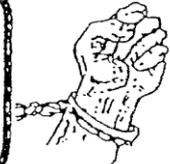




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



December 15/2011

ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW

THE ANTI INFILTRATION BILL

Member of the Israeli Knesset have endorsed a new anti infiltration bill that criminalizes the entry of refugees into Israel. The text of the bill contains the following provisions: Automatic Criminalization of any person's entry into Israel without a permit - with no discernment or consideration of the circumstances of his or her entry. Anyone who helps asylum seekers would be imprisoned for five to seven years.

Prime Minister Netanyahu is to visit some African countries to discuss on the deportation of refugees that have made it into Israel at a great risk to their lives. Hundreds of Eritreans, Ethiopians, and Southern Sudanese have perished in the Sinai, victims of brutal and cruel smugglers and Egyptian security forces. To enforce the new law, a billion shekel prison is being built in the Negev desert, big enough to hold ten thousand prisoners. With this law, Israel violates many conventions it had signed earlier: conventions like the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1967, as well as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which elaborates on the ban against deporting asylum seekers.

Israel is currently home to 36,000 asylum seekers, the vast majority of whom have never had their asylum claims checked and are left with no social or medical rights. They have no right to work either. Dozens of Ethiopians are, for example, languishing in Israeli jails, many have been deported in the past. It is evident that the new so called anti infiltration law would violate the basic rights of refugees and asylum seekers. SOCEPP calls for the immediate revocation of this law

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