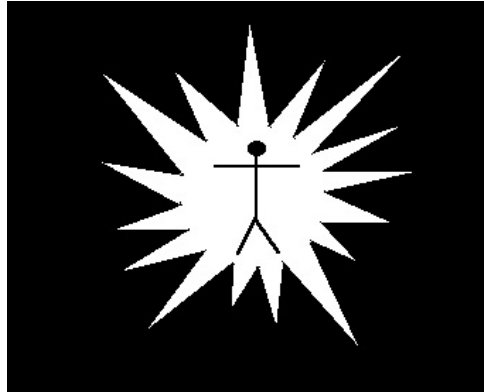


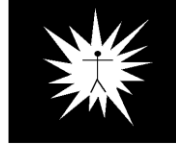
# Human Rights Council



HRCO

## 35TH REGULAR REPORT: THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

December 2011 | HRCO



HRCO

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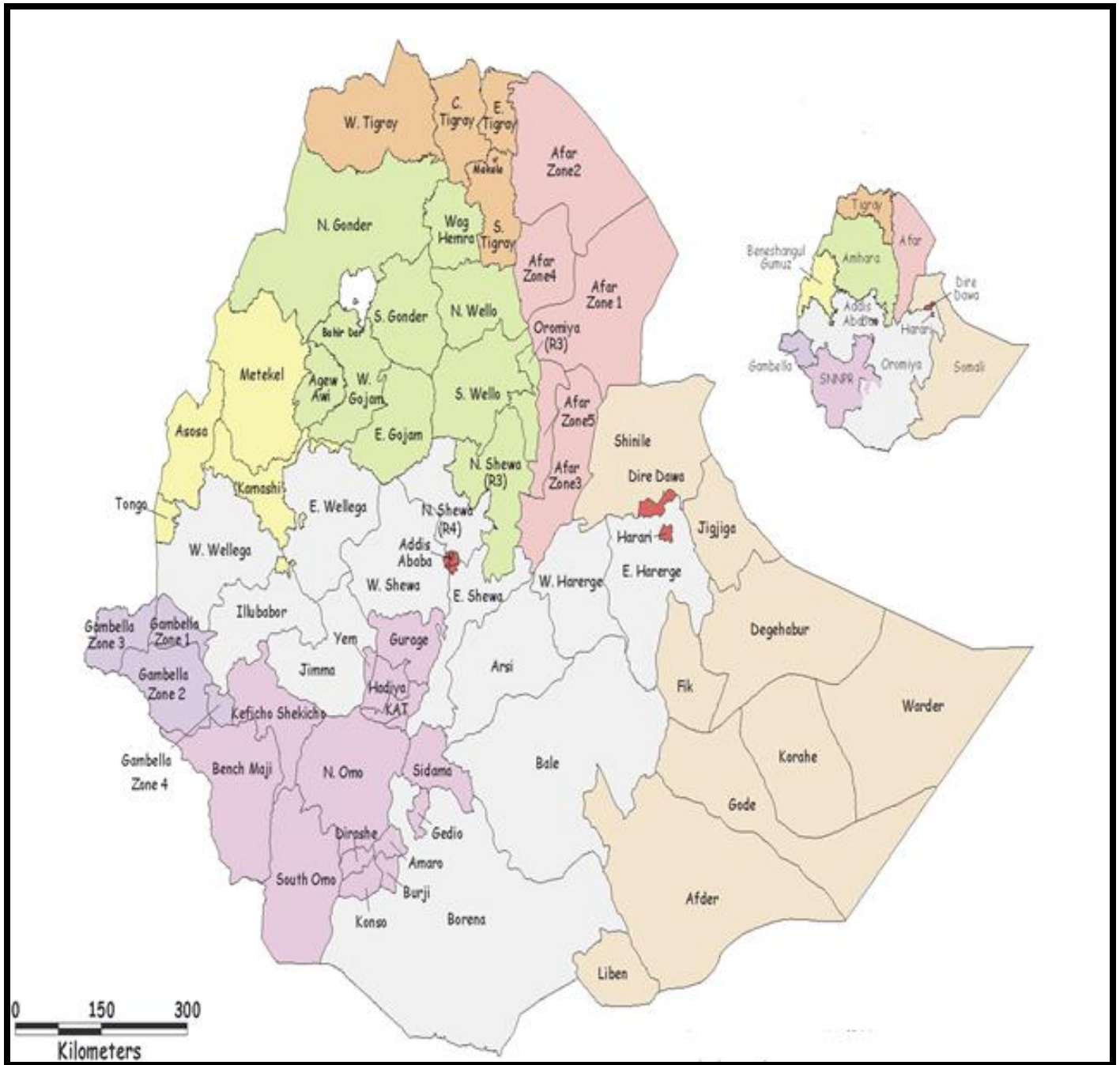
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## Map of Administrative Regions and Zones of Ethiopia



