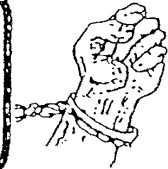




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



AUGUST 25/2011

POLITICAL PRISONERS TORTURED BRUTALLY

The Meles Zenawi regime has often been accused of systematic and widespread torture of all political prisoners and present reports have confirmed this as true. The president of the Ethiopian National Unity Party, Ato Zerihun Gebre Igziabher, was detained by the security forces and tortured brutally for two days. A court order to have him hospitalized and to stop the torture has been ignored by the security forces.

Ato Zerihun was hung from the ceiling and beaten all over his body with focus on the soles of his feet (what is called wefe illala in Ethiopia and fellaga elsewhere). Other reports have also affirmed that journalist Woubshet Taye detained some weeks ago has also been tortured. The use of torture is widespread and almost endemic especially in the ghost or secret detention centers in Addis Abeba and elsewhere. It is sad to note that human rights organizations have not properly denounced this brutal action by the repressive regime of Meles Zenawi.

The violation of the human rights of Ethiopians seems to know no limits. The Meles Zenawi regime, hailed by some foreign quarters, is routinely torturing dissidents and political prisoners. What has been done to the above mentioned prisoners is only the tip of the iceberg. SOCEPP calls on all human rights organizations to raise their voices against the torture of political prisoners in Ethiopia.

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