



OCTOBER 17/2013

WORLD FOOD DAY: ETHIOPIA STARVES

Current statistics from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN has reaffirmed that the three countries in Africa facing serious food shortage and the danger of famine are Ethiopia, Zambia and Mozambique. This contradicts the doctored statistics propagated by the regime in Addis Abeba which proclaims food sufficiency and economic growth per annum of 11%.

The right to food is basic. Successive regimes in Ethiopia, characterized by bad governance and disastrous economic policies have, along with drought, exposed the people to murderous famines and caused the deaths of millions. The present regime uses food aid for political purposes, sells food aid and pockets the money, has resorted to removal of the people from their land that has (the size of Belgium) been given to Chinese, Indian and Arab big agricultural firms that export the harvest to their own countries. The use of Norwegian produced fertilizers that have ruined the land and made the farmers indebted has benefitted only the Norwegian Yara Company and the regime's top leaders including the late Meles who was given awards by Yara itself. The agricultural sector is also dominated by the EFFORT companies that are owned by the Tigrean front (TPLF) and ordinary farmers and producers have been bankrupted in many areas. Furthermore, the regime is one ethnic based and discriminates against regions other than its own. In short, bad governance and catastrophic economic policies have worsened the food situation all over Ethiopia. Obviously, the alleged annual rate of economic growth does not take into account the annual increase in population numbers.

Millions of Ethiopians still depend on food aid, the rural urban migration rate is increasing, half a million homeless (mostly small children and women too) are in the capital alone, rural impoverishment is on the rise, inflation is above 35% and the ruling clique is bathing in luxury and rampant corruption. World Food Day finds Ethiopia unable to feed the population and still depending on food aid that hardly reaches all the starving people.

SOCEPP condemns the Addis Abeba regime for violating the right of Ethiopians to have adequate food for a decent life.

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