

Oromo Protests and State Terrorism in Ethiopia November 12, 2015 to January 12, 2016

Western governments praise Ethiopia for achieving the fastest growing economy in Africa and for being a key ally in the fight against terrorism. This hides the brutal reality of land grabbing, state terrorism and the incredible cost in human lives and livelihoods. Ethiopia is a multinational country of 100 million people and all of these nations have suffered state brutality in varying degrees. The current Oromo protest is an expression of deep grievances under 25 years of such state terrorism, land grabbing and violent repression.

Oromo Protests

- The protest was ignited on November 12 by primary school students in a small town.
- In no time, it spread to all parts of Oromia and Oromos from all walks of life joined in.
- Beautiful images of peaceful protests filled social media. People marching with raised crossed arms became a powerful symbol of peaceful protests.
- The protests attracted wide-spread solidarity from the Oromo diaspora around the world, from other peoples of Ethiopia with similar grievances, and from the Ethiopian diaspora.

The Issues

- The Addis Ababa Integrated Master Plan is the triggering issue of land grabbing that ignited nationwide protests.
- The Master Plan is a smoke screen behind which the government carries out systematic destruction of Oromo identity, history and culture.
- The Master Plan is only the visible tip of the iceberg calling attention to deeper issues.
- Oromo protest is an expression of bottled up grievances around longstanding issues of injustice and fundamental human rights and state repression.

Government Response: Genocide

- The government responded to peaceful protests with bloody violent repression.
- In a dramatic move, a de facto state of emergency is declared and the state of Oromia is ravaged by brutal military rule.
- Unarmed peaceful protestors faced a military that is armed to the teeth. Universities are war zones and military camps where students are beaten, raped, killed or arrested.
- In the last two months alone, over 200 unarmed protestors are massacred. Over 2000 are seriously injured. Over 10,000 are imprisoned. Hundreds disappeared; bodies are still discovered in forests, rivers and ditches. Savage beating and rape are commonplace.

International Response: Silence

- While Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and some western media have been reporting the atrocities, western governments have largely been silent.
- Some have issued mild statements which do not mean much in addressing the carnage.

Our Demand

We demand that western governments denounce the atrocities of the Ethiopian government and demand the immediate and unconditional restoration of the country's constitution.