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Email received by SOCEPP as is:

To whom it may concern About Journalists in exile

Ethiopia and Eritrea are the first and second rank by the number of imprisoned Journalists in Africa. Many Journalists are detained, sent to prison, killed and forced to leave their country to save and to protect their life.

UNHCR mandate to protect and find durable solution for refugees based on international law includes 1948 universal declaration of human rights and the four Geneva conventions 1949 on international humanitarian law.

Journalists because of their work are exposed to serious reprisals; we are forced to flee to Sudan to escape from physical violence, threats, arrests and arbitrary jail sentences.

Journalists are easy to identify because they sign their articles, appear on TV and speak over the Radio. For Ethiopian and Eritrea Journalists, to leave our own country and go to exile is no an easy decision, but b/c of high political, social and security problems we are living in a grave danger at Shagarab refugee camp.

The choice between human life or death at home and life in Sudan's Shagarab refugee camp is one or the same that no human being should be forced to make.

But realizing there will be people like us and many Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees we are forced to make this choice.

UNHCR has not made any progress in our case even after we faced several security problems in the camp. For us exile is a different word, we are merely alive and only slightly better than dead, we are not living normal life and we are suffering without any right to live hood in the camp. We are ask several times to COR and UNHCR to provide better protection but not yet. We are filled with fear and uncertainly, in addition to the struggle to find work and fulfill basic needs such as health care. In the Sudan refugee camp, Ethiopian and Eritrean journalist refugees risk, kidnapping, physical and sexual assault, humiliation, looting, bribery, human trafficking, detention and threat of deportation.

In short, for Ethiopian and Eritrean refugee journalists to survive in Sudan it is not easy. We are like life prisoners, moving from place to place to find work illegally since legal employment is restricted.

Many refugees are highly suffering by human trafficking and have sold or lost their kidneys, eyes and some have lost their life when they tried to escape from the camp to find durable solutions and to protect their life from the Eritrean, Ethiopian security and the Rashaida because the camp is nearest to the border and there is an agreement among those countries.

We are asking and writing several applications to UNHCR and Sudan's refugee commission (COR) about the plight of refugee journalists who have been forgotten by the international community and the UNHCR.

At this time we are living by hiding our selves, we are living with out legal and physical protection, b/c we are forgotten and discriminated by UNHCR and COR. We have problems of security, language, Ethnicity, religion and socio – cultural ones. We are prosecuted, beaten, imprisoned several times. We are requesting for durable solution and we need immediate assistance b/c Sudan is not sufficient or doing enough to protect our life.

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