

AEUP PRESS RELEASE

Continual intimidation, repression and torture by the ruling party, the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), on peaceful members of the All Ethiopia Unity Party (AEUP) and its supporters

AEUP – with its aim and vision of eradicating famine, disease and illiteracy; securing people’s rights to speak, write, assemble and peacefully demonstrate; and at long last establishing a democratic system in Ethiopia where equality and freedom prevail and people can elect their true representatives – has been supported by a substantial majority and well known to be a law abiding unity party. AEUP has been organized on a policy of peaceful and respectful co-existence of all nationalities.

In its twenty years of peaceful struggle, AEUP has sacrificed very much, including the regrettable death of its prominent founder and leader, Professor Asrat Woldeyes. Several numbers of our urban and rural regional officers and supporters have also faced torture, property destruction, confiscation and embezzlement or death. This type of completely sightless abuse of authority has been an everyday practice of the ruling party against AEUP elected officers, members and supporters and has continued to be used to discourage, control and suppress competitive parties with eventual aim of destroying them.

In order to execute its duties and allegiance to the people of Ethiopia, AEUP, on its part, would like it to be known to the general public and international human rights organizations, the seriousness of abusive, biased and unfair practices and poor governance policy of EPRDF.

Here below, are given some examples of our atrocities:

Amhara Kilel

1. AEUP representative and executive committee member of Gondar zone, east Belesa woreda, Ato Endalk Atale, was forcibly taken by EPRDF armed forces, without any criminal implications against him, and was kept out of sight from June 5 to June 10, 2011. Later, he was taken to Amba Giorgis court and was accused on false pretences and false witness and sentenced to 8 years jail time and Birr 1000 penalty.
2. AEUP spokesman in east Gojam zone, Hule Eju Enese woreda, Ato Gebre Zemere, women’s affairs chair in the same woreda, Wro. Tsehai Zeleke and youth affairs chair Berhanu Zeleke

were forcibly taken by the woreda police inspector Aderajew, vice inspector Amare and the woreda militia men, Ato Tilahun Munacha and Ato Bire Jemberu, to Abaya desert and physically assaulted on September 15, 2011. These EPRDF agents told our members to cancel their memberships from AEUP and tried to force secrete information based on false rumour of armed struggle being carried out by AEUP. They further went into each individual's home and embezzled property. On October 24, 2011, the AEUP members were accused of keeping illegal money and were sentenced on false charges:

- a. In spite of loosing Birr 5000 and other property during the police raid, Ato Gebre was sentenced to 4 years in prison plus Birr 1000 penalty.
- b. Wro. Tsehai, with a 6 month old baby, was sentenced to 2 years in prison and Birr 500
- c. Youth Berhanu got 3 years and Birr 800

All judgment decisions were taken only on false evidences just fabricated to accuse the individuals.

3. The chairman of AEUP executive committee of the Metekel zone and a member of the central caucus board, Ato Getahun Amenu, was falsely accused of assault that took place 2 years ago and has been in jail since March 20, 2011 sentenced to one year imprisonment and a penalty of Birr 5000.
4. AEUP member, Ato Mesfin Belachew, was killed by an EPRDF agent. The criminal agent was released from jail without any sort of trial and was re-armed and is creating nightmare among our members.
5. We also recall the killing of our member, Ato Massa Yohanes, when he was running for Kinijit in east Belesa zone during the 1997 election.
6. In north Gondar zone, the ruling party agents, Ato Alelign Wondahun Chekol and Ato Kumilet Asfaw Chekol, used axe to hit AEUP executive committee chair, Ato Berhanu Abuhai, on August 21, 2011 at around 8:00 pm. Ato Berhanu was assaulted right at his doorstep and sustained serious injuries to his forehead, back and arms.

