

## **13 year Anniversary of Looqqe Massacre of 2002 is remembered across the globe by Sidamas and peace loving international community**

In May 24, 2002, the EPRDF\TPLF rapid response army without provocation slaughtered unarmed and peacefully demonstrating Sidama civilians in Looqqe village, a few kilometers from Hawassa town. Lives of many innocent Sidamas cut short with heart breaking cruelty. Even though a decade has passed, pain and misery are still fresh not only for victims' families but for the whole sidama public.

This brutal murder of civilians by EPRDF\TPLF army was not random event. It was a deliberate tactic by the regime to crash any opposition to policies designed to benefit TPLF controlled regime and give a lesson even beyond Sidama. It was their way of saying that they will do anything to stay in power.

Perpetrators, that included current Ethiopian PM and others top EPRDF officials who held an ad hoc meeting on the eve of this massacre and unanimously decided to use deadly force if Sidama people stage demonstration against government's decision to uproot Sidamas from their ancestral land, never been brought to justice. Instead, many of them have been elevated to higher positions as a reward for their heinous acts and went on rampaging and causing untold atrocities ever since across the country.

The TPLF/EPRDF regime is destroying not only the sidama land but the country (Ethiopia) as they attempt to hold onto power at any cost as they rob resources. They turned ever green sidama land into barren. All forest is gone by deliberate fire and mismanagement. Life in generally has become unbearable and unfit for human beings. The dream of our young people is to leave the country for somewhere else and has been victims of tragedy by attempting to do so. We watched in horror when they are burned alive, beheaded brutally by terrorists and helplessly stoned to death. This reminds us we should come together urgently and hasten the fall of this shameless and destructive regime.

Today, May 24, 2015, Sidama community at home and abroad as well as peace-loving international community has remembered lives lost tragically thirteen years ago. Special services are held in Europe, United States, Australia and South Africa to commemorate fallen heroes. They paid with their lives for the causes of freedom, democracy and human rights and they belong to the whole generation. We all should stand for their just cause and make the country free and fair to its people. We must seek justice for victims. We should make sure all of the criminals responsible for the May 24 2002 massacre must be held accountable and pay for their crimes.

SLF

May 24, 2015