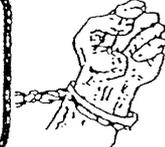


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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



May 3/2012

MAY 3--WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

The regime of Meles Zenawi has been indentified and condemned as one of the worst predators of the free press in the world. Its latest victims are Woubshet Taye, Eskinder Nega and Reeyot Alemu, jailed and condemned as terrorists for writing and reporting on the news and the sad plight of the Ethiopian people.

The Meles regime has decreed a repressive press law accompanied by a so called anti terrorist law which makes any dissent or independent reporting a crime. Gone are the first days of the regime when, totalitarian to boot, it tried to project an image of tolerance towards the free press. But this was short lived. It did not take long for the sword to come out of its sheath—independent journalists were jailed, beaten, tortured, forced into exile and even brutally murdered as was the case with Tesfaye Tadesse. During and after the 2005 election, that the regime lost, the repression against free journalists was intensified and many jailed or forced to flee the country. The continuing repression has landed more journalists in jail and unto exile even in 2012.

In addition, the repressive regime has jammed Finote Democracy Radio, ESAT, blocked many web sites and, with the help of China, achieved a blockade of the dissemination of truthful news and reports. China has refused calls to desist from this gross violation of the rights of Ethiopians to free press and media. Sadly, quite a few Western countries have refused to take action against the regime that has stifled the free press and jailed and exiled so many journalists. As we observe May 3 we call on these quarters to stop condoning the crimes of the repressive regime and express our solidarity to the families of the suffering journalists.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
SOCEPP, POSTFACH 51213, BERLIN 13372,GERMANY
SOCEPP, 30 RIGA COVE, WINNIPEG,MB R2P 2Z7,CANADA
E MAIL: SOCEPP @AOL.COM
WEB SITE: WWW.SOCEPP.DE