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MARCH 8/2013: International Women's Day

THE WORSENING PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN ETHIOPIA

From year to year the condition of Ethiopian women worsens as the dictatorship in Addis Abeba play havoc with the lives and destiny of women. Young Ethiopian women are trafficked to the Middle East to suffer racism, violence, crude exploitation and death of all sorts. Presently more than 45,000 are sent to domestic slavery in Saudi Arabia. Every month no less than eight young Ethiopian girls are killed or commit suicide in the Middle Eastern countries. The regime itself has admitted that pre teen girls are no prostitutes in the brothels and streets of Addis Abeba itself. Thousands of women have been displaced (and forcefully resettled afar) from their land and villages because of the regime sponsored massive land grab by Indian, Chinese and Arab firms.

The regime in Ethiopia does pay lip service to democracy and the equality of women at the same tie as it trafficks women, refuses to give women a salary equaling that of men, denies women their rights to decide on their bodies and pushes them to prostitution. The repression and exploitation in rural Ethiopia has meant the suffering of the majority of women. The right of women to have their own autonomous civil association has been denied and hijacked by the regime and its top female officials. The number of women in the various known and secret prisons of Ethiopia ahs increased, Aberash Berta and many others remain disappeared and recently, following the eight months long peaceful protest of Ethiopian Muslims, many women have landed in prison in a country that has no less than 35,000 political prisoners. Domestic violence, rape and attempts against the rights of the girl—child are on the rise as the system favors the oppression and discrimination of women based on their gender.

Ethiopian women, the majority in terms of population numbers, have for long fought, even arms in hand, for their basic democratic and human rights. At present, they constitute part and parcel of the democratic Opposition against the ethnic chauvinist tyranny. They know the observation of March 8 in Ethiopia is a cruel charade to cover the reality of oppression and injustice against Ethiopian women.

WE CALL UPON THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE OF NORWAY TO CONDEMN THE DEPLORABOE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN ETHIOPIA AND TO SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE OF ALL ETHIOPIANS FOR DEMOCRACY.