



***Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia (SMNE)***  
***The United Kingdom Branch of the SMNE Presents a Two-Day Conference on:***  
***28-29<sup>th</sup> October 2010***  
**“Land Grabs, Human Rights Violations and the Repression  
of Political Rights in Ethiopia”**

*The Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia (SMNE), a social justice movement for advancing the rights of the diverse people of Ethiopia, is holding this conference to increase public awareness of the growing race for control over the most fertile agricultural and resource-rich land in Ethiopia; land that cannot be owned by Ethiopians, but can be leased by a politically repressive regime for up to 99 years to foreign investors for negligible amounts.*

*The Ethiopian people are neither consulted nor compensated as they are moved off their indigenous land while these deals are made in secret backdoor deals by a corrupt and illegitimately elected regime which has criminalized dissent. Any protest is met with intimidation, punitive measures (withdrawal of food and humanitarian aid, jobs and other perks) and with violations of human rights.*

*Even though 90% of Ethiopians live below the UN’s established poverty level; making Ethiopia both the second poorest country in the world and one of the most dependent on foreign food aid; the majority of the produce is destined for export to other countries. The SMNE seeks to draw international attention to what is now being called the Neo-colonialism of Ethiopia, before the country is “sold out” from underneath the feet of its citizens.*

*Speakers will include experts from both Ethiopia and Europe.*

**28 – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Reading, UK – a two day conference**  
**Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC)**  
**35-39 London Street, Reading, UK, RG1 4PS**

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<sup>i</sup> The SMNE is a non-violent, non-political, grassroots social justice movement of diverse Ethiopians; committed to bringing truth, justice, freedom, equality, reconciliation, accountability and respect for human and civil rights to the people of Ethiopia and beyond. The SMNE has branches in the United States, Canada, the UK and chapters in various cities and countries throughout the world, including within Ethiopia. You can find the SMNE on Facebook or through our website at: [www.solidaritymovement.org](http://www.solidaritymovement.org).