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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

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EPRP DENOUNCES THE EVICION OF PEOPLE FROM METEMA

The regime of Meles Zenawi, that is busy selling Ethiopian land cheaply to foreign firms, is trying to uproot by force thousands of people who have lived in Metema (Ethio-Sudanese border) for years and years. The official reason given by the regime is that Metema is a garrison town and the civilian population must move away to nearby Shehdi and other places while the people concerned know that the real reason is that part of the land around Metema has been ceded to the Sudan and other parts leased out.

Last week the regime again tried to oust the people by force but once again they came out en masse to resist and its plan was foiled for now. The regime has also forbidden any Ethiopian peasants from the highlands to farm in lowland areas extending from Quara to Metema. The whole area is known for its fertile land. It is to be recalled that the Meles regime has declared all Ethiopian land (except in its home region of Tigray) for sale and has evicted thousands of Ethiopians to hand over huge tracts of fertile land (the size of Israel/Belgium) to foreign companies (Indian, Chinese, Arab, etc). These huge agro industry firms are felling trees, and exclusively farming for export. The whole operation is cruel and modern plunder with little or no benefit to Ethiopia, notwithstanding the lying regime's claim to the contrary. To note also that the Meles regime has undertaken forced resettlement without even a pip of protest from foreign quarters who had cried to the skies when the former pro Soviet regime tried the same thing.

The EPRP has time and again condemned the repressive activities of the Meles regime and cautioned the foreign companies to desist from aiding and abetting in his criminal and anti Ethiopia act. China especially not only grabs Ethiopian land and has imposed a neo-colonial stranglehold on the economy but is helping the regime to control the internet and jam radios and TV broadcasts to Ethiopia. When the bubble bursts, as it would sooner or later, the wrath of the people may very well target these allies of the regime and the consequences could be very damaging.

The EPRP expresses its solidarity with the people of Metema who are resisting eviction from their ancestral land.

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