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DEMONSTRATION BRUTALLY SUPPRESSED IN ADDIS

One argument put forward by the American administration to impose EPRDF rule on our people and to "recommend" that its forces enter Addis Abeba was the necessity of preventing the break down of law and order in the city. The example of "good administration" supposedly instated in areas under EPRDF control was cited to support and justify this blatant intervention in Ethiopia's internal affairs.

Those Ethiopians who live in these areas know very well that the "New Order" of the Polpotiens is nothing but arrests and summary executions of opponents termed as "bourgeois and feudal elements" and "collaborators of the government". Ethiopians also know that EPRDF forces indulge in wide spread looting, rape of women and young girls and other serious human rights abuses.

What has been happening in these areas has long been ignored by the international community. But in recent months many human rights groups such as AFRICA WATCH and AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL have spoken out against such abuses. In resolution voted on 15 May 1991, the European Parliament denounced in no uncertain terms these "serious violation of human rights including summary executions, looting, rape, confiscation of property, forced recruitment etc. by both government and rebel forces in regions of armed conflicts...".

Notwithstanding "assurances" received by the American administration, time will show that EPRDF's "New Order" in Addis Abeba will be no different. In fact it did not take 48 hours for the world to see what lies in store for our people if stalinists are allowed to consolidate their hold on the country.

On May 29, thousands of Ethiopians took to the streets to protest against the minority government imposed by Washington and to demand the preservation of Ethiopia's unity. EPRDF's response to these protests was standard stalinist rhetorics. Those young and old, women and children who shouted slogans "Ethiopia's unity should not be betrayed", "EPRDF and Mengistu are one and the same", "Down with American intervention in our affairs"... were termed as "enemies of the popular masses" and "Agents of the former regime".

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There was also use of brutal force against unarmed citizens whose only "crime" was to express their views on the future of their country at this most critical juncture. At least 15 people including women and children were killed. Dozens were wounded. Many others have been arrested and their fate is not yet known.

We know that this is but a foretaste of what is to come. EPRDF forces which are not even present in the Southern half of the country and in the East know their control in the North is, to say the least, shaky. In these areas armed and political opposition is growing by the day. We know that Addis Abeba will be the theatre of more demonstrations and acts of opposition. Those who were quick to conclude that the EPRDF now totally controlled the country and is paving the way for multiparty elections "within a year" will soon see that their reading of Ethiopia's realities was wrong. More and more isolated and rejected by all the peoples of Ethiopia, the stalinist EPRDF - turned democrat only by the wishful thinking of the American administration - will be obliged to come out in its true lights: A BRUTAL FORCE DEDICATED TO THE INSTAURATION OF A NEW TOTALITARIAN ORDER EVEN IF THAT MEANS THE DESTRUCTION OF ETHIOPIA AND ITS PEOPLE.