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**REMEMBER POLITICAL PRISONERS ABERASH BERTA
AND ABERA YEMANEAB**

Now that Meles Zenawi has been forced to release Judge Birtukan Midiksa, it is imperative that all human rights activists do not lose sight of the fact that close to 35,000 political prisoners are still languishing in the prisons and prison camps of Meles Zenawi.

Of these many prisoners, SOCEPP will like to mention ABERA YEMANEAB, illegally detained since 1993 and serving a 25 years sentence in Kaliti under trumped up charges. Another female prisoner that SOCEPP wants to highlight is Ms ABERASH BERTA, disappeared since 1993 after being arrested in Addis Abeba. Aberash is well known for fighting against the Mengistu regime as a veteran member of the opposition EPRP and Abera was a leading member of the opposition COEDF who went to Addis Abeba from Washington to take part in a peace and reconciliation conference. Both prisoners have been ignored by local and international human rights groups on grounds that have not been clear up to now.

It is to be expected that the Meles regime will like to acquire political capital by releasing Judge Birtukan but her detention up to now was by itself very illegal and the regime cannot escape due condemnation. The release, welcome as it is especially for her family, cannot cover up the fact that the Meles regime has trampled up and continue to violate the basic human rights of Ethiopians.

Release all political prisoners now!

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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