



የኢትዮጵያ ሕዝባዊ አብዮታዊ ፓርቲ (ኢሕአፓ)
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

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DENOUNCE THE TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE PLANNED FOR MARCH 5

The repressive and unelected regime of Meles Zenawi has let it be known that it will, on March 5, condemn the illegally imprisoned leaders of the Opposition and independent journalists as well as other Ethiopians in exile on trumped up charges of treason and other serious alleged crimes. The regime may again postpone the March 5 condemnation plan but the crux of the matter remains to be so long as the prisoners are not unconditionally freed the regime should be resoundingly condemned for the gross violation of humanrights.

Many independent observers have confirmed that the ruling party, TPLF/EPRDF, lost the May 2007 general election to the Opposition. Using brute force and fraud it has stayed on in power by murdering hundreds of peaceful protesters and throwing the non-compliant elected leaders of the Opposition forces, civic association members and journalists into prison. The regime reportedly holds more than 35,000 political prisoners in known prisons like Kaliti, secret prisons in Tigrai and other places and in concentration- type camps in Dedesa, Bir Sheleko, Zwai, etc. While the known prisoners in Kaliti may not be subjected to direct beatings and physical torture the thousands in the other jails in rural areas are routinely tortured. Dozens have died while “trying to escape” or from the brutal maltreatment.

The EPRP, which has yet to know where some of its leaders, veteran members and supporters jailed by the TPLF/EPRDF are being held since 1991, calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners and an end to the travesty of justice like the court-drama planned for March 5 or afterwards, if postponed. Those elected by the people should not land in jail while the illegal group continues in power. All democratic forces of the world should condemn the ongoing human rights violations in Ethiopia and should call for the immediate release of the political prisoners.

EPRP
P.O.Box 73337
Washington D.C. 20056
USA
Tel: (202)-291-4217
Fax: (202)-291-7645
E-mail: ESPIC@aol.com

EPRP
BP 22
Bois Colombes 92270
FRANCE

EPRP
Postbus 1253
1000 BC Amsterdam
HOLLAND

Website: <http://www.EPRP.com>