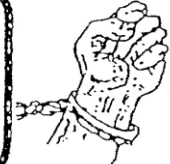




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



September 6/2012

OPEN LETTER TO SOMALILAND

STOP DEPORTING ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES

The government of president Ahmed Mahamoud Silanyo has continued to deport Ethiopian refugees and the fate of the deportees is not clearly known. SOCEPP has addressed this open letter to protest against the deportations and to call on Somaliland to stop this illegal act that violates the human rights of Ethiopians and exposes them to torture and even possible death.

Recently, Somaliland police barged into the Social Welfare Center in Hargeisa, a center where refugees stayed, and tried to round up the refugees. The refugees resisted and police opened fire and wounded many refugees. Many were taken to prisons and unknown locations. Police then returned to round up women and children refugees who were put on trucks and taken to Ethiopian territory. Other detained men were also to meet the same fate. The deported refugees were taken away from the drop place but no one knows where the police have taken them to. This is not the first time that Somaliland has deported Ethiopian refugees back unto the hands of the brutal regime in Addis Abeba. This is not also the first time that deported refugees have been disappeared by this regime.

Most Ethiopians flee their land out of fear of persecution. Fleeing to escape poverty, misery and famine is also not a crime. Many Europeans fled to America to escape famine and poverty. Hence, for both political and economic reasons, they become refugees and Ethiopians often use Somaliland for transit and not to stay or live there. By all accounts, the deportation action undertaken by Somaliland is illegal; a violation of human rights that must stop.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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