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ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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

August 31, 2007

Urgent Appeal

Release or Prosecute Detained Persons in Nekemte Town and its Environs!

Police in Nekemte town, Eastern Wellega Zone in the Oromia Region, detained fifteen people since August 23, 2007 without taking them to a court of law until the date of issuance of this report. The police came with a search warrant stating that they are suspected of hiding arms and papers calling for violence. However, although they searched their homes and found nothing, they took away the individuals without an arrest warrant and held them in detention since then. Three of the detainees are Executive Committee Members of EHRCO's Nekemte Branch Office.

List of Detainees:-

S.N	Name of Detainees	Date of arrest	Occupation
1	Tesfa Burayu (EHRCO Nekemte Office Executive Committee Member)	August 23, 2007	Teacher
2	Ibsa Wake (EHRCO Nekemte Office Executive Committee Member)	August 24, 2007	Lawyer
3	Fekadu Negeri (EHRCO Nekemte Office Executive Committee Member)	August 23, 2007	Teacher
4	Abraham Likasa	July 18, 2007	Private employee
5	Keno Wakene*	August 23, 2007	Teacher
6	Workneh Dinsa	August 23, 2007	Teacher
7	Kebede Nemera	August 23, 2007	Teacher
8	Dagne Olana*	August 23, 2007	Teacher
9	Tekalegn Alemayehu	August 23, 2007	Teacher
10	Lieutenant Gemechu Fafa *	August 23, 2007	Police officer
11	Corporal Wakshum Nemmosa *	August 23, 2007	Police officer
12	Asefa Gemechu	August 23, 2007	Accountant
13	Jeregna Kaba	August 23, 2007	Student
14	Tamirat Tadesse	August 23, 2007	Student
15	Osman Dawer	August 23, 2007	Student

*Released on August 30, 2007 around 6:00 PM

EHRCO expresses its grave concern over the detention of its members and other citizens and urges the government to immediately take them to a court of law or release them.

EHRCO also calls on those who stand for the respect of human rights, local and international human rights groups, government envoys and concerned individuals to exert pressure on the government to take the detainees to a court of law or to release them without delay.