## About the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council (HRCO), formerly the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, is Ethiopia's first non-governmental human rights organization. Since its establishment on October 10, 1991, HRCO has maintained an ambitious and variegated mission to monitor, promote and defend human rights, rule of law, due process and to contribute to the efforts of the Ethiopian people to establish a democratic system. To achieve this mission, HRCO employs holistic and multifaceted approach where in the needs of victims of human rights violation can be adequately addressed and potential government and civilian violators are availed of the necessary awareness and knowledge to prevent the occurrence of violations. Among HRCO's core program activities are the provision of legal aid, rights related research, human rights education and human rights monitoring, investigation and reporting. To date HRCO has published 35 Regular Reports and 119 Special Reports.

### Summary

The 35th Regular Report presents information collected by Human Rights Council's Human Rights Monitoring and Investigation Department. The report provides a comprehensive look at the contemporary human rights situation in Ethiopia in 2010 and 2011. The gamut of human rights violations, including forced disappearance, denial of justice, excessive use of force by police officials, illegal detention, arbitrary arrest, torture, extra-judicial murder, cruel and inhuman treatment are covered in HRCO's 35th Regular Report.

During the reporting year, HRCO documented an escalation in the proliferation of systemic human rights violations relating to arbitrary arrest, illegal detention and illegal forced eviction. The overly broad and vague definitions of terrorism outlined in the 2009 Anti-terrorism proclamation (proclamation 652/2009) are increasingly being used to silence political dissent and suspend due process rights.<sup>1</sup> The proclamation implicates individuals who report on or provide "indirect encouragement" for the activities of perceived terrorists allows police to arrest any individual he "reasonably suspects" of having committed a terrorist act without a warrant.

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<sup>1</sup> FDRE Proclamation N<sup>o</sup> 652/2009

In several regions across Ethiopia, prominent opposition political party members, journalists and civilians have been arbitrarily arrested and illegally detained on suspicion of having committed terrorist acts under proclamation 652/2009. HRCO demands that all such persons are accorded their due process and habeas corpus rights.

Despite an extensive domestic legal apparatus protecting land rights, during the reporting year HRCO has received several reports detailing unlawful forced evictions from small-farm land holdings. The Ethiopian constitution as well as several legally binding domestic proclamations, including the Rural Land use proclamation and proclamation No.455/2005, ensures compensation for expropriated land commensurate with the value of the land or the provision of a replacement plot.<sup>2</sup> However, according to HRCO investigations, on several occasions farmers were dispossessed or their land by government stakeholders without the provision of a replacement plot or sufficient financial compensation as such policies have given rise to the dispossession and displacement of smallholders, indigenous peoples and the poor in general. HRCO demands that all land deals respect existing land and resource use rights of farmers including customary and communal land use rights.

## **Methodology**

HRCO's 35th Regular Report details instances of human rights violations documented from November 2010 to November 2011. Four investigators based out of HRCO's three branch offices in the Amhara, Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State (SNNPRS) and Headquarters in Addis Ababa conducted field interviews and in-office complaint handling with victims and witnesses. An estimated 300 interviews were conducted with a diverse stratum of Ethiopian society, including farmers, students, teachers, political-party members, journalists and civilian community representatives. HRCO also interviewed pertinent government officials including Kebele, Woreda, city administration, regional and police officials. All complaints and claims were verified with robust evidence including witness and victim testimony, interviews with domestic government stakeholders and primary documents including medical and judicial records and photographic evidence.

