

Free A Prominent Sidama Businessman, Solomon Nayu, Kidnapped from His Home in Hawassa, Sidama, Ethiopia.

Press Release

By Sidama National Liberation Front (SNLF)

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In the past 25 years, tens of thousands of Sidama civilians have been unlawfully imprisoned, tortured, and killed in broad day light. Tens of thousands have been displaced from their lands to vacate them for the business corporations owned by the ruling party plunging the Sidama farmers living in these lands into destitution. More importantly, the Sidama nation is continually denied the constitutional right to regional self-determination which is nominally granted to others that are 16 times smaller than the population of the Sidama nation. This is in clear contravention to *Article 39 sub article (1)* which states that “*Every Nation, Nationality and People in Ethiopia has an unconditional right to self-determination, including the right to secession.*” Therefore, the people of Sidama nation have been individually and collectively targeted by TPLF/EPRDF’s dictatorial regime for voicing their legitimate and constitutional rights in the past 25 years.

The most recent victim of the gross violations of the human rights in Sidama is Mr. Solomon Nayu, a 52-year-old prominent Sidama business man, who has been kidnapped from his Hawassa home on Friday, November 27, 2015.

The SNLF has established his whereabouts and the motive behind his kidnappings. It has been established that Solomon Nayu has been taken to one of infamous torturing prisons known as ‘Maikelawi’ (Central) in the federal capital, Finfinnee (Addis Ababa) where he has been denied visits from his family and friends to date (14/12/2015). He has been kidnapped without formal court warrant in flagrant violation of his and country’s constitution *Article 19, 3. Persons arrested have the right to be brought before a court within 48 hours of their arrest*’ to remain without appearing to court since the 27th of November 2015.

A father of four (4), Mr. Nayu has got a lot of extended dependent families, runs a business and has got a lot of social responsibilities in the community. These all, in particular his families are put at risk as is his safety and wellbeing. Mr. Nayu is said to have been known to the officials for speaking his mind, in particular about the current government imposed injustice on Sidama people and is known for bravely and peacefully voicing the interests of the Sidama nation wherever possible. Doing so is his constitutional rights.

Extremely concerned family members and the Sidama community at large- including his children and wife are calling for the urgent support of international community and human rights organizations to lobby the Ethiopian government to assure his safety in line with international laws and return him to his family and community.

The SNLF urges the Ethiopian government to respect Solomon Nayu’s human rights clearly enshrined in the country’s constitution and which states on *Article 16, “Everyone has the right to protection against bodily harm*’ in addition to the aforementioned article 19, sub article 3. The SNLF categorically condemns such gross violations of the rights of Solomon Nayu and urges it to unconditionally release him. We also call upon United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to hold the Ethiopian regime to account for its violations of Sidama business

man's fundamental rights, and join the SNLF and his family in demanding the Ethiopian government to unconditionally release Mr. Nayu and assure his safety and security. We also call upon the Ethiopian regime to unconditionally address the fundamental demands of the Sidama nation in a manner compatible with the constitution and international covenants on protecting individual and collective rights of nations.

We call upon the Sidama community both within the Sidamaland and Diaspora to condemn the regime's actions on Solomon Nayu and the entire Sidama nation.

Justice and Victory for the oppressed and subjugated nations and peoples.

Sidama National Liberation Front

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