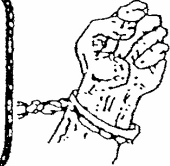




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



July 2/2008

ILLEGAL VERDICT AGAINST HISTORIC ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (ETA)

The Federal Supreme Court in Addis Ababa has ruled against the Ethiopian Teachers' Association and declared the government controlled "ETA" as the legal association. The satellite group is expected to appropriate the asset of the ETA (buildings, cash, cars, etc..) estimated at 12 million Birr.

The EPRDF had been taking repressive actions against the ETA. It jailed its secretary general Dr. Taye Welde Semayat for more than five years, killed or led to death other ETA leaders, forced many into exile and grossly interfered in the internal affairs of the association by setting up its own State controlled "ETA". This illegal body has now been given legal recognition by the regime. The Meles Zenawi regime thus continues its violations of the rights of civic bodies and associations. The action against the ETA comes on the heels of the repressive and rights--violating law dealing with NGOs and the draft press law that will render any resort to free press illegal and punishable. The Meles regime has been identified as one of the worst predators of the free press.

The illegal action against the ETA needs to be condemned at large and with vigor. SOCEPP restates its support to the one and only ETA and declares the decision of the Meles court null, void and illegal.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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