During the reporting year, HRCO encountered heightened challenges to the interview and investigation process. In Ethiopia, where voicing critical views can have severe ramifications,

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Article 3 Sub Article 1; FDRE Rural Land Administration and Land Use Proclamation, Article7, Sub Article 3.

interviewees routinely express concern about their safety and the spectre of government reprisal for divulging unpalatable truths to HRCO. Witnesses and victims routinely decline to be interviewed for fear of government retaliation. However, the recent institutionalization of repressive legislation, including the 2009 Charities and Societies Proclamation (proclamation No 621/2009) and the Anti-Terrorism proclamation and the concomitant suppression of dissent, has significantly augmented the contagion of fear.<sup>3</sup>HRCO investigators observed an appreciable increase in the number of potential interviewees, including key witnesses, who were reluctant to speak openly about instances of human rights violations. In addition, complainants showed an intensified concern for their safety.

N.B the 35th Regular report details events and happening of 2010 and 2011. The Amharic version was released early in January 2012. This translation was delayed due to problems related to the implementation of Proclamation 621/2009, i.e. the Nongovernmental Organization Regulatory Agency Proclamation.

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<sup>3</sup> FDRE Proclamation N<sup>o</sup> 621/2009

## **Human Rights Violations**

### **A. Extra Judicial Killing**

It is an internationally guaranteed right that all human beings shall be entitled to respect for their life, liberty and security of person. The FDRE constitution as well guarantees this right enshrining that no person may be deprived of his life except as a punishment for a serious criminal offence determined by law. In contravention of the above legal provisions the following person has lost her life.<sup>4</sup>

#### **1. Mrs Worke Arusa**

Mrs. Worke Arusa is a resident of Sidama Zone, Konse Arke Kebele Farmers Association in the SNNP/Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region/. In a civil dispute began since before thirteen years, her husband Mr.Sulema Bereja was ordered to pay 3000 Birr on which decision Mr.Sulema appealed to the Regional Supreme Court securing a ruling for the injunction of the decision of the lower court awaiting further investigation and decision. Delaying the execution appeal based on the decision of the Supreme court, the Woreda Court(First instance Court) has executed the sale of Mr. Selma's forest plantation to the Kebele(District) chairman for a price of Birr 3000 even though the actual market price of these trees was estimated to be 20,000 Birr.

When two police officers entered the premises of Mr. Sulema and his wife to facilitate the cutting of the trees, it was opposed by Mrs. Worke who was shot dead by a bullet fired by a police officer named Façade. Mrs.Worke died on October 15, 2010 of this appalling murder committed by a police official. This police official is now found in custody awaiting a court decision.

### **B. Illegal Eviction**

#### **1. Tena Woshe**

Tena Woshe, a resident of the SNNPRS, Chuko town, used to be the owner of a residential house

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<sup>4</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article, 6; FDRE Constitution, Article, 14 and 15



since April 13, 1994. The town administration has ordered the house to be demolished the reasons being that the house was not built in accordance with the city's master plan.

In addition, Tena Woshe, and Tesfaye Tena have taken lease of a land 31 meters by 62 meters and rehabilitated the area. But the town administration gave this land to the Chuko Woreda microfinance institution without the payment of compensation either for their dispossession or their lost investment on the land.

The FDRE constitution provides that all persons who have been displaced from their plot of land have the right to commensurate monetary or alternative means of compensation including relocation with adequate state assistance.<sup>5</sup> Despite this principle the above individuals have suffered illegal violation of their rights.

## **2. Mideksa Gelan**

Midekssa Gelan, a resident of Gambela Town, Kebele 01 has been practicing farming activities on a five hectare of land he legally possessed located in the Ayato Kebele . His investments have been destroyed by members of Hidasse United Workers Association. His plantation of mango, lemon, and orange trees with a total worth of 300,000.00Birr was devastated. They also demolished a 5000 Birr worth property of a house on the farm.

Even though Midekssa took his case to court and secured a judgement which ruled that he is the rightful possessor of the land, he complained to HRCO that due to the undue pressure from the administrative officials the court ruling has not been executed. He also complained that his attempt to get the matter resolved by the intervention of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) did not succeed because of the interference of police officials.