South Ethiopia

1. Around Derashe and Konzo in Segen zone, 83 AEUP members and supporters were ordered by the regional authorities to leave their farm lands; and when they refused to comply, they were all taken to jail on August 11, 2011 without any kind of court proceedings. Of these victims 70 served 10 to 15 days prison time. The rest 13 are still kept in prison. Among these prisoners is the Derashe woreda AEUP executive committee chair, Ato Akayo Dediko. 80% of the 83 men are AEUP members and 20% are supporters.
2. Our treasurer in Derashe woreda, Ato Tamiru Tito, was unfairly held and incarcerated on June 16, 2011. He was imprisoned for 4 months for no reason other than fabricated stories.
3. 4 AEUP executive committee members in Gofa zone, Debretsehai woreda, were assaulted and taken by local authorities from their meeting place and imprisoned from October 29 to November 6, 2011 and released on bail.
 - a. Ato Eyasu Odala, Shala Kebele chair
 - b. Ato Aynalem Berhanu, Korba Kebele chair

- c. Ato Gudeta Guta, Bune Woyise Kebele chair
- d. Ato Woraso Wogeta, Korba Kebele vice chair

During the assault Ato Woraso had lost consciousness for few minutes.

4. The Derashe zone AEUP executive committee member, Ato Geremew Gelebo, was intercepted from his travel to visit his relatives in Konso woreda and was imprisoned without any court decision for 15 days from August 14 to 28, 2011.
5. The Wolayita zone AEUP executive committee secretary, Captain Adey Anjelo, was seriously hit and taken into custody on October 24, 2011 by the local authorities and kept in prison for 3 days. No reason was given for his incarceration. On that date, while Captain Adey was at work, some thirty people in number from the local administrative office of the town of Sodo, Arada sector, municipal office, women's affairs, the town police, Selam Kebele and others, with arms and wooden clubs, went to Captain Adey's home and forced his family out of its residence, thus putting the family in serious trouble and dangerous situation.
6. Bolonso Bombe woreda AEUP executive committee vice chair, Ato Tadesse Ure, was taken into custody on October 23, 2011 and kept for 2 days because he was seen wearing AEUP t-shirt.
7. The Sodo AEUP executive committee chair, Ato Metekia Mena, was physically assaulted on October 20, 2011 and his farm land in Gola Kebele, for which he had been paying annual government taxes and legally in his name, was confiscated by the local government authorities. At the same time, the authorities oversaw the destruction of the fence, the crops, fruits and vegetables on the land (estimated at Birr 50,000). His appeal for the criminal act did not get any attention.
8. In Wolayita zone, in woredas wherever our members operate, the regime agents are instructed to instigate ethnic and religious clashes deliberately to make forged grounds for false charges and persecutions against our members. One example is the recent incident in Humba woreda.

Afar Kilel

On September 22, 2011, one AEUP member, Ato Abuker Ahmed, was told to co-operate in forcible removal of his tribesmen from their farm lands. He has been imprisoned for no reason except his refusal to accept what he was told to do.

EPRDF has been in the mission of harassing AEUP and other opposition parties for quite a long time and, creating fear in order to force fake support among the population. While the government has the obligation and full responsibility to protect the safety of its citizens in spite of their beliefs and differences of opinion, EPRDF is using its public vested power to crush members of AEUP and other opposition parties. All members and elected officers of AEUP had already understood from the inception of their party that, with ethnic policies of EPRDF and poor administration and corruption, no tangible outcome could be achieved without the total sacrifice of the population. It has to be clearly understood that the intention of EPRDF is to cling to power at all costs and it's about elimination and destruction of the existence of AEUP and other competent parties thereby, eventually, creation of a single party communist state. This ideological system has proven history in other countries and is largely known for its corrupt administration, suppression, dictatorship, inefficiency, inhuman treatment of its citizens, absolute direct control of the country's resources, human rights abuses and injustice and

rejection of the rule of law. AEUP members vow to resist and make it widely disclosed to the entire population of Ethiopia, the diaspora and the international community to make them aware of the dangerous effects of EPRDF's highly questionable leadership and governance. AEUP believes that such trend setting may result in temporary gains to the current leaders, their power echelons and accomplices. In the long run though, it would develop a devastating culture of maladministration and a situation of poverty to the next generation of our children and grand children depriving them of their rights to a democratic system.

Victory for the people of Ethiopia!
Long live Ethiopia!

Stamp

All Ethiopia Unity Party (AEUP)
Hidar 5, 2004 (November 11, 2011)