

May 4/2013

INJUSTICE CONFIRMED IN ETHIOPIA

A court in Addis Abeba, where all courts are controlled by the State, has quashed the appeals by Eskinder Nega (a journalist and blogger sentenced to 18 years in jail) and Andualem Aragie (an opposition leader sentenced to life in prison) and upheld their sentences. This is a sad confirmation of the fact that injustice reigns supreme in Ethiopia and the death of the tyrant has led to no change at all in the hapless country.

The repression of independent journalists and opposition leaders dates from 1983 when the regime got established. Despite lip service to democracy and human rights and flimsy make believe protests from the West (which has practically and effectively backed the repressive regime to the hilt claiming it is an ally in the so called war against terror) the regime in Addis Abeba has relentlessly attacked opposition leaders and independent journalists. Many like Tesfaye Tadesse and Assefa Maru have been brutally killed and many others forced into exile or thrown into labour camps and horrible dungeons. Eskinder and Anudalem are glaring examples of the cruelty of the regime that violates human rights on a routine basis. To cover up its horrible crimes the regime has decreed in 2009 a repressive law dubbed the Anti-Terror Law and proceeded to label opposition groups as terror organizations. Dissent is thus labeled terror and stifled with fury. Eskinder and Andualem did not bear arms at any time -they only used their pen and conscience to dissent and to peacefully call for democracy. This has been called criminal and terror by the repressive regime.

SOCEPP calls on Ethiopians to protest against this injustice and demands that the so called allies of the dictatorial regime to stop aiding and abetting in the crimes against the people of Ethiopia.