Because of the perseverance of the complainant, on July 29, 2010, the Gambela Town High Court has ruled that the police and the Kebele(district) chairperson to see to it that the land illegally taken from Mideksa by the Hidasse United Workers Association be returned to him.

Even then since the court's decision was not adhered to in, the EHRC has written a letter requesting the Gambela Regional Administrative Bureau an explanation as to why this injustice continues to persist.

On March 16, 2011, the Gambela Regional Police has written to the Kebele administration to

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<sup>5</sup> FDRE Constitution Article, 44 Sub Article, 2.

respect and execute the decision of the High Court and return the land to Midekssa. Until the writing of this report Midekssa has not succeeded to reclaim his land.

### **3. Mexenger Zone, Gore Woreda**

Four hundred sixty nine farmers living in the Gambela Region, Mexenger Zone Gore Woreda, Akashe Kebele have been ordered to evacuate their land holdings on September 2010. This land was possessed by this farming community for more than twenty eight years. One hundred twenty two of them have already lost their lands. Under the initiative of a program labelled as “benefiting the scattered community of the Mexenger Zone nationality in development by bringing them under a single Commune” being implemented under the Mexenger Zone administration their plots of land have been taken without compensation. The residents have complained that they were not able to collect their harvests.

On January, 21, 2011, the regional administration has ordered these people to evacuate their holdings with neither compensation nor the provision of replacement plots. The people have sent representatives to petition on their behalf to the Gambela Regional Administrative Council on December 23, 2010 but to no avail. Thereafter, the people sent a signed petition through two of their representatives to the office of the Prime Minister.

### **4. Guji Zone, Adola Rede Woreda**

Seven Hundred sixty nine dwellers of Oromia Region, Guji Zone, Adola Rede Wore Anferara Kebele Farmers Association are peasants living of plantations of coffee, enset (false banana), chat, and other crops since 1958. Rich in resources, the Derg regime enclosed the forest for conservation along with these farms. But due to the opposition by the people of such a move by the government, they were allowed to keep their holdings intact, possessed the land and live on it until the present.

In the period from October 11-October 15, 2010, staff from different offices of the Adola Rede Woreda administrative office and members of the antiterrorism police force raided the Kebele and destroyed the plantations of coffee, enset (false banana), chat and other crops which served the community as the only means of substance and source of income. When the residents of the community went to the woreda office carrying samples of the destroyed crops they were prevented from doing so by the anti- terrorism police which threw tear gas and fired shots in the direction of the demonstrators. Some demonstrators were beaten and others were

imprisoned.

The regional administration has not responded to the complaint of these people. These people have sent their petitions to the government and are struggling to get justice. Every Ethiopian has full right to immovable property and to receive compensation for the permanent improvement they bring about on the land.<sup>6</sup> And when these rights are violated everyone has the right to obtain a decision or judgement by a court of law or any other competent body with judicial powers.<sup>7</sup>

### **5. Gurage Zone, Buki Woreda**

In the SNNP Regional State residents of the Gurage Zone, Buki Woreda Gumbar, Nada Kebele Farmers Association have lived in the area for several decades. The neighbouring residents of the Damu Kebele Farmers association have tried trespassing their territory and encroaching into the holdings of the Gumbar Nada farmers thus causing a conflict to arise. The Gumbar Nada Kebele farmers have taken the matter to the Buki Woreda administration producing documentary and witness evidences as to the ownership of territory. As such the elected local elders after looking into the matter and verifying the issue on both sides, gave the verdict that the disputed land belongs to Gumbar Nada people taking two stone structures to serve as border demarcations and the land stretching to the west up to a gorge and to the west up to a stream bed.

In a letter written on February 29, 2008, the Buki Woreda Administration, basing its decision on the above accounts of the six elders who gave their testimony, instructed the Damu Kebele to stop all encroachments of land possessed by Gumbar Nada. However, on July 18, 2009 residents of the Damu Kebele Farmers Association attacked the Gumbar Nada people causing severe death and bodily injury. Despite notifying the police of the likelihood of such an attack, the authorities did not put any protection mechanisms in place to prevent the attack.

