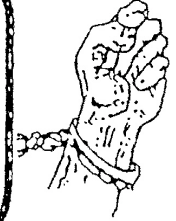




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



July 9, 2011

**OPEN LETTER TO THE UNHCR:**  
**STOP HARASSING ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN YEMEN**

The expected would be to call on the UNHCR to protect refugees and asylum seekers but the strange behavior and acts of the UNHCR office in Yemen has forced us to call upon you to protect the refugees from it.

Caught up in the Yemeni political turmoil, Ethiopian (and Eritrean) refugees had been going to the head UNHCR officer there to ask for protection and in both cases have been met with brutalities of all sorts. In the first instance, the office called up the Yemeni police and the guards of the office also joined hands to beat up the refugees leaving many wounded and hospitalized. A pregnant refugee had a miscarriage due to brutal beating. It is to be noted that no less than 10 Ethiopian refugees had already lost their lives in the overall turmoil. Last Sunday, the refugees went again to meet with ofreign observers that had come to the UNHCR office but these guests were taken out of the back door (without mneeting or listening to the refugees waiting at the front gate) and police were called on the refugees once again. Beatings aplenty, shots fired and many wounded and taken to the Metewekil hospital. The husband of the refugee who had a miscarriage, Osman Abda, was wounded on the neck by gunfire. Instead of helping the hapless refugees the UNHCR office in Yemen has unleashed repressive forces against them. Isn't this a shame to put it mildly? The forced repatriation to Ethiopia is also not in the interest of most of the refugees be they in Asseba or other misery filled places and camps.

SOCEPP calls on the UNHCR head office in Geneve to look into this matter and take appropriate action against the officials who brought much suffering on the Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in Yemen. SOCEPP calls on Ethiopians in the Diaspora to denounce the continuing violation for rights by the UNHCR in Yemen and to seek help for the refugees.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE  
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