

Ethiopian Human Rights Council

Action of Violence must Stop!

56th Special Report

September 23/2002

An explosion that took place in Tigrai Hotel, located in Addis Ababa, Wereda 2, Kebele 12 on September 11/02 at about 9:00 p.m. has caused great damage to human life and property. Quoting the Addis Ababa Administration Police Commission, government media services have reported that three people were killed and another thirty eight were injured in the explosion.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) has been strongly condemning and still continues to strongly condemn all acts of violence. As is to be recalled, explosions had taken place in the past at this very Tigrai Hotel, Blue Nile Restaurant, Tana Supermarket, Ghion Hotel and Dire Dawa Ras Hotel. At that time, EHRCO had issued its 13th Special Report dated Miazia 24/1989 EC. in which it expressed its deep sadness over the fact that those who planted the explosives in the above-mentioned spots had made public places targets of their attacks.

EHRCO has been deeply saddened by the fact that the attack which has targeted the Tigrai Hotel and innocent citizens has been cause for the loss of human lives, disabling people and the destruction of property.

As has been witnessed in the past, such acts of violence are committed under conditions where individuals or groups that claim to advocate the cause of our people are:

- embittered by measures taken by the government calculated to deter them from treading along the path of peaceful struggle
- frustrated by denial of forums for presenting their visions (political programmes) to the public and are pushed off the track.

Needless to say, the EPRDF has so far put under its control more than eighty per cent of the country's political activity. Parties that have expressed concern over the country's situation have been pushed off political platforms. In the meantime, it is worth to note here that those who call themselves opposition political parties must have the blessings of EPRDF to operate peacefully. Repressions of this nature would inevitably result in acts of violence that could explode when the time is ripe. The path of peaceful struggle may appear to be frustrating and thorny. In spite of it all, however, all those concerned must opt for and consolidate the struggle along the peaceful path. It is inappropriate to resort to acts of violence that would only exacerbate and not resolve existing problems. In fact, such acts of violence would only destroy the lives of innocent citizens and property. Acts of violence could incite acts of revenge and retaliation. As a result the people would only be left to the tender mercies of great terror and misery. We can recall, for example, the violence that broke out following the demands made by students in the month of May 2001 and the retaliatory measures that were taken by the government.

EHRCO strongly stands against any acts of violence committed by any party. It thus calls on those individuals and groups that resorted to acts violence to refrain from engaging in terrorist acts. EHRCO also calls on the government to examine its ways of doing things in the past, hold talks with political parties and find peaceful solutions to their differences.

EHRCO requests all those parties that stand for the establishment of a democratic system of government, peace, the respect of human right and the rule of law to condemn such acts of violence and do their level best to persuade the government to resolve all problems through conducting peaceful dialogues with the opposition.

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