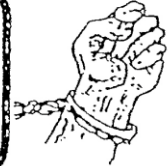




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



December 1/2013

AIDS AND THE HEALTH DISASTER IN ETHIOPIA

World Aids Day has been observed globally and a lookt at the situation in Ethiopia does not lend itself to any kind of optimism. Once again, the regime in place has hidden the real statistics and manipulated selected "experts" to make up beat statements about Aids infection being reduced. Actually, the reality is still bleak.

Even in the doctored report, AIDS infection is at 2.1% for the close to 90 million population. Access to contraception is a mere 8%. At least 400,000 infected peoples have no access to anti-viral drugs and of these some 88,000 are pregnant women thereby increasing the danger on infants. Ethiopia's health condition is still disastrous. Infant mortality is 109 per thousand, there are only 0.24 hospital beds per thousand people, 0.03 physicians per thousand (and mostly in cities and towns only), there are only ophthalmologists for the whole population and the majority of Ethiopians have no access to clean drinking water and toilet facilities.

The spread of AIDS in Ethiopia is increased by the existing political and social situation. The existing wide spread prostitution, child sex market, despair and poverty, the increased use of drugs, the climate of decadence exemplified by the rulers, etc all have added and exacerbated the AIDS problem. In short, the AIDS epidemic is not at all in check though the regime argues to the contrary.

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