

The New Ethiopian Prime Minister 'Hailemariam Desalegn' Must Respect Sidama people's Constitutional Rights to Regional Self Administration!!

Press Release

By United Sidama Parties for Freedom and Justice (USPFJ), October 11, 2012

The Sidama nation endured various forms and shapes of injustices imposed on them by the successive Ethiopian rulers including the current TPLF/EPRDF's regime. The injustices the Sidama nation is exposed to involve an economic and political marginalization, socio-cultural subjugation and gross violations of their fundamental rights.

Even though the Sidama nation owns one of the richest regions in the country, its people are subjected to a persistent government induced poverty that had chronologically deepened from time to time. Sidama's development institutions are dismantled or made to serve politicians. Its people don't have representation from federal to the levels of farmers associations. Unemployment and diseases are rampant as is all round deprivation. The government apparatuses in Sidama are accountable to the ruling party instead of to the people. All the successive regimes deliberately perpetuate human misery in Sidamaland. To protect the interests of the regime, the current PM is also repeating his predecessors' acts of deceit and systematic subjugation of the Sidama people using his regional and Zone Sidama puppets.

Prior to the incumbent regime's assumption of power in 1991, the Derg's dictatorial regime slaughtered several thousands of Sidamas in addition to an over 50,000 Sidama civilians who were summarily executed in allegation of alliances with the then Sidama Liberation Movement (SLM), although the majority of the victims were noncombatant civilians. In a similar vein, the current regime had slaughtered and is doing so to the Sidama people and unlawfully imprisoning Sidama civilians since it took over from its predecessor. The regime's constitution guarantees the constitutional rights to the regional self administration for which claims the Sidama people are continually harassed, intimidated, tortured, imprisoned, killed and socio-politically and economically marginalized. The said constitution is only prepared to satisfy the interests of and deceive the regime's western donors and human rights organizations incognizant of the reality about Ethiopian political dynamics. The glaring truth reveals however what the regimes malicious intents in particular towards the Sidama people looks like.

Whilst the current regime nominally implements its constitution in others parts of the country; it adamantly self contradicts when it blocks this from happening in Sidamaland for variety of reasons that are neither justifiable nor legal. Oblivious of the fact that the Sidama nation consistently demanded and remains demanding for the said constitutional rights in the past 21 years; the regime preferred responding with violence, intimidation, harassments, imprisonments, sowing fear and terror, physical and psychological torture, killings, underdevelopment and perpetuating man made poverty in Sidamaland.

Over 10 year ago, on May 24, 2002, the then regime's regional president, the current PM (Hailemariam Desalegn) was ordered by the late PM to implement a very essential assignment in Sidamaland for his regime. To respond to the late PM's demand, the later meticulously planned and implemented the massacre of the Sidama civilians in Loqqe village. The Victims were claiming the aforementioned rights. No one held accountable for the massacre of hundreds of Sidama civilians whose 69 names among others identified and recorded. For his part in effectively managing the massacre of the Sidama civilians and the aftermaths of the atrocity, the current PM was elevated to a higher authority to reach where he is currently. In addition to others injustices he implemented in Sidamaland, the current PM has also ordered the Sidama

peoples houses to be totally burned down in some of the villages in 'Lokaa Abaayyaa' district after the May 24, 2002's massacre of the Sidama civilians in Loqqe village. Such actions against the Sidama people of the said district had been meticulously planned, consciously ordered and callously monitored by Hailemariam Desalegn-the current PM.

When the houses of the Sidama people were fully wiped-out of the village's map in the aforementioned case, the Sidama civilians were ordered by the current PM to be forcibly transported to another region from where all of the Sidama victims latter returned to their region using their own means. Subsequently, the said villages were replaced by hundreds of peoples from ethnic Wolyatas recruited by the new PM Hailemariam Desalegn, the then southern regional president. By the time, the current PM had fully established the necessary institutions such as clinics, water facilities and others that previously weren't present for the Sidamas before he relocated the Wolayita ethnic groups onto Sidamaland. His plots against the rights of the Sidama nation was only short lived simply because the Sidamas with their customary patience, tolerance, resilience and heroism repulsed Hailemariam Desalegn's invaders to reclaim their lands and villages despite the presence and resistances of army.

