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MOBILIZE FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

Sirak Nebiyou, an Ethiopian journalist, who had focused on the exposition of the plight of Ethiopians, refugees and asylum seekers in Saudi Arabia, has been arrested by the Saudi authorities following the demand by the EPRDF/TPLF embassy for his arrest. The fate of Nebiyou is worrying and there should be a concerted call for his immediate release.

Reyot Alemu, sentenced for 14 years and then reduced to five years of imprisonment and who is suffering from breast bleeding, needs a vigorous campaign to call for her release. She was charged under the sweeping anti Terror law that has proved to be a convenient means for the regime to stifle dissent. Reyot has resisted courageously the regime's immense pressure to make her « confess, implicate others and ask for clemency ».

The fate of political prisoners in Ethiopia is of grave concern. Many human rights organizations focus on a few individuals and ignore the fact that no less than 35,000 still languish in the regime's secret and open prisons and labor camps all over the country. The treatment of political prisoners is horrible and dozens have died from mistreatment and denial of medical care. And yet, the repressive regime continues to enjoy all round help from the USA and Britain and from the European Union. This has to stop.

SOCEPP calls for the release of Nebiyou Sirak, Reyot Alemu and ALL political prisoners.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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