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REMEMBERING THE NOVEMBER 2005 MASSACRE



The regime in power in Addis Abeba lost the May 2005 general election but stayed in power by suspending its own Constitution, unleashing its brutal police and special security forces against the people, massacring innocent civilians, shutting down independent newspapers and jailing their journalists, editors and publishers, rounding up more than 35,000 citizens and sending them to notorious prison camps (Shoa Robit, Dedesa, Zawi, etc...) and, in short, imposing a rule of force and terror. November 2005 is remembered as one of the very many dark periods of recent Ethiopian history The regime of Meles Zenawi stationed sharp shooters on roofs of buildings to indiscriminately shoot at protesting citizens below. It was a repression that was aimed at spreading terror, stamping out protests and assuring the illegal continuation in power of the illegal regime. With the November 2005 massacre the Meles regime buried all its pretension of democratic and multi party politics and exposed itself as a run of the mill totalitarian dictatorship. The thousands of prisoners rounded up in that period are still languishing in dungeons and prison camps and dozens have died since from maltreatment, lack of medical care, shot by guards, etc. The brutal repression and massacre by the regime was not adequately castigated by the world at large and the Ethiopian people were, as had happened before in history, left alone. Worse still, the repressive regime received more financial and political support from the West since its illegal stay in power.

As SOCEPP pays homage to the martyrs of November 2005 and remembers the thousands in prison camps it calls upon the democratic forces in the world to condemn the ongoing violations of human rights in Ethiopia and to call for the release of all political prisoners.

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