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**WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY**

**IN ETHIOPIA: FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS AN ILLUSION**

A ruthless predator of the free press, with journalists thrown into jails accused of terrorism because they wrote the truth, one of the most censored countries in the world, dozens of journalists forced to flee into exile, the main media controlled by the State--being a journalist in Ethiopia is a risky undertaking. Freedom of the press is an illusion, dissent of any form is not tolerated.

If many countries have become dangerous for journalists, the regime in Ethiopia that is taken as democratic by Washington and the EU, is worse than most. It presently holds six bloggers and three journalists in jail without any due process, has given heavy prison sentences to three others (including a woman, Reyot Alemu, who is sick but has been denied proper medical care), and has shut down several fledgling newspapers hoping to tread an autonomous path. In place is a repressive and restrictive Press Law aided by a so called anti terror law that practically labels all real dissent as terrorism. The repression and measures against the freedom of the press have not seen any real condemnation by the Western countries that give full aid to the regime in place. China and the West also aid the regime technically in its effort to jam radio programs of the opposition, to tap phones, intercept mails and to block web sites.

Release jailed journalists and all political prisoners,

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE

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