## **C. Violation of the Right of Freedom of Expression**

International Human Right instruments to which Ethiopia is a party and the FDRE constitution

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<sup>6</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article,40 Sub Article, 7.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, Article 17.

guarantee that everyone has the right to freedom of expression without any interference.<sup>8</sup> In contravention of this right and the Freedom of Press Proclamation N<sup>o</sup> 34/1985 the following violation has been perpetrated.

Hamrawi General Business Private Limited Company, after four years in business of publishing its magazine called Hamrawi decided to change its business into publishing a newspaper in the name of Habesha Reveiw. It made its application to the Ethiopian Broadcast Authority securing an accreditation certificate No 2028 signed by the director of the Authority, Mr. Ayalew Getaneh on March 7, 2011. It then applied to the Ministry of Trade for permit.

After spending two months of preparation in hiring new staff and making advertisements for the new newspaper and getting the permit from the Ministry of Trade, which took effect eight days after the Broadcast Authority's issuance of the certificate, the latter reneged on the issuance of the certificate and said it has to make further investigation, there by suspending the permit in a letter dated March 7, 2011; No2028/1343.

## **D. Violation of the Right to Liberty**

### **1. Endalkachew Demissie**

Endalkachew Demissie is a young man of twenty eight years and a resident of the Amhara Regional State, North Wollo Zone, Meket Woreda, Filakit Kebele- 01. While working in a government institution on May 11, 2007 the Woreda officials have imprisoned him in the Woldiya prison centre on the mere allegation of suspicion that he has committed homicide. After his illegal detention of three years and fifteen days, he was acquitted as innocent on May 26, 2010 by the Regional Supreme Court. After his release he was not able to get his job back neither he received a repayment on his illegally suspended work. Endalkachew reported that fearing the intimidations of the Meket Woreda cabinet officials, he was forced to relocate himself to Addis Ababa. Both international and national laws affirm that everyone has the right to live in liberty and security of person and no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.

### **2. Dagne Abera Lema**

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<sup>8</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article, 29, Sub Article, 2.

Dagne Abera who lives in Addis Ababa, Gulele Sub City Kebele-19/20, in the area commonly known as Shiromeda, has been a member of HRCO since 2000. He used to work in the construction field until he lost his job because he did not join a micro business association related to his profession created by the government. He also reported that he was told that as a matter of government policy he should also be a member of the EPRDF to form or be a member of such associations. He reported that he was threatened and intimidated by government officials because of his refusal to comply. Despite his change of address, he said that threats and intimidations on him and his family have continued.

He told HRCO the fact that he used to be once a human rights activist defending the rights of others but has now become a victim and unable to protect himself. It is every person's right to live in liberty and security and join associations which operate peacefully.

## **2. Nigate Melaku**

Nigate Melaku lives in Addis Ababa and is self-employed. He has served in the national military service from 1999 to 2002. After he left the army, he reported to HRCO that because of his outspoken expression of his opinions, he has become a victim of threats, beatings and imprisonment. Until the writing of this report, he used to complain that he lives under constant surveillance and threats and, his family members are living under constant fear and apprehension.

## **3. Beakal Teshome**

Engineer Beakal Teshome has reported to HRCO that as a third year student at the Addis Ababa University in May 2005, he was approached by two government intelligence service men telling him that he has participated in the 2005 national election campaign as a member of an opposition party. And then he was taken to the Sendafa prison without being charged and was detained there for three months.

After his graduation he was employed by HRCO on August 2007 in charge of preparing and running the organizations website and was able to carry out his responsibility of establishing of the Council,s website. Beakal reported that from the time of the airing of the website, he has been threatened by intelligence officers in person and was told by telephone to block the

website. This certainly goes against his constitutional right to freely engage in an economic activity and pursue a livelihood of his choice.<sup>9</sup>

Beakal further complained that he was unable to get employment in any government institution and that his applications were not accepted. He further reported that he was told by government organizations that they are under orders not to employ him.

Because of the above mentioned pressures, Beakal was forced to loosen his relations with HRCO. Because he was denied employment in government institutions he started working for an international company. Even then, because of the fact that HRCO's website was still on air, the threats and intimidations have continued and of October 17, 2010 at 1.p.m he was followed and his car was dented by another while driving by people he could not identify. His as well as his insurance's attempt to get a traffic report of the incident was not successful. He was fined and told by the police not to show up again.

