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EPRDF ALLOWS SUDAN TO VIOLATE RIGHTS OF ETHIOPIANS

It is now confirmed that the EPRDF has ceded Ethiopian territory to the Sudan and Sudan has subsequently occupied Ethiopian land and violated the rights of Ethiopian farmers especially in the border regions of Gondar.

Sudanese soldiers occupying Ethiopian land have abducted more than 34 Ethiopians from several farms and taken them to the Sudan where they are still being held. These same soldiers have burnt dozens of huts and destroyed farm property. The regime in Addis Ababa, a human rights violator by its own right, has chosen to remain silent on the aggression and human rights violation. The close political relation between the Khartoum and Addis Ababa regimes has almost always worked against the human rights of Ethiopians. Sudan has deported, since 1991, dozens of Ethiopian refugees of whom many, like Azanaw Demile and Atanaw Wassie, have disappeared without a trace in the dungeons of the Meles Zenawi regime. The hardship of Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan knows no limit and the situation has continued to worsen. The ongoing handing over of Ethiopian territory to the Sudan is liable to be resisted by Ethiopians and it can be said safely that Sudanese army occupation of the land does not augur well in terms of human rights and the respect of the rule of law.

SOCEPP calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Sudanese army from Ethiopian land and the unconditional release of the Ethiopian farmers abducted by Sudanese soldiers and taken to the Sudan. International pressure should be strongly put on the Sudanese government to respect the rights of Ethiopian refugees.

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SOCEPP, POSTFACH 51213, BERLIN 13372, GERMANY
E MAIL: SOCEPP @AOL.COM,
WEB SITE: WWW.SOCEPP.DE