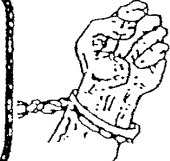




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



JULY 15/2010

ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN PERIL IN KENYAN CAPITAL

Kenyan police have launched raids in Pangani and other Nairobi districts where many Ethiopians refugees live. More than 35 have already been arrested. The justification made for these brutal actions is the need for security, the anti terror campaign and to flush out so called "illegal aliens". During the raid many refugees have been mistreated, beaten and in some cases even robbed by the police.

In Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, South Africa and many other African countries Ethiopian refugees have continued to be mistreated and to be denied asylum rights. In some places like South Africa and the Sudan they have also been killed. The worst place is the Sudan which has not only continued to deny refugees basic rights but have deported dozens of them back to Ethiopia where they have been "disappeared". One of these is Azanaw Demile who has been disappeared since 1991.

The ongoing anti refugee campaign in Nairobi should raise the concern of the UNHCR but there is no indication yet that it has. There are reports that the agents of the TPLF/EPRDF are also involved in the operation claiming to have information on "terrorists". There are fears that refugees sought by the security in Addis Abeba for political reasons may be rounded up and deported.

SOCEPP calls on the Kenyan government to stop the ongoing police action in Nairobi as it is violating the rights of Ethiopian refugees.

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