

TPLF/EPRDF's Regime Must Stop Terrorizing Sidamas!

Press Release United Sidama Parties for Freedom and Justice (USPFJ)

The Sidama people are persistently being terrorized by the Ethiopian TPLF/EPRDF's authoritarian regime that continually violates its own constitution. Although the regime's authorities boast about their constitution, its implementation remains remote. As the successive Ethiopian regimes violated the fundamental rights of the Sidama nation, the current regime's attitude and practices are not different from their predecessors. The Sidamas are systematically and deliberately subjugated, denigrated and deprived of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and exercising their constitutional rights to regional self administration. By depriving the Sidama nation of its rights, the regime undermines the very constitution it has promulgated which guarantees the nations and nationalities of Ethiopia the rights to secession let the regional self administration.

When it comes to the Sidama nation although its population exceeds 6 million, the regime repeatedly and blatantly denies the aforementioned rights. When the Sidama nation peacefully demands it; the regime responds with live bullets, intimidation, harassments and arrests. Since the past 8-10 weeks, such inhuman and brutal treatments are so pervasive in Sidama region. As we speak, the Sidama civilians, civil servants, business men and women, community leaders and elderly, farmers, students and all walks of lives are unlawfully detained, tortured & remain in prison under entirely unsuitable conditions.

One of the regime's main architects in ordering the massacre of the Sidama civilians who were claiming their constitutional rights to regional self administration on May 24, 2002 (HaileMariam Desalegn-former foreign minister and deputy PM) who's promoted to a higher authority as he temporarily replaces the late PM Meles Zenawi. Mr Desalegn ordered the death of over 100 Sidama civilians for which he as well as others who are involved in the stage management of the Loqqe massacre of Sidama civilians aren't brought to justice.

Currently, TPLF/EPRDF's regime with Mr Desalegn and his regional cadre and others are authorizing the mass imprisonment and torture of the Sidama civilians for claiming their constitutional rights. Mr Desalegne and others regime's authorities are using their regional puppet known as 'Shiferaw Shuguxe' to implement the plans of torture and arrests. Currently, the Sidama region is fully being militarized and the Sidamas are continually terrorized.

Therefore, the USPFJ;

- Demands the regime to change its attitudes and undemocratic practices at this historical juncture. We further demand the regime to see this era as the new chapter for Ethiopians after PM Meles Zenawi's 21 years rule.
- Demands the regime to unconditionally release all Sidama civilians who are collectively arrested for claiming their legitimate rights to regional self administration.

- Urges the regime to allow the Sidama nation to exercise their rights to regional self administration that is granted to others.
- Demands the regime to unconditionally remove all its armed forces from the Sidama region.
- Demands the regime to bring the culprits of Loqqe massacre of Sidama civilians & others who are terrorizing Sidamas to justice.
- Urges the international community, human rights organizations and key players at global scales to hold the Ethiopian TPLF/EPRDF's regime into account for their failure in respecting Sidama nation's basic rights to a humane administration and the killing of its civilians.
- Further urges the regime to unconditionally stop causing insufferable havoc to the Sidama nation that the regime remains conducting for the past 21 years of its reign!
- Urges Ethiopian opposition parties (within the country and in Diaspora) to come together and use this opportunities to exert the necessary leverage for a meaningfully democratic change Ethiopians deserve by unanimously appealing to the entire Ethiopians and the International community.

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