practically. Many of the people in and around the said locality are imprisoned.

Asega Beyene, in Cire kebele, (locality) in Aroresa district was killed on 6th of February 2004 in his house after his house has been surrounded by battalion of TPLF's regime paramilitary regiment who are specially prepared to kill the Sidamas who are potentially capable of raising the issues of human rights in their respective districts. The killers arrested other innocent Sidamas without their knowledge of any criminal acts.

All Sidamas working in Awassa city council are said to have been sacked after the appointment of Kambata person called, 'Michael Tobias' as administrative head. All departments in the Sidama capital council are being headed by non-Sidamas. Michael Tobias is the one who is directly brought from Durame (Kamabta capital) to sack the Sidamas. In a single day event of Sidama people avoidance event from their capital, 602 Sidama daily laborers were sacked by Michael from their daily bread and made them beggars.

Thus, we need an urgent action of independent investigation of international bodies to this all chaos against humanity and human rights of the Sidamas and the country as a whole. It would inconceivable to talk to the governmental bodies and echoing their words instead of finding out true picture of the existing problems people are undergoing from the victims themselves. We urge international community to act on time than silence.

Finally, we beg international powerful nations who are knowingly or unknowingly supporting human rights violations of the regime by rewarding the regime by aid packages to stop and re-evaluate their support and human rights issues in the country. The need to find out the problems of the Sidama nation at present is a matter of morality.

Sidama National Liberation Organization  
February 13, 2004