He has also reported that one day while coming out of HRCO's office he was met in person by some people and they told him if he does not sever his relations with HRCO, he was putting his sister's, his wife's and his own life in danger .

The illegal detention and intimidation upon Beakal is a clear illustration of the violation of citizens' right to live in liberty and pursue a livelihood of their choice. Hence HRCO denounces such arbitrariness which stifles the active and unrestrained participation of citizens in their country's political, social and economic life and calls the government to take necessary measures to ensure that such acts are stopped.

## **E. Illegal Detention**

It is enshrined both in international and regional human right instruments Ethiopia is a signatory that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or illegal detention and such rights should be recognized without distinction of any kind including race, religion, or political opinion. And every person who has been arrested or detained shall appear before a court to decide the lawfulness of his detention.<sup>10</sup>

In contravention of these international norms and constitutional rights against illegal detention and arbitrary arrest reports have been made to HRCO of people that have been detained and imprisoned without charges made against them. Some of whom were detained incommunicado.

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<sup>9</sup> FDRE Constitution Article, 41, Sub Article, 2.

<sup>10</sup> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Article 2 and 6; FDRE Constitution Article 17, Sub Article, 2.

According to these reports the families of these people are found in fear and apprehension.

Among places where people have been detained illegally included Eastern Oromia, Nekemte Town and the surrounding districts; Amhara Region North Wollo Zone and West Gojam Zone; and also Addis Ababa.

The majority of these detainees are mainly composed of medical professionals, business people and opposition political party members. The situation of some are more arduous as they have no right to be visited by the family members and also because their places of detention has remained secret, thus barring them from using their habeas corpus rights.<sup>11</sup> Especially after the introduction of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation ordinary citizens, journalists and members of political parties are being detained by mere allegations of suspicion. Even when the places of detention are known these people are not allowed to get visits by their families or their lawyers. This is in clear violation of the constitution which provides all persons (held in custody) shall have the opportunity to communicate with and to be visited by, their spouses or partners, close relatives, friends, religious councillors, medical doctors and their legal counsel.<sup>12</sup>

People that are being held in custody incommunicado or prohibited of their right to visits in different regions of Ethiopia are listed in the following tables.

Table-1 Names of people that were arrested without court ordered or arrest warrants by security forces and detained incommunicado for a month and finally taken to the federal prison centre still in custody and investigation and some already released.

No	Name	Region	Woreda	Date of Arrest	Description
1	Tadesse Melesse	Amhara W.Gojam	Bahir Dar	May 18, 2011	AEUP, member
2	Eskinder Melaku	„	„	May 19, 2011	„
3	Melesse Setegn	„	„	May 20, 2011	AEUP, legal and youth affairs

<sup>11</sup> FDRE Constitution Article, 19 Sub Article, 4.

<sup>12</sup> FDRE Constitution Article, 21 Sub Article, 2.

4	Ashenafi Ayele	Amhara N.Wollo	Lalibela	May 24, 2011	AEUP, member
5	Mandefro Akalnew	„	„	„	AEUP Woreda leader
6	Tewodros Ayalew	„	Woldiya	„	AEUP organization and campaign unit head

N.B Among those in the above table until the writing of this report Tadesse Melesse, Melesse Setegn and Tewodros Ayalew are found in custody of the federal prison centre under investigation the rest have been released.

Table-2 List of people that have been detained in May 2011 from the Oromia Region West Wollega Zone, Dembidollo town and surrounding areas.

NO	Name	Region	Date of Arrest	Place of detention
1	Dessalegn Debel	Oromia E.Wollega	March 2011	Kality Prison
2	Tesfa Moterra	Oromia E.Wollega Nekemte	„	„
3	Samson Alemu	„	„	„
4	Belay Korme	„	„	„
5	Etana Senbeto	Oromia W.Wollega Dembidollo Lato Kebele	March 13, 2011	Not known
6	Negash Kush	Oromia E.Wollega	March 2011	Released



		Nekemte		
7	Nura Bedru	„	March 2011	„

Table 3-People detained by the police on August 30, 2011 and released

N0	Name	Address	Occupation	Description
1	Keno Matewos	Nekemte Town Kebele 02	Teacher	Released by court decision
2	Mengistu Mossisa	„	Merchant	„
3	Ayana Kebeta	Nekemte Town Kebele 07	Teacher	Released by the police
4	Kumera Senbeta	Nekemte Town Kebele 02	Pensioner	„
5	Taye Damtew	Nekemte Town Kebele 07	Merchant	„

N.B- Keno Matewos and Mengistu Mossisa mentioned in Table 3 were released after a week in detention by the West Oromia Regional Supreme Court.

