

ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO

OROMO LIBERATION FRONT



جبهة تحرير أوروامو

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The Continuation of Death Sentences and Long-term Imprisonments on Oromos shall not deter the Oromo Quest for Liberation

Oromo Liberation Front

Press Release

The Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) regime's political repression and gross human rights violation of the Oromo people is unabated; it is getting worse each passing day. The regime's recent successive mock trials and unjust sentences are the continuation of the regime's systemic violation of human rights and injustice it is perpetrating against the Oromo people since it came to power in May 1991. Wrongly convinced that repression would daunt the Oromo people and prolong its dictatorial minority rule, the T PLF regime has continued sentencing Oromos to death, life and long term imprisonments. On March 31, 2010, the regime's kangaroo court sentenced sixteen (16) Oromo nationals to death, life and long-term imprisonments. On May 20, 2010, it again passed death, life and long-term imprisonment sentences on seven Oromos. On June 8, 2010, the kangaroo court rendered life and long-term imprisonment sentences on twenty four Oromos. These lists do not include the Oromos who are daily extra judicially killed in all corners of Oromia by the regime's security forces.

The Names of Oromos Sentenced to life and long-term Imprisonment on June 9, 2010 are:

1. Ari'a Dadhii Life imprisonment
2. Ali Muume Life imprisonment
3. Xahir Ibrahim Life imprisonment
4. Ibrahim Waqoo 12 Years Imprisonment
5. Luucee Ida'a 12 Years Imprisonment
6. Shuma Gadissa 12 Years Imprisonment
7. Mohamod Awal 12 Years Imprisonment
8. Tamaam Muusa 12 Years Imprisonment
9. Xahir Hussen 12 Years Imprisonment
10. Abubakara Ibrahim 12 Years Imprisonment
11. Awal Yaasin 12 Years Imprisonment
12. Fixe Hundeesa 12 Years Imprisonment

13. Faaris Adem 7 Years Imprisonment
14. Usman Mohammad 7 Years Imprisonment
15. Mohamod Dawud 7 Years Imprisonment
16. Shamsiha Hussen (F) 7 Years Imprisonment
17. Hussen Ali 7 Years Imprisonment
18. Abubakar Adem 7 Years Imprisonment
19. Adem Daud 7 Years Imprisonment
20. Ibsa Mohammad 7 Years Imprisonment
21. Ismael Mohammad 7 Years Imprisonment
22. Feyisel Gadaa 7 Years Imprisonment
- 23.
- 24.

The Oromos who were subjected to the fake trials and harsh sentences are political prisoners. The harsh sentences passed on them are politically motivated. The Oromo political prisoners that were successively sentenced to death, life and long-term imprisonments have committed no crime. The only “crime” they have committed is that they stood for the fundamental human rights and dignity of the Oromo people. Their only “crime” is that they spoke up against the injustice the TPLF minority regime is committing against the Oromo people.

What has happened to the Oromo political prisoners in the TPLF courts is a travesty of justice. The Prosecution that charged the Oromo political prisoners is a political arm of the TPLF regime and the charges filed against them are trumped-up political charges. The regime’s Prosecution presented, as always, concocted witnesses against the Oromo political prisoners. The alleged “confessions” were obtained from the defendants under duress and coercion. The Oromo political prisoners who were sentenced to death, life and long-term imprisonments did not get fair trials. The political prisoners were not represented by defense lawyers; even if they had one, it could have served no purpose because the politically motivated sentences that were pronounced by the kangaroo court were made in advance by TPLF’s political leadership. The kangaroo Court that passed the unjust sentences on the Oromo political prisoners is not an independent court. Under the TPLF rule; courts are reduced to the minority regime’s instruments of repression. The mock trials the Oromo political prisoners were subjected to and the sentences passed on them are the height of a miscarriage of justice.

The Oromo political prisoners who were sentenced to death, life and long-term imprisonment were engineers, lawyers, journalist, businessmen, students, farmers, stay at home mothers, etc. Some are mothers who left young children at home without care or fathers. Some of the political prisoners who were sentenced to death, life and long-term imprisonment were once refugees; who were compelled to flee their country due to political repression - for being an

Oromo and having different and independent political views. These political refugees were deported to Ethiopia by a neighbouring country, in contravention of the Geneva Convention, and were made to face the TPLF regime's human slaughter machine. This too is an example of the international travesty of justice against the Oromo.

The March, May and June 2010, successive death, life and long-term imprisonment sentences by the TPLF tyrannical regime's kangaroo court against the Oromo political prisoners were not the first. Under the TPLF tyrannical rule, thousands of Oromo political prisoners were previously subjected to similar treatments. Furthermore, thousands of Oromos were extra judicially killed or "disappeared" for political reasons in all corners of Oromia. The extra judicial and wanton killings, "disappearances", arbitrary detentions for a long-time without charge or trial of the Oromos are unabated. The notorious TPLF prisons are overcrowded mostly by Oromo political prisoners; hence the TPLF prisons "speak the Oromo language".

The TPLF regime was not the first to sentence freedom loving Oromos to death, life and long-term imprisonments. In the repression of the Oromo, the TPLF is perpetuating the policies and practices of its predecessor regimes; albeit in its worst and massive form. The Oromos who stood for equality, freedom and justice were also penalized with death penalty, life and long-term imprisonments under the previous Ethiopian regimes. To mention only a few: Lt. Mamo Mezemir, a proud Oromo nationalist and a member of the Mecha-Tulama Oromo Self-Help Association, was subjected to a trumped up charge, sentenced to death penalty and publicly hanged for political reasons during the reign of Emperor Haile Sillassie. General Taddasaa Birruu and Colonel Hailu Raggaasaa were sentenced to death by the Military Junta regime that preceded the TPLF regime, and were killed by a firing squad. Ironically, General Taddasaa and Colonel Hailu Raggaasaa were killed with a Meles Tekle, a Tigrai nationalist, whose first name the dictator Meles Zenawi took. We all know how the rules of the killers of Mamo Mezemir, Taddasaa Birru, and Hailu Raggaasaa ended. The same verdict of history awaits the tyrannical TPLF rulers, whose head, Meles Zenawi, already stands accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The TPLF rulers should be on notice that political death sentences, life and long term imprisonments will not deter the Oromo people from struggling for their freedom, justice and human dignity. The Oromo people's struggle for freedom, justice and human dignity is a just struggle; history is on the side of the Oromo people and the Oromo shall prevail. The Oromo people realize very well that freedom is not for free and today his daughters and sons are shading their blood for it.

The OLF vehemently condemns the March, May and June, 2010 senseless death and imprisonment sentences on Oromo nationals by the murderous regime of the TPLF. The brutal and inhuman TPLF regime's leaders: you are perpetrating the gross human rights violations of the Oromo and the other peoples in Ethiopia in a "borrowed time". Your fate will not be any different from your predecessors. The Oromo and other peoples in Ethiopia longing for freedom and justice shall prevail.

Victory to the Oromo People!
Oromo Liberation Front
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