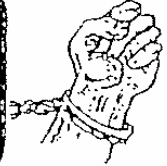




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



December 20/2007

**JAMMING OF RADIOS AND INTERNET BLOCKING:  
FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATION VIOLATED**

***"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom of ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."***

***Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights***

The authorities in Ethiopia have jammed many radio stations broadcasting from abroad to Ethiopia and blocked Ethiopian web sites and blogs, altogether. Among the radios jammed using equipment brought from China we can cite the Amharic program of Deutschewelle and the opposition Finote Democracy Radio and among the popular web sites blocked by the regime it is possible to mention [www.debteraw.com](http://www.debteraw.com).

Meanwhile, the radio owned by the ruling front (Tigrean People's Liberation Front/TPLF/), Fana radio, continues to disseminate hate propaganda that fan ethnic prejudices and conflicts. The independent press has been muzzled and almost all the newspapers allowed circulation are owned by the regime overtly or covertly with the exception of western type tabloids allowed to cover only local foreign media gossip. Given the fact that the State controlled radio only presents State propaganda, most people depend on foreign based radios broadcasting in Amharic or other Ethiopian languages to get the real news. The jamming of these radios is a violation of the basic right of the people in this regard. It is necessary to note that China trained those who jam the radios and also supplied the jamming equipment. Internet communication is also controlled under the Ministry of Communications headed by none other than the security official called Debretsion involved in phone tapping and e mail monitoring.

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