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STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN ETHIOPIA: THE FARCE OF A DYING REGIME

The wobbling regime in Addis Abeba has declared a state of emergency all over Ethiopia for the coming six months. The details of the draconian proclamation are actually irrelevant as an unnamed State of Emergency has been in force all over Ethiopia since 1991 when the Tigrean Front (TPLF) took over power with the blessing of regional and international forces.

The suspension of rights has been in place for 25 years. The rule of law was also suppressed and repression against the free press so rife that the regime has been named as one of worst predators of the free press in Africa. Even the mildest of dissent has been repressed ruthlessly and the regime now holds close to 50.000 political prisoners. Systematic and brutal torture of prisoners in secret prisons and labor camps is routine. Ethnic discrimination and mass dislocation and forced resettlement have been the burden of the people for close to 25 years. The stifling poverty of millions hid behind the pompous phrase of double digit economic growth has exposed the reality of close to 15 million facing famine and depending on food aid. The fastest growing economy in sub Saharan Africa is fiction. Rigging election and embezzlement of billions of dollars of aid money have been routine. One ethnic rule a government policy. No warrant for arrest or breaking into homes is not new but the reality people lived in under the regime for decades.. The new emergency decree has imposed no curfew so as not to disturb the ruling elites nightly revelries. The State of Emergency is but a farce, a continuation of what has been the Ethiopian reality for the last 25 years.

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The regime has been massacring people all over Ethiopia in an effort to crush the just uprising of the people who have now defeated its divisive politics and united to struggle for democracy. Sadly, the condemnation of the murderous regime is subdued and its propaganda is recycled. An example? At the Oromo Irecha festival in Bishoftu the regime opened fire and killed many Oromos and attending Amharas and provoked a stampede that killed hundreds while foreign and local media ignored the shooting and claimed only 52 died in the stampede. In any case, despite the media silence on what really happened, the popular protest has continued unabated with days long dead city strikes and even demonstrations despite the killings. The declaration of a state of emergency claiming violence has escalated is a ruse as the violence concerns the regime in place and its cruel repression against the people. The die has been cast and the people want radical and fundamental change, they want the 25 years long dictatorship to end. Those who are trying to salvage the regime that committed crimes against the people time and again are condemnable for their stand.

The EPRP condemns the crime against the people of Ethiopia and calls upon all democratic forces to stand with the Ethiopian people and their struggle for democracy.

Victory to the struggle of the Ethiopian people!

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