

Ethiopian Human Rights Council

55th Special Report

September 6, 2002

Great destruction caused in conflict between Agnuak and Nu-er Tribes

Introduction

EHRCO has, in its reports, repeatedly called on the government to find peaceful solutions to conflicts that break out between tribes from time to time. Since enough attention has not been given to the causes of these conflicts, a new conflict has flared up recently between the Agnuak and Nu-er tribes that live in Gambella National Regional State. During the conflict, great destruction has been caused both to human life and property. This development indicates the seriousness of the problems. The details are given as follows:

The cause and origins of the problem

The Agnuak, Nu-er, Mejenger, Opo and Komo are among the main tribes living in Gambella National Regional State. The Gambella Peoples Democratic Front and the Gambella Peoples Liberation Party formed a coalition called Gambella Peoples Democratic Unity Party that became an affiliate of the ruling party and formed the Regional Council. The just-mentioned organizations administered the Region by effecting distribution of powers. Accordingly, the regional president was from Agnuak, the Vice President was from Nu-er, the secretary was from Mejenger, the Head of security section from Agnuak and Police Commissioner from Agnuak.

The Vice President of the region who belonged to the Nu-er tribe died more than a year ago. Ever since, an individual who represents the Nu-er has not been replaced. The position of Regional Vice-President has remained vacant for more than one year now. The Nu-er tribe have felt that the Agnuak tribe have deliberately denied them the position of the vice-president. This has created bitter feelings among the Nu-er tribes against the Agnuak. While the Nu-er continued to seethe with such bitter feelings, a quarrel arose on July 7/2002 at 10:30 a.m. between an Agnuak and a Nu-er in Zone One, Itang town. The quarrel developed into a conflict which has caused great destruction to human life and property to both members of the Agnuak and Nu-er tribes. Besides, it has also been a cause for the displacement of many inhabitants. EHRCO has confirmed the damages caused which are described in general under the schedules below.

The number of people who had drowned in Baro River while trying to escape from the conflict and the number of those whose whereabouts are yet unknown and about whom EHRCO has been tipped-off has not been incorporated in this report. Tip-offs received by EHRCO indicate that the extent of damage caused in the conflict is much higher than what has been enumerated.

Schedule 1. Damage caused in conflict

No.	Type of damage	Extent of damage
1	Harm caused to people - killed - Physically injured	60 41
2	Burnt down houses	all houses in 8 kebeles
3	Persons displaced from their houses	8,780 people

The total damages indicated in Schedule 1 have been presented in detail in the schedules below

Schedule 2. Agnuak natives killed by Nu-ers

No.	Full name of person killed	age	address	Details
1	Ouchuwami Ouchung	41	“ ”	government employee, shot and killed
2	Ouduwagi Oukot	34	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
3	Ouju-ad Gnikel	19	“ ”	Student “ ” “ ” “ ”
4	Oucheng Oukuri	47	“ ”	Farmer “ ” “ ” “ ”
5	Asfaw Oubeng	37	“ ”	government employee “ ” “ ” “ ”
6	Oumod Oujavouch	35	“ ”	farmer, “ ” “ ” “ ”
7	Private Oukwai Ouman	40	“ ”	Igang town police “ ” “ ” “ ”
8	Private Okuwa Oubowo	37	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
9	Private Paul Ujulu	29	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
10	Didumu Oujulu	25	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
11	Tututi Geleboya	37	“ ”	government employee “ ” “ ” “ ”
12	Oukello Agneli	19	“ ”	student
13	Oumoa Arem	15	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
14	Ouchala Outow	20	“ ”	farmer
15	Ben Oujulu	50	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
16	W/o Ajai Abela	36	“ ”	House wife “ ” “ ” “ ”
17	W/o Abela Aquai	18	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
18	Oujulu Oujuto	40	“ ”	government employee “ ” “ ” “ ”
19	Private Agua Ouboya	28	“ ”	Itang town police “ ” “ ” “ ”
20	Otto Oger	33	“ ”	shot and killed
21	Opir Ojilo	28	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”
22	W/o Ojulu Kuti	20	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ” “ ”

