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## REPRESSIVE REGIME TO EXPAND ITS PRISONS

The number of public hospitals has not increased, the situation in the education area is dismal, millions are starving but the repressive regime of Meles Zenawi has now decided to expand its prisons and build new ones at a cost of hundreds millions of Birr.

The first stage concerns the expansion of the Kaliti prison on the outskirts of Addis Abeba, the Shoa Robit and Zewaye concentration type camps, the prison at Shashemene and Dire Dawa. The second stage will involve prisons at Bahir Dar and Gondar, the Dedesa and Bir Sheleko labor camps, the secret prisons in Tigray and other places. The Meles regime holds some 35,000 prisoners and this is a conservative estimate. The plan to expand prisons while schools and hospitals are run down and dilapidated, under funded and falling apart, highlights the repressive regime's real and anti democratic character. This being the reality, the fact that the West bankrolls this totalitarian and regime in countries like Norway (shame of shame along with the Sudan, Djibouti, etc) have agreed to deport refugees calls for a world wide condemnation of all those backing the violation of human rights in Ethiopia.

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