



የኢትዮጵያ ሰብአዊ መብቶች ጉባዔ ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

ኢሰመጉ
EHRCO

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EHRCO stands for democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights.

Seek a durable solution to ethnic conflicts 106th Special Report

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Introduction

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Ethiopia adopted, provides “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Articles 6(1) and 9(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Ethiopia is a party, affirm these basic rights. Moreover, Article 2(1)(2) of the Covenant states the obligation of states to ensure the respect and protection of the rights in their jurisdictions. Furthermore, Article 14 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) provides, “Every person has the inviolable and inalienable right to life, the security of person and liberty.”

Nevertheless, these fundamental human rights are being violated due to various reasons. In this regard, ethnic conflicts that flare up in different parts of the country have become one of the major causes of the violations.

In this 106th Special Report the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) presents details of the result of its onsite investigation on the ethnic conflict that flared up between members of the Koirā and Guji Oromo ethnic groups living in the neighboring weredas of Amaro Kelle in the South Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Abaya Gelana in the Oromia region.

Details

It is to be recalled that conflicts had been flaring up in different occasions between members of the Guji Oromo and the Koirā ethnic groups in the two weredas bordering the Oromia and South regions. The conflicts had often resulted in the loss of lives, bodily injuries and damages to property. For instance, EHRCO had reported on one of such conflicts that occurred in September 2006 in its 98th Special Report. In this conflict, 11 people were killed, 18 others sustained physical injuries and property was damaged. However, as no durable measures were taken by the pertinent bodies to root out the problems, another ethnic conflict flared up on December 30, 2007 and continued in the

following days. As a result, 4 people were killed and 5 others were wounded. A substantial amount of private and public property was damaged and people were displaced and fled their homes fearing attacks.

Table 1. Names and other details of persons killed during the conflict

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Details
1	Delane Dido	M	55	He was a farmer living in the Amaro Kelle special woreda, Jale Kebele. On December 31, 2007, he was shot on his leg by bullet fired by members of the Guji Oromo ethnic group. Four days later, his mutilated body was found in a place called Jijila.
2	Azene Alito	M	45	He was a farmer living in the Amaro Kelle special woreda. On January 1, 2008, he was shot to death by members of the Guji Oromo ethnic group.
3	Mitiku Benecha	M	50	He was a farmer living in the Amaro Kelle special woreda. On January 1, 2008, he was shot and killed by members of the Guji Oromo ethnic group.
4	Solomon Deneke	M	43	He was head of the Jalle Mekaneyesus Church in Amaro Kelle special wereda Jalle kebele. On January 3, 2008, he was shot dead by bullets fired by members of the Guji Oromo ethnic group.

Table 2. Names of individuals who sustained physical injuries

No.	Name	Details
1	Terefe Tesfaye	He is a farmer living in Amaro Kelle special woreda, Jalle kebele. On December 30, 2007, while he was on his farm, he was shot and wounded on his hand and leg by two bullets. He was receiving medical treatment by the time this report was being compiled.

2	Senbetu Kora	He is a resident of Amaro Kelle special woreda, Jijalo Kebele. On December 31, 2007, he was shot and wounded on his hand. He was receiving medical treatment by the time this report was being compiled.
3	Amare Asfaw	He is a resident of Amaro Kelle special woreda, Jalle Kebele. On December 31, 2007, he was shot and wounded on his leg. He was receiving medical treatment by the time this report was being compiled.
4	Nefsu Tilahun	He lives in the Amaro Kelle special woreda, Jalle Kebele. On December 31, 2007, he was shot and wounded on his shoulder. He was receiving medical treatment by the time this report was being compiled.
5	Abera Sodota	He is a resident of Amaro Kelle special woreda, Jalle Kebele. On January 1, 2008 he was shot and wounded. He was receiving medical treatment by the time this report was being compiled.

Moreover, during the conflict, 97 thatched cottages, most of which belonging to members of the Koira ethnic group, were burnt down, 27 corrugated iron sheet-roofed houses were dismantled and 538 corrugated iron sheets were looted as well as seven granaries, nine heaps of 'teff' and nine heaps of soya bean harvest were all burnt. Moreover, a flourmill used by the community was dismantled and taken away. Property that belonged to a health post, an agricultural development station, a police office, a Kebele administration office, the local office of the election board, a telecom office and the Jallo school were either looted or burnt down. In addition, an unspecified number of livestock was taken away. About 800 of families were displaced and fled their homes, and schools were closed.

The security situation in the area was not completely stable by the time this report was being compiled although members of the federal police were deployed. Residents in the area including local authorities that EHRCO approached expressed their concern that the conflict could recur any time and result in a more serious catastrophe unless the government sought a lasting solution to the problem. They also underscored the need to extend protection to civilians from further attacks.

Conclusion

- EHRCO is deeply saddened and vehemently condemns the killings, and attacks inflicted on members of the Koira ethnic groups.
- EHRCO urges the government once again to bring to justice those who are responsible for the killings, physical injuries and property damages and to adequately carry out its constitutional obligation of protecting citizens' right to life, security and property.
- EHRCO would like to call on all concerned to see to it that commensurate compensation is paid to the families of those who were killed during the conflict as well as to those injured and lost their property.
- Furthermore, EHRCO would like to reiterate its appeal that there is a dire need to examine the root causes of such conflicts and seek a durable solution.

In addition, EHRCO urges citizens, representatives of national and international organizations and government envoys that stand for the respect of human rights and the rule of law, to put pressure on the Ethiopian Government to bring perpetrators of human rights violations to justice, and to extend adequate protection to citizens' rights to life, security and property.

CC.

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