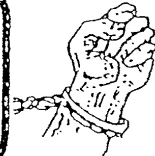




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



JUNE 4/2011

SOCEPP CONDEMNS REPRESSION AGAINST ARBA MINCH STUDENTS

Arba Minch students (Gamo Goffa, Southern Ethiopia) are still on strike refusing to pay levies for the so called Renaissance Dam (80 billion Birr/close US\$ 5 billion) and for the "Development" bodies of the government. Both operations spell robbery and the shameless fleecing of the people as the Ethiopian majority living in abject poverty can hardly finance a billion dollars dam.

A few days ago, the protesting students were fired at by the Debub Fetno Derash police (Southern Flying Squad police) and many were wounded. Ominously still, the regime has resorted to its usual ethnic divisive manipulation and mobilized settlers from a local ethnic group to attack the university. Using clubs and "konchera" the mobilized settlers attacked, jumped over the walls and broke the gates of the university and went on rampage against the unarmed students wounding dozens and sending 7 severely wounded ones to the hospital. Some of them are not expected to survive. Scores have been arrested and already "disappeared" like Eyob, Demissie and other members of the EPRP arrested and disappeared in the past years.

SOCEPP condemns the brutal repression against the students in Arba Minch and calls on the international democratic forces to condemn with vigor the ongoing violations of rights by the Meles Zenawi regime.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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