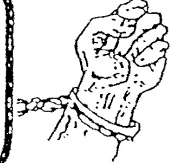




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



January 21/2012

**SOCEPP CONDEMNS THE IGAD PROPOSED
ACCORD AGAINST DISSIDENTS**

The members countries of the IGAD (Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia—Eritrea is not yet formally readmitted) have let it be known that they are to sign/ratify an accord to "deport criminals back to their countries of origin". Djibouti has already signed the accord and others are expected to follow as the Meles regime and Khartoum have already agreed to deport those they call "criminals".

At least in Ethiopia, the regime holds thousands of political prisoners but denies it is "even holding one political prisoner" preferring to call the detained "criminals". The Meles regime has already shown that it railroads political dissidents as common penal law violators and criminals. It considers all exiles opposed to it as "criminals" and those that had been deported by the Sudan or Djibouti in the past have either been disappeared or tortured and imprisoned in secret prisons. Djibouti has also considered its opposition elements as "criminals". In short, the so called accord to deport "criminals" is but a flimsily covered agreement to hound and repress political dissidents, refugees and opposition exiled elements. It is a condemnable plot against political refugees of the Horn countries, an accord between repressive anti democratic regimes.

SOCEPP calls on all international human rights organizations to condemn the planned IGAD accord aimed at repressing political refugees and exiles that are to face deportation as "criminals".

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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