23	Chem Ougnango	60	“ ”	farmer
24	Awar Oubeng	30	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
25	Kun Oukuri	56	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
26	Oumod Ojuwate	30	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
27	Ouwiti Oududo	2	“ ”	small child “ ” “ ” “ ”
28	Ouma Wello	20	“ ”	farmer
29	Ouchala Oujulu	25	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
30	Ouchala Oujuwato	31	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
31	Oujulu Wujulu	28	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
32	Oumod Agewa	3	“ ”	small child “ ” “ ” “ ”
33	Cham Dol	41	“ ”	stabbed to death in Gambella town
34	Ouchala Oujulu	37	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
35	Cham Obuya	20	Pignmo kebele	“ ” “ ” “ ”
36	Peju Oguto	28	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
37	Ochala Ochuhi	22	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
38	Ochan Olua	28	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
39	Omot Omot	19	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”
40	Olang Oujulo	21	Imidi kebele	“ ” “ ” “ ”
41	Odola Okwe	32	“ ”	“ ” “ ” “ ”

Schedule 3. Agnuak natives wounded by bullets and other weapons

No.	Name of victim	Address	Details
1	Outyep Abele	Itang town	age 50, government employee, wounded by a bullet on his right hand
2	Ouman aga	“ ”	age 40, government employee, wounded by a bullet on his chest
3	Galla Quchala	“ ”	age 40, wounded by bullet on his right hand
4	Oumd Aquai	“ ”	age 40, farmer wounded on his leg by a bullet
5	Private Gora Alemu	“ ”	age 38, member of Itang town police wounded on his right hand by a bullet
6	Private Oujulu Ouboya	“ ”	age 33, member of Itang town police, received bullet wounds on both hands
7	Private Kiri Ouged	“ ”	age 33, member of Itang town police, wounded on his chin by a bullet
8	Corporal Bey Ouboya	“ ”	age 40, member of Itang town police, wounded on his leg by a bullet
9	Oubeng Ougond	“ ”	age 50, government employee, wounded on the leg by a bullet
10	Private Oujulu Oujebo	“ ”	age 38, member of Itang town police, wounded on his leg by a bullet
11	Oujew Abar	“ ”	age 26, farmer, received bullet wounds on his leg
12	Piteg Pikowa;p	“ ”	age 40, government employee, received bullet wounds on his leg
13	Oubung Oukich	“ ”	age 29, farmer, received bullets wounds on his leg
14	Oukeilo Quach	“ ”	age 30, farmer, wounded on his leg by a bullet
15	Abela Oupol	“ ”	age 31, farmer, received leg injuries

16	Oukota Oujulu	“ ”	aged 50, farmer, received bullet wounds on his chest
17	Abela Oukello	“ ”	age 40, government employee, received bullet wounds on his leg
18	Ouguta Oujulu	“ ”	age 50, farmer, received bullet wounds on his leg
19	Oumod Kun	“ ”	age 30, farmer, received wounds on his leg
20	Ouchal Oulok	“ ”	age 40, farmers, received bullet wounds on his leg
21	Dany Oujil	“ ”	age 42, farmer, received bullet wounds on his leg
22	W/o Ajewato Oubeng	“ ”	age 52, house wife, received bullet wounds on her breast
23	Ouju-ah Ou-wai	“ ”	age 45, farmer, received bullet wound on his leg
24	Oukuri Oujulu	“ ”	age 39, farmer, received bullet wounds on his leg
25	Oumod Oubeng	“ ”	age 40, farmer, received bullet wound on his leg
26	Oukullo Oubur	“ ”	age 27, farmer, wounded on his leg
27	Oudela Oujula	“ ”	age 31, farmer, wounded on his life
28	Yoseph Oubeng	“ ”	age 40, received wounds on the hand
29	John wero	“ ”	age 30, farmer, received bullet wounds in the leg
30	Ku-wat Oujuhu	“ ”	Age 40, farmer, received bullet wounds in the leg
31	Peter Oman	Gambella town	age 40, resident of Gambella town, government employee, received knife wounds on his head, and chest

Schedule 4. Members of the Agnuak tribe who have been displaced from their house, property

No.	Name of kebele from which person was displaced	Wereda	Number of people displaced
1	Itang	Itang	300
2	Igang Kir	“	160
3	Pignman	“	500
4	Ignuan	“	641
5	Pu-hol	“	309
6	Pino	“	440
7	Ou-walo	“	390
8	Pu-kedi	“	574
9	Agnela	“	607
10	Pugnwa	“	687
11	Cham	“	579
12	Gniquali	“	500
13	It-yet	“	495
14	Pignno	“	359
15	Putak	“	486
16	Ilikirageto	“	355
17	Edeni	“	643

18	Pu-Jowo	“	226
19	Emede	“	467
			Grand Total 8,780

The figure shown in Schedule 4 indicates the number of displaced persons on the side of members of the Agnuak tribe only.

