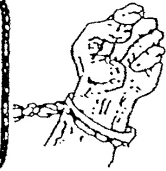




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



20/06/2013

**JUNE 20--WORLD REFUGEE DAY: THE WORSENING PREDICAMENT OF
ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES**

There are now more than 40 million refugees in the world and refugees from Ethiopia contribute a serious number to this sad figure.

Ethiopian refugees flee from their country for basically political reasons. It would also be proper to remind those who negatively refer to "economic refugees" that millions fled from famine and poverty and settled in what is now the USA. People who risk death to flee have fundamental reasons. The attempt by various European countries (Britain, Norway, Germany, etc.) to present the repressive regime in Addis Abeba (the same regime that holds thousands of political prisoners, has virtually stamped out the free press, practices ethnic cleansing on Amharas particularly and forcefully resettles thousands as it sells off their land to grabbers from China, India and the Middle East, etc.) is indeed "democratic" and safe.

In reality, thousands of Ethiopian refugees are suffering in the camps of Yemen, the prisons of Djibouti, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Israel, South Africa, at Lampedusa, in the Middle East, North Africa. Hundreds have died as they sought safe refuge. Even in South Sudan, Ethiopians are facing unsavory and cruel treatment. Sudan is also another hell hole for Ethiopian refugees who are delivered to traffickers as they are denied asylum rights. Instead of sympathizing with suffering refugees, even countries like Canada are trying to decree a denial of resettlement rights to refugees coming from Ethiopia. The refugees are not in vogue, it seems, like the ones from Syria where political axes are being grinded. Most Ethiopian refugees have not been well served by the UNHCR to put it mildly.

As the world observes refugee day, SOCEPP expresses its solidarity with Ethiopian refugees and calls on host countries to respect human rights and the Geneva Convention and to grant asylum rights to them instead of dumping them in prisons, subjecting them to violations (the rape of women refugees in particular) and denying them rights on one pretext or another.

Solidarity and concern for all refugees in the world is a duty for all.

**INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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