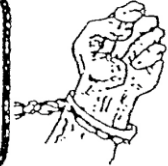




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



NOVEMBER 4/2013

RAPE AND SODOMIZATION TO BREAK DISSIDENTS/OPPPOSITION LEADERS

In Ethiopia where torture is routine and brutal, where dozens have been disappeared, hundreds killed, thousands deprived of their land and subjected to forced resettlement and where the rule of law is dead and buried, the repressive regime has added new brutal actions to break up and incapacitate opposition figures. These methods involve raping of women political leaders and sodomization of arrested men and threat of public exposure of the photos and films. Rape as a method of war is wide spread in the Ogaden too.

A few years back an active female opposition woman was duped to get fainting drunk and photographed naked and in various lewd positions by the regime's notorious man and wife thugs. The woman was threatened by exposure of these photos over the internet and she had since withdrawn from politics altogether. A greedy singer, who performed for opposition rallies and meetings, was lured from America to Addis Abeba, constrained to make pro regime interviews, then beaten up and sodomized by the political police. Threatened with exposure, he turned into a singer praising even the ugly looks of the prime minister who died a year ago. This practice of sodomizing make prisoners and threatening exposure in a country that considers such acts humiliating and shameful.

Beating and torturing political prisoners, humiliating them to no end, shooting many to death have failed to break the resolve of the opposition forces arrayed against the repressive regime in Addis Abeba. Hence, the cruel resort to brutal actions that are aimed at breaking the individual and stopping opposition activities. Tis is also accompanied by wild rumors against opposition leaders.

SOCEPP strongly condemns the brutal and inhuman actions of the regime, the practice of rape and sodomization, the torture and killings.

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