

Londoners commemorate trade and human rights martyrs day

By Wondimu Mekonnen

London, May 10 (Addisvoice.com) The anger ignited by the sacrifice Prof. Asrat paid dearly with his life to safeguard the honour and territorial integrity of this ancient land and people, the suffering and eventual death that Ato Shimelis Zewdie and Ato Kebede Desta faced to protect the right of teachers that would produce the future of Ethiopia, the murder of Gizachew Mengistu, Tesfaye Tadesse, Worku Mekonnen and Abay Hailu to protect the nation's right to know the truth, the murder of Addis Ababa University students in 1992 and 2001, the cruel murder of Hermit Fekade Selassie Tesfaye while defending his faith, the murder of 41 innocent civilians on the streets of Addis Ababa in 2001, the brutal killings of 36 innocent citizens in June 2005 and 42 people in November 2005, the over 60,000, but by some estimates the number reaches over 100,000, innocent civilians and opposition leaders and activists detained in harsh concentration camps across the country brought out Londoners of Ethiopian descent once more in Knights Bridge on 08 May 2006, the day Martyr Assefa Maru was gunned down in cold blood by the Woyyane regime's shooting squad. The number of people murdered in cold blood by these anti-patriotic forces has long surpassed the murder carried out by the previous military regime. That does not even include the 70 thousand or so driven on mine fields together with donkeys at the war of the two giant traitors of Africa. Since 1991, with the massacre of innocent people at Arba Gugu, Water, Bedeno, Adebaby Eyesus, Awasa, Dilla, Ambo, the death toll reached a stage where the people had lost the count. Neither churches nor Mosques are immune to this regime. Ethiopians living in London came out once more to renew their vow never to forget the martyrs of freedom, human rights, justice and democracy.



At 17 Princess's Gate, the Ethiopian Embassy taken over by Weyane to hassle those who fled repressions, the security was much tougher than the any previous demonstrations. A temporary enclosure was set up with double barriers on the front side. The police were very itchy. The same force that did not bother much with the frequent demonstrations in front of the Prime Minister's residence at Downing Street were more than cautious at the Woyyane Embassy. Two armed vehicles guarded the two entrance gates on the left leading to the Iranian Embassy and on the right leading straight to the Ethiopian Embassy. The

demonstrators were prevented from putting up the usual black flag as a sign of mourning for the murdered because they suspected that the protesters might do something off their sights. Therefore, the demonstrators were forced to hold the black giant flag held up all along at the back.

Whatever the police had done, it did not prevent the demonstrators from making up their points. The Woyyane Embassy closed its windows and doors and stayed in cleverly. No single soul came in or out. To the contrary, when the microphone started bombarding the area, the poor Iranian Embassy staff came out on the first floor and watched the demonstrators for a long time. Here is the saying: “ke-agam yetetega QulQwal siyaleqis yinoral” – which literally mean a cactus planted next to a bush of thorns will remain its whole life weeping. The unfortunate Iranian Embassy is situated next to the Ethiopian, so as long as the dictatorial regime that calls itself Woyyane remains in power, they will be subjected to such nuisance from time to time.

That was not all. The new Woyyane Ambassador, Mr Berhane Kebede was supposed to appear on Sky television and defend his bosses’ murderous actions but just 45 minutes before the interview he backed down. He made a wise decision. To begin with, unless he would have sneaked out through the back door, sensing the hostility the demonstrators outside the embassy had for the personnel of the murderers even the police would not have let him come out through the front door, for his own safety. The other reason was, had he managed to go to the studio, he would have faced, Andargachew Tsigie of CUD, Woyyane’s number one enemy at the moment in London and probably Amnesty International. So, Sky news let their viewers known that the Ambassador had no guts to face the reality and backed off. He then commented about the initial progressive start of Meles Zenawi, turning in later years into a dictator and asked Andargachew what went wrong. Andargachew smiled and said: “That the man had neither progressive nor democratic trait from the very start, but the West did not want to hear or see the glaring facts. Ethiopians have been trying to expose the dictatorial nature of Meles Zenawi. I personally knew him for a long time as we were at school together and he is everything but a democrat.” How a self-styled Enver Hoxha worshipping Alabamian style communist be labelled progressive is a mystery, but Andargachew was right on the mark.

The following were some of the slogans the protesters chanted at the Embassy:

Justice for Professor Asrat	Justice for Assefa Maru
Justice for Alemante Melisew	Justice for Tesfaye Kebede
Justice for Tesfaye Adane	Bring TPLF murderers to Justice
Free Prof Mesfin Woldemariam	Free Dr Berhanu Nega
Free Eng. Hailu Shaul	Free Dr Hailu Araya
Free Birtkwan Mideksa	

It is to be recalled that a patriotic Ethiopian had a special message on one of our earlier vigils at the Embassy of Fesseha Adugna and his team to save their skin before the time ran out. Fesseha and his team heeded the advice and took a flight to New York. The same individual had a similar message again for “Ambassador Berhane Kebede and his new Team on 08 May 2006. The message was:

***“Members of the Diplomatic Mission! You may be political appointees. You may be civil servants! Remember-Remember! First and foremost we believe you are Ethiopians! You are employed, paid to serve the people of Ethiopia but not the ruling party. Not the EPRDF regime! Not the TPLF regime! Not the tyrant regime! Governments come and go. Meles Zenawi will definitely go! This tyrant regime will definitely go! We call upon you not to hurt your country. Not to hurt your people.*”**

Do not serve the tyrant regime! Serve the people of Ethiopia. Serve your conscience.”

We shall wait to see if the above message gets through if not now later.



Present at the vigil on the Trade and Human Rights Martyrs day at the Woyyane Embassy was Mr Steve Sinnott, the General Secretary of National Union of Teachers. (NUT). It is to be recalled that Woyyane is now crusading against teachers. Many had read cries of Ato Gemoraw Kassa, the General Secretary of Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) for justice. The Woyyane regime has twisted the arms of the “legal system” and after 14 years of struggle had managed to force judges declare verdict in favour of the cloned ETA. Forget Roslin Institute that cloned Dolly the sheep. Woyyane is a now master of destructive cloning. After cloning CETU, ETA and EFJA it now on the finishing touch of cloning the CUD, a friendly opposition, while charging its real leaders for genocide. Ironically, genocide is known to be committed by those in power in the past, but in Ethiopia those who are in power and truly committing genocide are accusing the surviving victims for genocide. Steve Sinnott was aware of this malicious act against the trade union and came out with Ethiopians to express his concern about the whole situation in Ethiopia. Steve Sinnott’s presence among Ethiopians was an encouraging image for Ethiopians who partook in the vigil. Even the Police had to handle the demonstrators with more sympathy than earlier.

The vigil came to an end at 6:00 in the evening without any incident.

The struggle continues!!!

Wondimu Mekonnen
On behalf of the organising committee.