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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

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MELES REGIME'S USE OF FOOD AID FOR POLITICS DENOUNCED

Further evidence has emerged that the cruel regime of Meles Zenawi is using food aid sent to famine victims for political purposes. Previously, credible accusations had been made exposing the fact that the Meles regime diverts food aid from the famine victims to its army, to the market (for sale that benefits it), and for the granary in its Tigray homeland.

The Meles Zenawi regime practices an ethnic discriminatory politics that has severely affected the members of ethnic groups other than its own. This policy of discrimination and hatred has particularly targeted the Amhara people. Thus, it has come as no surprise that the regime has ignored the famine victims in Amhara areas up to now. However, this has changed recently as the regime approaches its so called May 2010 general election. The people of Northern Shoa, who have been forced to boil plants and leaves to survive the famine, have now been told that they will be given food aid if they become members of the EPRDF and vote for the ruling front. However, the starving people of Northern Shoa (districts of Rassa, Kure Beret, Abaya Attir, Senbete and Farsi) have boldly rejected this late and politically tied aid.

It must be noted that the donor countries have made little or no pressure on the Meles regime to stop using food aid for political gains and for its own financial benefits. In the absence of an outcry, the regime has been emboldened to use food aid to get political support and to pursue its ethnic discriminatory politics of hate.

The EPRP condemns the callous and brutal actions of the Meles regime and calls on the donor countries to make sure that the food aid gets to the victims and does not become one more instrument of subjugation and oppression.

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