



MARCH 2/2010

**SOCEPP CONDEMNS RAILROADING OF 153 PEOPLE
IN NEGELE BORENA**

The Meles Zenawi regime has jailed close to 200 people in Negele Borena region since November 2009 and has now charged 153 on the basis of the so called anti terror law, a repressive legislation giving the authorities carte blanche to charge and imprison any one.

In November 2009, thousands of students (Bule Hora elementary and secondary schools) as well as town dwellers of Shakiso and the surrounding Weredas staged a protest demonstration and action against the plunder of the local resources (gold and other minerals) and the damage to the environment (especially on Denbi river) by Sheikh Alamoudi's Midroc company that had been exploiting the Shakiso gold mine without a cent coming back to the local people. The protesters demanded that Meles Zenawi and the Sheikh address in person their grievances. However, the regime unleashed its police and Flying Squad Special Forces on the people, shot to death at least four people and rounded up hundreds (some 200 are still in the Yabelo jail).

It has now been announced that at least 153 of the jailed are to be charged as terrorists and to be railroaded in an apparent attempt to crush the will of the people. The 153 are accused of plotting to overthrow the government, inciting people to violence, disruption of public order, illegal organization activities, attacking public servants (police and teachers), etc... Given the fact that judiciary is controlled by the regime and the ruling front it is sure that the accused will be victims of the wrath of the repressive regime and no justice will be done at all.

SOCEPP calls for the immediate release of the 153 and all the others in Yabelo and other prisons of Negele Borena, jailed because they exercised their right of peaceful protest.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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