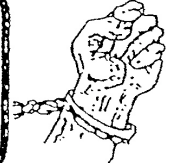




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



May 3/ 2011

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS BANNED IN ETHIOPIA

It is sad to note that the EPRDF regime, one of the worst violators of the freedom of the press, is making a lot of noise to observe this day. The EPRDF regime of Meles Zenawi has in the past years:

- Banned outright independent newspaper;
- Jailed or forced into exile dozens of independent journalists;
- Decreed draconian press law that has virtually made freedom of the press an illusion and a criminal notion;

- Raised the price of print paper exorbitantly and made publishers incapable pursuing their publication efforts;
- Imposed an officially non existent press censorship and banne some books outright though it denied the act;
- Set up satellite or state controlled newspapers posing as independent ones;
- Maintained its quasi absolute control over the media (TV and Radio included);
- Blocked internet access to independent web sites;
- Jammed totally and all over the country opposition radios like Finote Democracy radio
- etc.

Freedom of the oppress does not exist in Ethiopia and as we observe this May 3 World Press Freedom Day we are obliged to expose the hypocrisy of the repressive Meles regime and to call on the world to condemn with vigor this predator of the free press. Journalists in the various prisons and all political prisoners whould also be released.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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