

Australian Oromo Community Staged a Peaceful Rally



Members of Australian Oromo Community Association in Victoria staged a peaceful rally against 'Tigrean' Delegation who are currently visiting some Australian cities.

The rally was held at Maribyrnong Council on 06 May, 2008 where they were expected to address some members of Ethiopian community.

The 'Tigrean' minority government of Ethiopia has been in power since 1991 and have driven the country into a political mess by denying the basic human rights to the majority of people including the Oromo.

The Oromo are the majority in the country and most of the economic means of Ethiopia originates from Oromo land. The Oromo are under enormous pressure both as ordinary people and as members of opposition groups as the system alienates them.

Hence thousands of Oromo have become refugees on their own land as they are increasingly displaced by the policies of current minority regime.

Various international groups like 'Amnesty International, International Red Cross and Human Rights Watch have echoed their concern about indiscriminate harassment, imprisonment and killings of opposition groups in the country.

Currently Ethiopia is under enormous cloud because of drought and famine affecting millions of people in the south and South East of the country, a region well known for its natural resources.

Further the local elections that took place on 13th and 20th of April, 2008 was boycotted by various political groups due to violence, intimidation and imprisonment of opposition candidates.

US Country Report 2007 and Human Rights Watch (11/04/08) report indicates that the current 'Tigrean' dominated regime is preparing itself for a long haul, further edging the already tense political situation in the country.

“Human Rights Watch carried out two weeks of field research during the run-up to the polls and documented systemic patterns of repression and abuse that have rendered the elections. The research focused primarily on Oromia, Ethiopia’s most populous region and one long troubled by heavy-handed government repression” the report reads.

The rally highlighted life under current Prime Minister Zenawi and why thousands of people keep fleeing the country to end up as refugees in the neighbouring countries.

The rally was joined by many other groups like Ogadinians, Somalis, Members of Ethiopian Opposition Groups and members of Eritrean community.

Oromo community would like to thank those who joined them on the occasion and showed solidarity with Oromo people said the community Spokes Person.

Further he thanked the locals who in some way contributed to this peaceful rally and members of Victorian Police force who made sure that every thing went peacefully and eventually decided to cancel the meeting.

And finally he thanked members of Oromo community who took part and showed constraints in undertaking messages in a responsible manner.