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DENOUNCE TORTURE AND BRUTALITY AGAINST ETHIOPIAN MUSLIMS

For the last eight months Ethiopian Muslims have been demonstrating peacefully for the respect of their religious and human rights and for an end to the regime's interference in their religious affairs. The Meles regime had for years been trying to put its stooges and cadres in and on top of the religious institutions. Its blatant interference in the affairs of Muslim Ethiopians and overall violation of human rights is at the core of the citizens' protest. Over the past months the Meles regime has arrested hundreds (with their whereabouts unknown), tortured dozens and is still carrying rights violations through beatings, abuses and the brutal murder of no less than 22 Muslims.

The Muslims' peaceful protest has been met with violence and mosques have been surrounded and broken into to harass, beat and detain worshippers. Members of the elected representatives of the Muslim community such as Chairman (Ustaz) Abubakar Ahmed, spokesperson Ahmedin Jebel and committee members Kamil Shemsu, Adem Kemil, Sultan Aman, Meket Muhe and Jemal Yassin have all been jailed. Reliable reports affirm that at least the outspoken Ahemedin Jebel has been repeatedly tortured. Torture is routine in the regime's and dungeons. The Meles regime has violated the freedom of belief and almost all human rights of the Muslims and all citizens. More than a thousand Muslims are in prison and the whereabouts of most is unknown. The regime is also propagating a divisive propaganda trying to divide Moslems and Christians. The protest continues as does the repression by the regime's special Agazi forces and security forces.

SOCEPP fully supports the rightful protest of Ethiopian Muslims and calls on all Ethiopians to support their struggle.

Socepp strongly condemns the brutal action against Ethiopian Muslims, calls for the immediate stop of the tortures and beatings and demands the unconditional release of all the detained.

SOCEPP strongly condemns the international media that has supported the brutal regime by remaining shamefully silent in the face of the protest and repression of Ethiopian Muslims.

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