The current PM has got grievances for his inability to do so by the time; for which reason in addition to others he is using the current regional pariah as his iron rod to hit the Sidama people with. The Sidama people strongly believe that the malicious plots of the current PM and his regional puppet remains in vain simply because the Sidama people heroically, but peacefully push with their demands for their regional quest until they assert it.

The current PM has also ordered and followed up the stage management of the massacre of between 800-1000 Sheko Mezenger unarmed civilians who have demanded their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and the rule of law to be exercised in their region in 2003, in Tepi after the massacre of the Sidama civilians in Loqqe. No one held accountable for the said crimes against humanity to date. The current PM remains the sole culprit of the said crime against humanity in Tepi as is in Hawassa's Loqqe.

At present, the current PM plots against the Sidama people under the pretext of federalizing Hawassa town using the angles of darkness led by the regional puppet such as Shiferaw Shuguxe and Zonal renegade Million Mathewos to do his dirty jobs in Sidamaland; is therefore, a part of his long awaited strategy. Therefore, the work of the current PM in Sidama region reveals how deceitfully cunning he was, is and his callous and calculated actions against the rights of the Sidama people remains. The current attempt of PM to block Sidama people's constitutional rights to regional self administration is therefore entirely connected with his deep rooted hatred of the Sidama people.

The regional and Zonal pariahs, who are at present making the lives of the Sidama people intolerably difficult are continually and wildly intimidate, harass and attempt to belittle the Sidama nation and the Sidama cadres on daily basis. Both pariahs forcibly order the cadres to implement the aforementioned illegal policies of the current PM in Sidamaland. The regional renegade also remains unrepentant for his parts in the above crimes against humanity.

Disregarding the constitutional rights of the Sidama people, the new PM with his regional and Zone puppets is doing what it takes to implement the said unconstitutional and illegal polices that aims at totally undermining the Sidama people's fundamental rights; their actions remain illegal and unconstitutional. Therefore, such vicious polices of the regime in Sidamaland in particular in the entire southern Ethiopian at large must be stopped unconditionally.

The United Sidama Parties for Freedom and Justice (USPFJ) demands the current PM to urgently allow the Sidama nation to exercise their constitutional rights to regional self administration. We also urge the new PM's government to unconditionally stop harassing, intimidating, imprisoning and torturing Sidama civilians who are peacefully and non-violently claiming their constitutional rights to regional self administration; and remove from the Sidamaland the covert and overt security forces and army personnel terrorizing the Sidama people on daily basis.

Cognizant of Sidama nation's resilience, indefatigability, farsightedness, peaceful and nonviolent resistance; and their sons' and daughters' continued suffering at the hands of state sponsored terrorists; the USPFJ besides urges the Sidama people to push with their quests to regional self administration until it's fully being achieved.

The USPFJ urges the Sidama people to reject the orders and calls of the Regional, Zonal, Districts and Farmers association cadres instead demanding their unconditional resignation to join Sidama people's constitutional demands for regional self administration.

The USPFJ urges all Ethiopian related opposition parties operating within Ethiopia and Diaspora to reject the slogan of the current PM on implementing what his predecessor had aspired to achieve including rampant torture, unlawful imprisonments, theatrical legislations on anti-terror law, intolerance of dissents, gross violation of human rights, complete absence of freedom of expression and independent judiciary systems, the defense as well as police forces; and unanimously demand for the rule of law to be supreme. Also we urge all to demand the entire regime affiliated criminals who are widely circulating among the society to be brought to justice! The USPFJ also urges the regime to stop propagating highly misguided and ill -intended information about the Sidama nation's quests for regional self administration-the message that emphasizes the Sidama nation has dropped their quest -which is totally and utterly wrong.

The USPFJ reminds the new PM that he remains with others culprits the sole responsible for the massacre of the Sidama civilians in Loqqe village and urges him to stop facilitating for another massacre in Sidamaland. The international criminal court (ICC) must indict the Ethiopia's new PM for crimes against humanity for his part in massacring the Sidama and Sheka Mezenger peoples in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

The USPFJ demands the new PM's government to urgently release all political prisoners who are unlawfully detained and judged to be eternally incarcerated including journalists such as Eskindir Nega, the Sidama prisoners of conscious such as Iyassu Ragassa, Aemiro Wonago and others several hundreds of civilians.

The USPFJ demands the International human rights organizations, the powerful western governments, regional and international as well as the local human rights organizations and establishments to unanimously condemn the unconstitutional and illegal actions of the current PM's government towards the Sidama people and others nationals at large!

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