



A Call for Action!

Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia is still killing Oromo Students!

Meles Zenawi's regime in Ethiopia has once again unleashed its deadly force of terror on Oromo students. Students in colleges and high schools of Oromia and all over Ethiopia have been peacefully demonstrating to protest against the injustice and inhuman treatment of Oromo people, and to demand liberty and the right to self determination. Instead of meeting student demands peacefully Zanawi has ordered its forces to use deadly force to disperse the demonstrations, killing at least 10 and injuring and jailing hundreds of students. One of the students has endured an irreparable damage to her womb as the result of severe beatings.

This is not the first time that the brutal dictator has resorted to deadly force to suppress decent. In the aftermath of the well publicized election of May, 2005, Mr. Zenawi ordered the reported killing of 86 people in June and November of this year. In November only, as many as 7000 civilians including all of free press journalists in the country have been abducted to prisons and concentration camps.

The situation in Oromia has been the gravest in the country by any account. In its May 10, 2005 report exclusively compiled on Oromia running up to the election, Human Rights Watch stated, 'In Oromia, the largest and most populous state in Ethiopia, systematic political repression and pervasive human rights violations have denied citizens the freedom to associate and to freely form and express their political ideas.' According to the same report, the government controls and monitors the movement, speech and life of individual households through its local institutions. This shows that Oromo people live in a situation equivalent to slavery, deprived of all human and political rights enshrined both in the Ethiopian constitution and international conventions.

Today there are at least 30, 000 Oromo political prisoners in Ethiopian jails and Oromo civic associations such as *Macha and Tulama* and *Human Rights League* have been banned and their leaders are languishing in prison without any trial. During the last 14 years an estimated 2 to 3 thousand civilian Oromos have been killed. Zenawi is committing crime against humanity by killing innocent children and civilian as a way of continuously clinging to power. We believe this should stop and stop now.

Therefore, we, the members of the Oromo Community in Minnesota:

1. Condemn the brutal killings, imprisonment, and gross human rights violations perpetrated on Oromo people by Ethiopian government.
2. Demand immediate stop to killing, imprisonment and intimidation of Oromo students and civilians.
3. Demand immediate release of all Oromo political prisoners and reinstate Oromo civic associations.
4. Demand the initiation of a political process for national self determination of the Oromo people.

We also call up on concerned citizens to join us in asking the U.S. Government, U.S. Congress and international organizations such as the World Bank,

1. To put pressure on Ethiopian government to fulfill the above mentioned demands, including peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Oromo people and Ethiopian government.
2. To cut economic aid to Ethiopian government until the above mentioned demands are fulfilled.
3. To re-evaluate the significance of Meles Zenawi's Ethiopia as a strategic and diplomatic partner in the Horn of Africa.

Victory to the Oromo People!

Oromo Community of Minnesota, 11/30/05.

Join us for a huge mass rally at Minnesota Sate Capitol and Martin Luther King Blvd (St. Paul) on Wednesday 11/30/05 at 11:00AM.