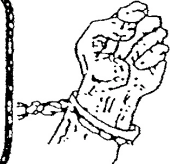




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



August 4, 2011

EPRDF REGIME ARRESTS, TORTURES AND DEPORTS DJIBOUTIANS

Soldiers of the Meles Zenawi army arrested ten civilians within Djiboutian territory between Gawah and Bahlo (in the District of Tadjoura) while they had come from Moussa Ali region in search of a watering point on the 18th of July 2011.

Accused of being members of FRUD (Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy—armed opposition in Djibouti), these ten Djiboutian citizens, already very impoverished for having lost their cattle to drought, were taken to Ely Daar (north eastern Ethiopia) where they were mistreated and imprisoned for eight days.

Four of them were delivered to the Djiboutian police whereas they feared for their lives. As of the 27th of July 2011 these prisoners are being held and tortured inside the Service for documentation and research (SDR) of the Djibouti police force. They are suspected of being members of FRUD like all able bodied persons living in this border area. It is not the first time that the Meles regime is extraditing Djiboutian residents towards their country. Djibouti has also done its share by extraditing Ethiopian refugees over the years.

SOCEPP joins FRUD and Djibouti democratic forces to denounce the Meles Zenawi regime for the arbitrary detention of Djiboutian nationals in their own country by the Ethiopian army.

- Denounces the illegal extradition of Djibouti civilians by the Meles regime towards Djibouti;
- Calls urgently upon human rights organizations and the UN to exercise their pressure on the regime in Addis Abeba to put a stop to their repression against the Afar population in Djibouti, more specifically in the regions of Moussa Ali, Bahlo and Dawdawya where they are already suffering from famine.
- Demands the immediate liberation of those extradited from Ethiopia and other civilians who are being detained in Djibouti arbitrarily.

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