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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

PRESS RELEASE: URGENT!

14/12/06

The EPRP unequivocally condemns the illegal actions of the Sudanese Government being perpetrated against Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan. It urges the international community to voice its objections to such a brazen act of persecution against peaceful and defenseless refugees.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) has learned that many Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan have been and continue to be rounded up and put in prison and are now ready for deportation. This is being carried out by the Sudanese security forces following the unjust immigration law passed by the legislature of the Sudanese Government.

These Ethiopian refugees, in the first place, fled their country for safety and security of their lives. The ethno-fascist regime in Ethiopia has continued to illegally and indiscriminately kill and imprison anybody it perceives as a potential opposition to its misrule of the country. Ethiopians who fled to neighboring countries have a genuine fear for their lives upon their forced repatriation to Ethiopia. This current action of the Sudanese Government against the Ethiopian refugees is a grim reminder of what had happened in the 1990s. That regrettable era of involuntary repatriation of the Ethiopian refugees had produced unfortunate disappearance and forced re-migration of hundreds of thousands of innocent Ethiopians.

More disturbingly, it is now reported that the Sudanese Government is basing its criterion for refugee eligibility on ethnic identity. Those refugees from the ethnic groups that the TPLF ethno-fascists do not like are being sorted out and lined up for deportation. Even worse, according to the latest report, peaceful protesters near the UNHCR office were hacked with machete by "unidentified" people, presumably members of the Sudanese security forces in plain cloths in collaboration with the TPLF security operatives in the Sudan. And this is a sign of what is more to come.

The EPRP is gravely concerned about the safety and security of these refugees who undeniably deserve international protection. Along with all other Ethiopian organizations, political or civic, we call upon the UNHCR to exercise the mandate and authority entrusted to it to protect these unfortunate Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan and find them safe haven elsewhere. We also call upon Amnesty International,

Human Rights Watch, the ICRC, and all human rights groups in the Sudan to get involved in saving these legitimate refugees now before a worst tragedy strikes. The EPRP urges all Ethiopian opposition political organizations and Ethiopians in the Diaspora to get actively involved by contacting lawmakers and elected officials in their respective states and countries.

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