

DECEMBER 10: WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The violation of human rights all over the world has increased alarmingly and nowhere else more grossly than in Ethiopia where a brutal regime enjoys blanket backing from foreign western powers.

Every index, every examination criteria proves that the regime of Meles Zenawi has become more repressive in this year of 2011. The number of political prisoners has increased considerably, the disappeared are still unaccounted for, and the repression against the free press has led to the closing of newspapers and the fleeing or exile of many journalists. The regime has used a very repressive so called anti terrorism law to repress all dissent. Opposition political leaders and journalists have been arbitrarily jailed, tortured brutally, forced to make self incriminating statements and humiliated. The Meles regime has encouraged land grab by motley of foreigners and chased thousands of people out of their ancestral land. Foreign land grabbers have devastated forests with impunity. There is no due process, no habeas corpus; it is rule by force and terror. Thousands have been killed in the Ogaden and many other areas.

The arbitrary laws of the regime continue to be decreed and the ordinary people are deprived of their properties and rights. The climate of fear is pervasive and economic oppression is the norm. Alas, the regime enjoys the full backing of the Western powers and this has emboldened it to continue with its corruption and repression. The human rights situation in Ethiopia is dismal, horrible and condemnable.

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WEB SITE: WWW.SOCEPP.DE