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MEMEBERS OF THE SEMAYAWI (Blue) PARTY ARRESTED/TORTURED

Following several peaceful demonstrations called by the legal Semayawi (Blue) Party (most banned), the regime in Addis Abeba has stepped up its violent repression of the members of this party. The attack has focused especially on the young activists of the party. In this connection, several activists of the party detained recently have been reportedly tortured at the notorious Maekelawi (central) prison.

Among the jailed and tortured are Getaneh Balcha (a member of the executive committee of the party), Fikere Mariam Asmamaw, Tesfaye Merne, Eyasped Tesfaye, Habtamu Demeke, Gashaw Mersha, Zerihun Tesfaye and others totaling 14 in all. They have all been denied bail and accused of disturbance of public order, creating havoc in jail, and of being stubborn and negative (Imbita). Until now, the prisoners have refused to demand pardon or admit to a fault they do not recognize. In the meanwhile, the report of the torture gets credibility from the fact that most prisoners taken to the Makelawi have been tortured as a matter of routine. The young activists of the Semyawi Party did not violate the legal and peaceful framework set by the repressive regime, but they did call for the respect of rights, for an end to the detention of political prisoners, the high cost of living, the land grab, etc... However, it was obvious that such peaceful calls could not be tolerated by the totalitarian regime that brooks no dissent however mild it can be.

SOCEPP calls for the immediate release of the jailed Semayawi Party members and definitive end to the practice of torturing dissenters. SOCEPP calls with vigor the Western countries that back and support this suppressive regime that continues to violate the basic human and democratic rights of the Ethiopian people. SOCEPP also calls on Ethiopian in the Diaspora to show their active solidarity with the jailed members of the party and to impose strict all-round boycott on the regime in place.

Release all political Prionsers now!

**INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE
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