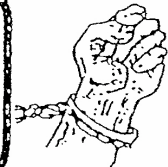




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



May 3/ 2007

ON THE METEHARA PROJECT AND THE REPRESSION AGAINST AFARS

The secretly guarded so-called Metahara project is leading to the arrest and brutalization of dozens of Afars in the region. The reports indicate with certainty that the Meles Zenawi regime has drafted a vast plan of settling Tigreans in the Methara area by displacing no less than 150,000 Afars. The Metehara project funded by foreigners involves the extension of the sugar plantation project and the development of other new projects (cotton, etc..). The project will lead to the displacement of thousands of Afars and the massive resettlement of Tigreans is also, as in Abderafi/Gondar region, likely to lead to conflicts and bloodshed.

Dozens of Afars who have voiced opposition to the project have now been rounded up and imprisoned in Asaita and Dessie. According to the reports, the project is kept secret so much so the President of the Afar kilil/region/ is not even informed on the details of it. SOCEPP condemns the repression unleashed against Afars in the region as a consequence of this project that would surely have many bad consequences. The removal of Afars from their land and the takeover of the same land by settlers from another ethnic group is sure to lead to inter ethnic conflicts and thus should be stopped immediately.

Release the jailed Afars from prison!

Stop the controversial Metehara Project or inform the Ethiopian people in detail about it.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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