



March 27/2012

## DENOUNCE ETHNIC CLEANSING AGAINST AMHARAS

Thousands of Amharas have been forced out of the Southern Bench Maji zone in what is appearing as a regime instigated ethnic cleansing and daylight expropriation/robbery. The victims have flocked to Addis Abeba and their search for shelter at the Kidist Mariam Church has been blocked by the Meles appointed and much reviled pope called Abune Paulos. The forced eviction of Amharas is continuing.

The ethnic cleansing of Amharas has been going since 1991, the year the Meles group took over power in Addis Abeba. The ruling group hailing from Tigrai incorporated the regions of Welkiat, Tegede, Tselemt and parts of Wello inhabited by Amharas into the now expanded Tigrai region. These fertile areas were then systematically depopulated from their Amhara inhabitants as the Meles regime settled more and more Tigreans. A case in point is the chasing away of Amharas from their fertile lands in Setit Humera which is now almost totally inhabited and controlled by Tigreans. The continuous attempt to attack the Amhara as an enemy (Arbagugu, Estern Wollega, etc..) has been at the centre of the ruling Meles group with top officials like Sebhat Nega and Bereket Semon leading the hate propaganda. Organizations labeled Amhara (actually Pan Ethiopian) have been hounded and many of the leaders and officials jailed, forced into exile or killed.

SOCEPP strongly condemns the ill hidden ethnic cleansing directed with such venom against the Amhara people. This is a campaign that should be countered by world wide condemnation and denunciation. The Amhara people are in danger in Ethiopia and all should be done to protect their rights as human beings and worthy citizens of Ethiopia.

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