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ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN TURMOIL IN THE SUDAN

Sudanese police and security personnel are conducting massive house searches in Khartoum and other cities of the Sudan. The search is aimed at Ethiopians who are alleged to have no new IDs and are going to be deported en masse to the clutches of the regime in Addis Abeba. It is to be noted that Sudanese officials are in league with the cadres of the Addis Abeba regime in the human trafficking especially targeting Ethiopian girls as young as fourteen years old.

Over the years the Sudan has used the ID issue to round up Ethiopians in accord with the demand and supplied list of the Addis Abeba regime. Legally recognized refugees had in the past been denied their status and asked to reapply anew. Despite the fact that thousands of Ethiopian refugees continue to flee to the Sudan the Khartoum authorities still insist that Ethiopia is a safe country and refugees are facing dangers to flee for nothing. Hundreds of Ethiopian refugees still languish in several Sudanese jails including the ones in Khartoum, El Gedaref, Basonda, Hasaisa, etc. The ongoing round up has put the refugee community in turmoil as they face a grave danger to their lives if deported. Previously, many of those deported from Azanaw Demile of the EPRP (1991) to the fourteen others deported along with Major Atanaw Wassie (who died in detention denied medical care) have been either disappeared or jailed without due process.

SOCEPP calls on all Ethiopian to raise their voices of protest and to condemn the ongoing rounding up and mistreatment of Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan. SOCEPP demands that the Sudanese government stops its collusion with the Addis Abeba regime to the detriment of rights and welfare of Ethiopian refugees. Once again, SOCEPP calls on the UNHCR to respect its objectives and to end its damaging silence in the face of refugees being tormented to end.

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