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COLONEL TADESSE STILL "DISAPPEARED" IN ERITREA

Colonel Tadesse Muluneh, an air force officer of the Mengistu regime, who had become the chairman of the Eritrea based Ethiopian People's Patriotic Front (EPPF) remains "disappeared" in Eritrea after being taken from his residence in Asmara by security agents.

Attempts to get any report on his whereabouts and why he was jailed have not been successful. The Eritrean regime has stubbornly refused to give any comment on the condition of colonel Tadesse other than to use its agents to threaten all those who exposed the case of the colonel. He remains "disappeared" in the vast prison system (more than 10,000 political prisoners) of Eritrea. It is to be remembered that another EPPF leader, Tesfaye Getachew, was detained by the Eritrean security agents and tortured to death a few years back. No report has been forthcoming on his case and death too.

SOCEPP is a nonpartisan human rights organization struggling against violations of rights in Ethiopia and is concerned with the fate of Ethiopian refugees and prisoners in the region and the world at large. The choice of allies and strategy or tactics is for the EPPF to make and does not concern SOCEPP. However, SOCEPP has time and again condemned the repressive nature of the regime in Eritrea and its actions against Ethiopians. Hence, SOCEPP calls on the Eritrean regime to clarify on where and why it has jailed and disappeared Colonel Tadesse Muluneh. His family and friends want an immediate reply.

SOCEPP also calls on international human rights organizations to break their silence and take up the case of colonel Tadesse. Ethiopians in the Diaspora should do the same and protest marches outside of Eritrean embassies and consulates are called for

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