Ethiopia: "Renewed civil disobedience" starts in north, east

Text of report in English by Ethiopian opposition website Ethiopian Review on 11 May

Residents of Hirna, Alemaya, Bati and other towns in eastern Ethiopia have been blocking roads from Dire Dawa to Addis Ababa since Sunday [7 May] in a renewed civil disobedience.

An eyewitness told Ethiopian Review today that there were also clashes between rebel fighters and government troops around Hirna in the past few days.

Clashes between students and Agazi [special] troops in Alemaya is occurring almost every day. The students primary demand is the release of the jailed [opposition] Kinijit [Coalition for Unity and Democracy] leaders, according to the eyewitness.

In the northern city of Dese, residents told Ethiopian Review that at least 35 students between the ages of 14 and 19 were rounded up and tortured. Reportedly, some of the students are in life threatening condition from the torture they received in the past few weeks. Every school in Dese is now guarded by federal police and Agazi troops.

Source: Ethiopian Review website in English 11 May 06

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