

Challenges Ahead as Sidama Nation Marks New Year-Fiche

Today marks Fiche, the sidama new year, which has been celebrated by Sidama people for thousands of years. Fiche is major cultural event of the year for the sidama people. Sidama nation is one of few nations in the world to have developed its own calendar. As lunar calendar is used to determine exact date, the fiche changes from year to year. Tomorrow will be 'Chambala' day and series of celebration events will continue there after that lasts for about a month.

As it has done for past several years, Sidamas are celebrating this year's Fiche in the midst of challenges that have been facing the nation. Among other things, Sidama people are denied fundamental rights by ruling EPRDF/TPLF party. Justice has not been served for the lives that were taken by the assassins of this brutal regime. Self administration that is granted to others is denied to Sidamas. On this Fiche night, many Sidamas are languishing in jails merely for speaking up against injustices. Deliberately induced hunger and Poverty is widespread, especially in rural areas, while the regime elements committing generational crime by spoiling their resources. By so doing, the regime and its collaborators are working day and night to change the very fabrics of the nation to their own advantage.

SLF Wishes happy and prosperous New Year to all Sidama people at home and abroad. During this time we all have to remember all Sidamas who have given us their precious life so we could live free. We also remember these who are behind bars by choosing truth over wickedness. SLF also calls up on all Sidamas to continue resisting injustice without being distracted.