Until this report was issued, EHRCO has not obtained adequate information as regards the displacement of people on the part of members of Nu-er tribe. However, EHRCO is closely following the case. EHRCO would disclose the extent of displacement caused to members of Nu-er tribe as soon as it receives the information.

Schedule 5- Houses burned

No.	Kebele name
1	Pigman
2	Itiyel
3	Punjnwa
4	Alia (Kirageta)
5	Pu-tok
6	Pignmo
7	Emede
8	Pu-jo

The damages mentioned above are general damages suffered by members of the Agnuak tribe in the conflict that broke out between the Agnuak and the Nu-er. The damages suffered by members of the Nu-er tribe in the conflict are as follows. The damages are based on information obtained by EHRCO.

Schedule 6. Nu-er natives killed in Itang town conflict

No.	Full name of person killed	Address	Date on which person was killed
1	Hoon Duga	Itang town	“
2	Muwack Mwakck	“ “	“
3	Wonch Koom	“ “	“
4	Daweck Jok	“ “	“
5	Galwa Chol	“ “	“
6	Pot Krach	“ “	“
7	Wiyowak Weck	“ “	“
8	Budit Jack	“ “	“
9	Bol Gol	“ “	“
10	Chol Rez	“ “	“

11	Podo Yak	“ ”	“ ”
12	Galwa root	“ ”	“ ”
13	Pol Durut	“ ”	“ ”
14	Poy Teng	“ ”	“ ”
15	Chol Gay	“ ”	“ ”
16	Lu-wae De-mai	“ ”	“ ”
17	W/o Gnangnk Peg	“ ”	“ ”
18	Gnayn Takim	“ ”	“ ”
19	W/o Gnegnaya Gelwa	“ ”	“ ”

Schedule 7. Nu-ers who received bullet wounds

No	Victim's full name	Address	Date of injury	Detail
1	Gelowa Root	Itang town	June 17/2002	Itang town Police
2	Gaj-ak Jok	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
3	Galuwach Gach	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
4	Chol Goyin	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
5	Podo Yak	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
6	Lawal Domai	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
7	Hidad Gunch	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
8	Toot Moot	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
9	Wiju-wal Weck	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”
10	Pot Teyin	“ ”	“ ”	“ ” “ ”

Conclusion

As shown in detail in this report, great damages have been caused to human life and property in the conflict that broke out as of July 7/2002 between the Agnuak and Nu-er tribes in Itang town, Gambella National Region. Regional officials and the defence forces had hardly made any effort to contain the conflict at its earliest stage. This failure on the part of the appropriate authorities has contributed towards the worsening of the conflict that has caused a lot of damage. The conflict between the two tribes has not subsided and is still raging so much so that it has been a cause of great concern to other tribes in the area.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council calls on the government to give close attention to the issue, and,

1. in full realization of the fact that, the conflict flared up because members of the Nu-er tribe lost a seat of representation in the Gambella National Regional State, facilitate conditions under which representatives of the Nu-er tribe could, in a democratic manner, participate in the political life of the region,
2. see to it that individuals, government officials and armedmen who are accountable for the human lives lost and the properties belonging to individuals destroyed and the people who were injured in the conflict should be brought before the law.
3. see to it that appropriate compensation is paid to the damages caused to people and their property and to the victims as a result of the conflict, and facilitate conditions under which the displaced persons would be rehabilitated.

EHRCO kindly requests organizations and individuals who advocate the rule of law and stand for ensuring respect of human rights to pass on their call to the following government officials and organs in support of EHRCO.

- House of Peoples Representatives

P.O.Box 80001 - fax (252-1) 550900, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- House of the Federation

P.O.Box 80001 - fax (252-1) 550722, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- H.E. Lt. Girma Wolde Giorgis, FDRE President

P.O.Box 1031, fax (252-1) 552020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister FDRE

P.O.Box 1031 - fax (252-1) 552020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- H.E. Ato Harka Haroye, FDRE Minister of Justice

P.O.Box 1370 - fax (252-1) 520874, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Gambella Peoples Regional State Council

P.O.Box 25, Fax (07) 510003
