



የኢትዮጵያ ሰብአዊ መብቶች ጉባዔ ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

ኢሰመጉ
EHRCO

ኢሰመጉ የቆመው ለዲሞክራሲ፣ ለሕግ ልዕልናና ለሰብአዊ መብቶች መከበር ነው።
EHRCO stands for democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights.

Displaced Persons Being Displaced Again

63rd Special Report

July 28, 2003

It is to be recalled that in 1991 and after the Ethio-Eritrean Conflict thousands of Ethiopians who have been displaced from their areas of residence in Eritrea have come and settled in Addis Ababa and other towns in the country. Ethiopians who were dispossessed of their property and made to suffer by the Eritrean government have continuously requested the Ethiopian government to provide them with shelter and other assistance. However, because the government did not accede to their request for permanent shelters, they have been forced to live in kebele conference halls and other temporary shelters in various districts of Addis Ababa. Many of these displaced persons have lived in these temporary shelters for the last eleven years.

These hopelessly destitute displaced persons who have no income for rent or for constructing dwellings, have continued to live in the temporary shelters, feeding their families by either begging or by working as casual laborers.

The Addis Ababa City Administration has continued to apply pressure on the displaced persons annually during the rainy seasons to leave the shelters. Last year, EHRCO has issued its 53rd Special Report opposing this unjust decision on the part of the City Administration. The Special Report entitled “To Render Displaced People Shelterless” was issued on July 3, 2002.

EHRCO in its 53rd Special Report has indicated that in Woreda (District) 7, around Mesalemia and environs, in woreda 10 Enkulal Fabrica and environs, in Woreda 13, Sanford School and environs police have forcefully removed 1548 males and 1665 females i.e. a total of 3213 displaced persons from their shelters.

These displaced people are now to be found in the various streets and bus stops in Addis Ababa. After having displaced these people, the City Administration has given notice to other settlers in Lideta, Shiromeda, Aware, Kotebe and Shola, Sarris, Kore (1,2 and 3) Kolfe and Kaliti (Woreda 20 and 2), a total of 14,607 persons, to leave their shelters. These people, who have no other alternative place to go to, are living in fear of being evicted from their shelters by police, since the last rainy season up to the present time.

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EHRCO has an observer status in the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, is a member of World Organization Against Torture and is also a corresponding member of the International Federation of Human Rights.

Displacing persons who are already displaced, every year during the rainy seasons, is not an act expected of a responsible government. These people who were evicted from Eritrea and Assab after losing every belonging they have been able to accumulate during their years of residence in Eritrea, and who had undergone immense suffering, came to Ethiopia with the belief that their government and people would stand on their side and assist them in whatever way possible. However, when they saw that their suffering has been worsened by their own government, they have lost the will to live and have become desperate. When these people were evicted from Eritrea, they came to this country because Ethiopia is their own country. But when they were confronted by a government which in turns tells them that it has no place for them, and destroys their shelters, and its police throws away their possessions, they are confused and are not sure as to where they should go.

Including the three thousand displaced persons who received earlier notice, a total of 14,607 persons have been informed that they are to leave their shelters. The districts where the shelters are located and the number of persons affected by the dislocation are indicated in the following table.

Woreda (District)	Shelter Location	No of Displaced Persons		
		Male	Female	Total
4	Lideta	231	277	508
11	Shiro Meda	61	47	108
15	Aware	351	334	658
16	Kotebe shola	438	463	901
19	Sarris	362	523	885
20	Kore 1	1058	1262	2320
23	Kore 3	361	392	753
24	Kore 2	1568	1981	3549
25	Kolfe	361	453	814
26	Kaliti	1399	1123	2522
27	Kaliti	746	816	1562
Total		6936	7671	14607

It has been reported by the displaced persons that the government has paid to each family head a sum of Birr 2000 (Two thousand) for renting houses and starting businesses and Birr 450 (Four hundred fifty) to cover food expenses for three months. It has also been reported that some of the displaced persons who etch out a living by engaging in low income jobs have been barred from receiving the above mentioned sum of money on the ground that they have employment. The displaced persons have commented that the sum of money they received from the government would take them no where to meet their needs, let alone while out of their shelters, but even while residing in their shelters.

Conclusion

Article 89 sub articles 1 and 2 of the FDRE Constitution stipulates that:

- “1. Government shall have the duty to formulate policies which ensure that all Ethiopians can benefit from the country’s legacy of intellectual and material resources.”
- “ 2. Government has the duty to ensure that all Ethiopians get equal opportunity to improve their economic conditions and to promote equitable distribution of wealth among them ”

Article 90 sub article 1 of the constitution also states that,

- “ To the extent the country’s resources permit policies, shall aim to provide to all Ethiopians access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food and social security.”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Declaration on Civil and Political rights have similar provisions. Nevertheless, it is to be observed that the actions of the government contravene both the provisions of the federal constitution and the international legal instruments mentioned herein above.

The displaced persons have continued to request government assistance for the last eleven years. They have appealed to government bodies at every level. Nevertheless, apart from placing them in temporary shelters in the early stages and later on providing them with a small sum of money for starting businesses and then dislodging them from their shelters, the government has not taken adequate measures to alleviate their problems on a sustainable basis.

This indicates that the government has ignored its responsibility to properly manage the affairs and secure the well being of its citizens. EHRCO on its part has made its voice heard on the matter repeatedly. The government has not paid heed to the appeal made by EHRCO and that of the displaced persons and failed to take corrective measures. It is a pity that the government has taken such a measure against people who expect assistance from their kindred and government and who have no alternative source of help.

EHRCO, therefore, again calls on the government to stop this inhuman act immediately and provide the displaced persons permanent places of abode. We request all individuals who stand for the respect of human rights to write letters to the following government organizations and other concerned government officials to stop immediately this inhuman act against displaced persons.

cc.

- The House of Peoples Representatives
P.O.Box 80001 fax 251-1 550900, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- The House of the Federation
P.O.Box 80001 , Fax 251-1 550722, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Lt. Girma Wolde Giorgis, FDRE President
P.O.Box 1031, Fax 251-1 552020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, FDRE Prime Minister
P.O.Box 1031, Fax 251-1 552020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Harka Haroye, FDRE Minister of Justice
P.O.Box 1370, Fax 251-1 520874, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- The Addis Ababa City Administration
P.O.Box 2458, Fax 251-1-511479, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia