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**BRITAIN SHOULD STOP SUPPORTING  
REPRESSIVE REGIME IN ETHIOPIA**

The head of the repressive regime in Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, is coming over to London on March 31. This is not his first visit and his trips to London highlight the close and strong ties existing between Britain and the repressive regime in Ethiopia.

Britain has been strongly supporting the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front of Meles Zenawi (TPLF) when it was in the jungle and fighting for the secession of Tigray. When the TPLF took over power, following the charade of a London conference, Britain became one of the foremost western countries to stand on the side of the ethnic discriminatory Meles regime. The head of the regime's intelligence, Kifle Gebre Medhin (shot to death later as a result of a power struggle within the ruling group), were trained for a year in Britain, the police got Land Rovers and equipment from London and British intelligence officials helped the TPLF combat the opposition in Eastern African countries like Uganda and Kenya. The backing of Britain was total and real. British ambassadors in Addis Abeba, the present one included, have proved loyal and partisan mouthpieces for the Meles regime making their claim of quiet backdoor diplomacy a farce.

Meanwhile, the Meles regime has stepped up the human rights violations in Ethiopia and Britain has been deporting Ethiopian refugees back to Ethiopia claiming the country is safe and "democratic". The government of Tony Blair went through the motions of condemning the violent repression of innocent protesters in May-June 1997 but it was soon business as usual and all round cooperation with the corrupt and repressive regime (much embezzled money is hoarded in British Banks). The special police drove British supplied Land Rovers to the house of human rights activist and teacher Assefa Maru to shoot him to death. Time and again Ethiopians have called on Britain to stop aiding and abetting in the serious crimes against the rights of the people but there has been NO change on the part of the British government.

Still, SOCEPP calls on the government of Prime Minister Gordon Brown to end all collaboration with the repressive regime of Meles Zenawi and to support the struggle of the people of Ethiopia for their basic and inalienable human rights.

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