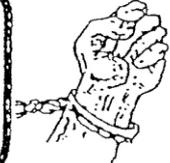




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



May3/2013

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY FREE PRESS STAMPED OUT IN ETHIOPIA

There is no freedom of the press in Ethiopia. The attempt to dupe the world with claims to the contrary did not have the life of a dew. Dozens of independent journalists were arrested, tortured even, killed or forced into exile and newspapers banned outright. Censorship is stifling, several journalists still languish in the notorious prisons of Kaliti and Kilinto and some have been taken to the Zwai labor camp recently.

Eskinder Nega, Woubshet Taye and Reyot Alemu, etc. are but a few examples of the journalists condemned for long years of imprisonment under the notorious Anti-Terrorism Law that is so sweeping and vague that any slightly critical journalist can be arrested and charged of being a terrorist or helping alleged terrorists . The so called law has virtually legalized the violation of press freedom and has led to the jailing of journalists for long years and the banning of almost all the independent newspapers. "Eleven journalists have been convicted and sentenced since 2011 under Ethiopia's repressive anti-terrorism law, including six in absentia. Three of the eleven are currently in prison. Two other journalists are currently on trial under the anti-terrorism law". The regime in Addis Abeba has jammed opposition radios, TV, and blocked web sites with the help of the Chinese government. The internet is under control. Mobile and fixed

phones are tapped, mail intercepted. There is no free media as the State control is complete and reported independent FM radios are also under its covert control.

World Press Freedom Day finds Ethiopia with little or no free press, with journalists in prison and labor camps and the freedom of expression severely damaged or compromised. The dictatorship is relentless and those in the West that back it under the sham argument that it is fighting terrorism are its accomplices.

**INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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