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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

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"REGISTER AND VOTE FOR US OR ELSE"
REGIME INTENSIFIES HARASSMENT OF PEOPLE

There is actually no doubt that the May 2010 general election will be won hands down by the ruling EPRDF of Meles Zenawi. The electoral commission and the electoral laws are made to serve the interests of the ruling front and if there is any chance of things turning against it the EPRDF would repeat the 2005 action: rig itself back to power after killing close to 200 protesters and jailing more than 50,000 people including more than a 100 opposition leaders. The ruling front controls the media, the army, the police, the security police, most of the local so called electoral observers are its own loyal recruits or members, millions have been forcefully made members of the ruling front, food aid for famine victims is being used for political ends by the regime in the absence of any meaningful donors' protest, etc...

The police and cadres of the regime are presently going from house to house in Addis Abeba and other towns forcing people to register as the number of people registered has been minimal. People are being asked to show the election registration card and the EPRDF membership card "or else" face reprimands. At the same time, officials of the Amhara Development Association (controlled by the ANDM, a satellite of the power holding Tigrean front TPLF) have been going door to door in Addis Abeba and demanding Amhara households to be member of and contribute to the ADA. All this constitutes political action against the people, a sure and clear violation of their rights. It can be said with certainty that the regime would report in May that the election had a "massive turnout" and the "majority" voted for the ruling front. The boxes are ready, they will be filled with prepared cards and the front will be declared the winner with much empty fanfare. Election in Ethiopia has always been a farce and no more is expected in May 2010.

The EPRP condemns the violations of the rights of the people by the repressive Meles Zenawi regime.

EPRP
P.O.Box 73337
Washington DC, 20056
USA
Tel . 202-291-4217 Fax 202-291-7645

E-mail : ESPIC@aol.com
Website: www.EPRP.com

EPRP
BP 22
Bois colombes 92270
France