

Repressive measures continue to be taken against militants and supporters of ME'ISONE, IAWEN (Ethiopian Revolutionary Youth Movement) and I'SEANE (Ethiopian Women's Revolutionary Movement).

ME'ISONE which uncovered the treason of the DERG and the opportunists of the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution changed fighting tactics in August 1977. The decision was not understood by everybody at the moment it was made. Today the DERG, in the sole aim of consolidating its power, is reinforcing bureaucracy in order to infiltrate the Ethiopian Revolution; violence is constantly being used against the people and the National Democratic Revolution no longer cares to dissimulate its treacherous activities. This situation lends further merit to the leading position.

ME'ISONE has for a long time been the object of attempts of isolation and division. All the measures taken to this effect having proved vain, the DERG and its opportunists followers have resorted to open and secret repressive measures. Far from being intimidated by these measures, the peasants, the workers, the revolutionary soldiers and the representatives of associations of city residents have faced it with courage and determination. All these measures taken with the aim of arousing the people's discredit of ME'ISONE have worked their effect on the DERG itself which is now estranged from the popular movement.

a) At the present those in power do not limit themselves to rounding up and imprisoning the militants who have taken to clandestine activities, but they have undertaken repressive measures against militants who have sided with the revolutionary order in the country, in factories, in the army, in the towns, in the grammar schools, and in the administration.

Some examples:

In the Wollêga province, leaders of peasant associations, administrators, officials of the former "Provisionary Secretariat for the Organization of the Masses" and representatives of local associations of the Horo Goudrou district have been imprisoned.

In the Shoa province the people, through different demonstrations, expressed their support for the right line adopted by ME'ISONE and called for the liberation of imprisoned comrades. Following these events, peasant militants, the president of the General Association of Residents of Ambo, workers and revolutionary officials were imprisoned.

In the Wollo province the DERG, with the precious collaboration of the opportunists, arrested and imprisoned ME'ISONE militants who were still engaged in legal work.

b) The comrades in prison are these days being flagrantly tortured. One of the unavowed aims of this inhuman measure is to bring the comrades to "recognize their mistake," publicly and so make them approve the building of the "workers' party"

which the DERG and its opportunist lackeys want to launch in bureaucratic manner. This has in no way shaken our comrades' determination to follow to the end the revolutionary line which they have drawn.

c) The different repressive measures have only strengthened the ever-broadening movement of support and solidarity for ME'ISONE, which the people are organising across the country. Here are few examples:

At the end of December, six hundred militiamen were dispatched in haste to Wondji to quell progressist comrades in the sugar refinery. Once on the spot, the militiamen, after a long discussion with the agricultural workers, arrested the opportunist trouble-shooters who has spread confusion.

the POMOA, today under the direction of opportunist organisations, continue to organise workers' assemblies with the aim of causing ME'ISONE's condemnation and isolation. The most recent attempt once again failed owefull Militant workers present at the meeting published a tract enumerating the anti-democratic measures taken by the opportunists, thus disclosing the "fighting" methods they use to accomplish their sinister designs.

The peasant associations of the district of Hadiya and Kembatta passed a resolution calling for the immediate liberation of imprisoned comrades.

Recrudescence of assassinations of revolutionaries

The recrudescence of assassinations can be explained by two main reasons: the imprisoned hired killers who were in the service of the reaction and especially of the EPRP are today being freed in hundreds under the pretext that they have been "re-educated" and have reintegrated the ranks of the revolution. No distinction is therefore made between the true progressists and patriots who were deceived, and the notorious reactionaries. Moreover, this kind of underhand dealing makes part of repressive measures taken against the revolutionaries and progressists who have sided with the popular masses. A case in point is the assassination attempt against comrade Gedlu Tekle, leader of the All Ethiopian Trade Union. A.E.T.U.).

In the town of Asbe Teferi, six officials and representatives of local committees were shot by hired killers. Their funeral, held in the town of Dire Dawa, was transformed into demonstrations of support of ME'ISONE and opposition of the Derg. Shooting broke out when some opportunists tried to disturb the demonstration. Three of them were killed on the spot while six wounded comrades and 42 citizens were arrested.

The hired killers sent to the town of Bichoftou to assassinate 12 officials and elected representatives of the residents were unmasked in time and placed under the control of local committees.