

**መላ ኢትዮጵያ ሶሻሊስት ንቅናቄ -መኪሶን-**

## **ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (ME'ISONE)**

"NEW ETHIOPIA" P.O.BOX 5077, 10305 SPANGA, SWEDEN

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### **SAVE ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN DJIBOUTI**

" Any person who has fled the country or attempted to flee the country shall be punished with imprisonment with hard labour ranging from 5 years to 25 years in accordance with article 12 sub title 1 of the special penal code as amended by proclamation 214 of 1982. When the crime is committed under grave circumstances the penalty shall be life imprisonment or death in accordance with article 12 sub title 2 of the special penal code."

So goes the proclamation made on the 20th. of april 1982 by the Ethiopian government which has turned out to be the single largest refugee producing regime in the world. In fact even before this legal formality the fate of refugees was no better. Those who were forcibly returned to Ethiopia from east European countries and more recently ( february 1982 ) from Djibouti have been arrested and some have been executed. This clearly shows that the people of Ethiopia have no rights whatsoever. Under the military dictatorship even attempting to escape persecution, hunger and death is a crime that can lead to the firing squad!

It is in view of this that the recent agreement between the Ethiopian and Djibouti governments announced in Addis Ababa on the 6th. of february 1983 is particularly alarming. According to the agreement all Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti are to be returned to Ethiopia starting "within 15 days" This agreement if implemented will lead to yet another tragedy. The unusual rapidity with which the whole affaire is being conducted shows that the two governments intend to leave no time for the international community to react nor for the refugees to defend their rights. The only choice left to the 42,000 refugees is between forced " voluntary repatriation " or expulsion. All this is contrary to all the international agreements and specially to the 1951 Geneva and the 1969 OAU conventions on the protection of refugees.

This is why we urge all humanitarian forces to intercene urgently to save these refugees from being handed over to the military dictatorship. We appeal to them to protest against this inhuman action and to see to it that no refugee is returned to Ethiopia against his or her free will expressed without any external pressure.