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ETHIOPIANS ABROAD INCREASINGLY ENDANGERED

The report from Saudi Arabia that five Ethiopians at a Saudi detention center have died of "suffocation" has highlighted the increasing dangers Ethiopians (asylum seekers and workers) are facing in many foreign countries. Suffocation?!

Saudi Arabia is one of the Arab countries where Ethiopian workers suffer racism and overall mistreatment while Lebanon tops the list of villains in this respect (more than 35,000 Ethiopian domestic workers or modern slaves toil there). Ethiopian refugees have either been deported (by Kenya and Sudan for example), beaten up and tortured (Kenya, Sudan, Libya, Djibouti, Yemen), subjected to inhumane treatment (by the neighboring countries and Arab countries) or else drowned at sea (off the Yemeni and Italian coastlines). European countries have also joined the fray by ridiculously alleging that the brutal regime of Meles Zenawi is not repressive at all and that Ethiopia is one of the so called safe countries. As a result, hundreds of Ethiopian asylum seekers have been denied their rights in Germany, Italy, Britain, Greece, Norway and other EU countries.

SOCEPP has advised Ethiopians of the danger that they would face abroad both as domestic worker and as asylum seeker. SOCEPP has continued on foreign countries to respect the rights of Ethiopians on their land, to realize that the regime in Ethiopia is very repressive and basically anti democratic and that those who flee are justified in doing so. The number of Ethiopians languishing in Saudi, Libyan, Italian, Sudanese, Kenyan and other detention centers is increasing. This human rights violation has to stop.

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