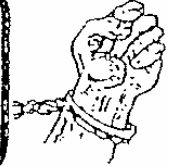




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



February 15/2008

FORGOTTEN POLITICAL PRISONERS
RELEASE ABERA YEMANEAB AND TAMRAT LAYNE

Abera Yemaneab flew to Addis Ababa from his exile home, Washington DC, to take part in a Peace and Reconciliation Conference. It was December 1993 and he was arrested at the airport and taken to prison. In April of the same year, a court ordered that he should be released but the EPRDF regime kept him in prison and after 12 years of detention sentenced him to a ten years term. He was released, denied the right to join his family in America, rearrested and sentenced to a 25 years prison term.

Tamrat Layne was Prime Minister of the EPRDF regime and one of those who was backing the illegal actions and human rights violations. His turn came when his political differences with Meles Zenawi and the power holding Tigrean front (TPLF) became acute and he was railroaded as a corrupt official and sent to prison. He was denied due process and sentenced again and again by a vindictive regime. Tamrat, unlike the TPLF leader Seye Abreha who is now released from prison, does not have any powerful supporters crying for his release and it seems probable that he will pass years and years behind bars despite his children's appeal for his release. Tamrat was part of the regime, like the released Seye, and is responsible for many human rights violations but his imprisonment is not linked this or to his alleged corruption. He is jailed because he differed politically with the ruling clique.

Both Abera and Tamrat are illegally behind bars. They seem to be "forgotten" by many. SOCEPP stands against this forgetfulness and calls for the immediate release of these victims of injustice.

Release Abera Yemaneab and Tamrat Layne!

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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