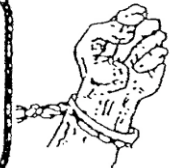




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



December 27/2012

To: His Excellency Mr. Jacob Zuma
President,
Union Building.
Pretoria
Republic of South Africa.

Mr. President, SOCEPP is an Ethiopian human rights organization (established March 1995) that wants to bring to your honorable attention the fate of one of its member, TARIKU ABZA, who is detained illegally in the Sun City prison, South Africa, since March 2011. Numerous Ethiopian refugees are detained in this and other prisons but Tariku Abza is not even a refugee as he holds a valid and legal passport as a Canadian citizen.

Tariku Abza, a human rights defender and militant belonging to SOCEPP, was rounded up along with other refugees though he had a valid Canadian passport. For almost nine months he has been denied his freedom and subjected to the all round deprivation that being in prison implies. Ethiopian refugees brave death and much suffering to make their way to South Africa only because they are fleeing persecution and bad governance (political, economic..) in their own country

now being ruled by an ethnic discriminatory regime. They need to be accorded all round sympathy and support and should not be subjected to illegal arrests, mistreatment, illegal long term detention and/or even death. Ethiopians had been forefront supporters of Africans in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, etc and cannot be blamed for expecting reciprocity.

Respected President,

Injustice anywhere against defenseless people cannot be tolerated ever. Tariku Abza must be released as soon as possible. Ethiopian refugees should not be jailed and persecuted but accorded asylum and humane treatment. SOCEPP is also calling on the Canadian government to seek the immediate release of its citizen, Tariku Abza.

We thank you Mr. President and we await a positive reply and concern for Tariku and the Ethiopian refugees jailed in Sun City and other prisons.

Respectfully,

Ali Saeed

SOCEPP/Winnipeg, Canada.

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