

**Sidama Suffering Continues: - A number of innocent Sidamas are targeted on daily basis; movement and communication within the region are restricted; others remained in prison without justice.**

**Awassa, Sidama  
December 22, 2004**

Commentator;

(We apologise for our failure to update fellow Sidamas in Diaspora and our supporters for past 2months due to technical problems).

Our reporter from Awassa has disclosed that the human rights violations of the Sidama people continued in various ways. As we have mentioned several times on this web site, TPLF's regime is making the life of Sidamas chaos in their land. This is taking its shape in various forms and magnitude.

The 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2004 was the Sidama New Year 'Fichee'. The regime has indiscriminately dispersed the Sidama innocent citizens who have peacefully gathered to celebrate their New Year in their capital city, Awassa. On the date mentioned above, hundreds have been put in prison including school children and elderly. The Sidamas who are released after 2-3 weeks without any charge were warned not to practice their basic rights in their city including religious and New Year Celebration any more. They were told that the city belongs to the central government, not to Sidamas. The tension and hopelessness have remarkably increased since.

'Solomon Nayu' who has been kidnapped (Please see September 20/2004, news page on 'www.sidama.org') from Nairobi, and taken to Ethiopian capital by the security forces of TPLF is still in prison without justice and sound protection from international community. Not only Solomon Nayu is in prison; others who have done nothing are suffering without justice for more than two and a half years. People such as:-

1. Markos Mamo, who has been thrown into jail twice in the period of two months since September 2004
2. Walelgne Haxiso
3. Isayas Sibru
4. Shalamo Jireegna
5. Tadesse Buuro
6. Tamiru
7. Bolka Kimbcaa: - all of them who have been in jail since the May 24, 2002 massacre of Sidama peaceful demonstrators in Awassa city by Ethiopian government security forces.

No one has been brought to justice since the deliberate and systematic massacre of voiceless Sidama demonstrators who have been seeking truth and basic rights. Instead, the government rewarded those who have strategically planned, ordered and executed the operation against innocent Sidama civilians. An international community has done almost

nothing to resolve the ongoing problems of innocent Sidamas who are relentlessly suffering under the pretence of democracy.

Additionally, the government bought false witnesses who don't have morality and moral value paying them a good sum of money for their malicious witness against the people about whom they don't know. Individuals such as; Baalcha Eraango, Kifle Yoxiitee and others have been bought from Arbegona district, 120 kms away from Awassa. In the past also the regime has bought false speakers during the massacre of the Sidama in May 2002 such as a person who is a mentally incapacitated elderly called 'Elias Liigiso' from Qoonsore Haranjaa village, Boriicha district to apologise on behalf of the Sidamas who have participated in demonstration of May 24, 2002 using the only government owned media; as if it was a criminal act to peacefully express oneself that is basic human right and theoretically enshrined in Ethiopian constitution to deceive international community.

Others are being harassed, divided and intimidated on daily basis throughout the Sidama region. The regime is using an ideology of 'divide and rule' system so that no trust would be among each other. That further gives the regime and its surrogates a loophole to exploit all resources while the Sidama children and elderly are gravely starving silencing all Sidama resistances according to the same reporter.

The Sidamas are waiting for justice, democracy and freedom of exercising their religion, culture and way of life in their land without external lecturing and negative involvement. And they are awaiting justice from international community and God only, not from inhuman and deceitful dictators of successive tyrannical northern rulers.

Sidama Nation Online,  
December 22, 2004