### Recommendations

Ethiopia is a party to numerous international and regional treaties that oblige the state to respect the human rights of its citizens. In addition, these fundamental rights have been given constitutional protection and guarantee. In spite of this there exists a gap in the actual fulfilment of these rights and their promised protection, respect and realisation.

The lack of conviction to bring human rights violators to justice still remains a crucial problem. The recent avalanche of proclamations like The Anti Terrorism Proclamation, The Charities and

Societies Proclamation and others have become stumbling blocks in the unrestrained exercise of citizens of their right of freedom of association, expression, protection against illegal arrest and the institutional independence of organizations.

HRCO believes that the better protection of human rights of denizens has a direct bearing on the economic and social development of the country and calls upon the government to revise and self introspect its stance upon the variety of issues concerning the human right situation of the country in light of its unfulfilled duties as guaranteed in the Ethiopian constitution.

## **F. Torture**

Melaku Beyene, a resident of Addis Ababa, reported to HRCO on December 1, 2011 along with supporting evidence the torture and illegal interrogation that was committed by the police and other government officials while he was under custody.

Melaku said that on May 27, 2011 while he was sitting with his friend in a restaurant around the area known as Olympia, he came across Solomon Tekalign , a person he loaned some amount of money some years back and he asked this person to return the money he owes him referring to the person as a liar.

After this encounter, Melaku's vehicle plate number was circulated to the police. Following this, he was apprehended and taken by the police to the Lancia police Station and told that Tekalign has filed a suit against him. Melaku said Tekalign and him agreed to settle the matter out of court and as such he was released on bail. But despite this, he was moved to another police station. In this police station, he was detained for the second time, Melaku said he was made to give testimony for the second time at mid night and in the morning when two people in a civilian clothing have interrogated him. Melaku later on was again moved to another police station.

Melaku has reported that he was made to report to police station N<sup>o</sup> 3 and faced a severe investigation. The investigation was carried out by inflicting heavy beatings as a result of which Melaku had to be hospitalized after his release. After appearing in court On May 30, 2011 Melaku reported that despite the court's decision to grant him bail, due to the appeal made by the police, he was denied bail and was still being interrogated by two people in civilian clothing. In the court Melaku had complained of the beatings while in custody by the police.

While in remand, Melaku said he had suffered beatings and torture by police officials and other

intelligence personnel in civilian clothes. The police asked for a second remand of the detainee when the case appeared before court but the court had denied this request mentioning that the police has not used the period of remand to collect other evidences than just the person's finger prints.

According to the evidence and complaint submitted by Melaku, his arrest without a warrant, his repeated detention and interrogation in different police stations and, the investigations under torture by unauthorized officials as well as the police are in violation of Melaku's fundamental rights.

The above acts are in violation of the Ethiopian constitution and the international convention against torture to which Ethiopia is a party. According to this convention torture "means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions."<sup>13</sup>

## **G. Illegal Detention and Inhuman Treatment**

### **1. Muche Alemu, Abez Atalo, and Emebet Muche**

The FDRE constitution and international human right instruments guarantee that every person has the right to protection against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest. Despite these guarantees, the rights of the following people have been violated.<sup>14</sup>

On June 16, 2009 at around 5:30pm, in West Gojam Zone, Bahir Dar, Kebele 16 a police officer of police station 6, has severely beaten three members of a family. The beating has inflicted bodily injuries on these people mainly upon the upper and lower parts of their legs and their buttocks. The police at the time was alleging that the family is hiding their son wanted for a criminal offence. All three members of the family were illegally detained for one day following

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<sup>13</sup> Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment , Article 1.

<sup>14</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article 18, Sub Article 1; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 7.

these beatings according to the complaints of these people namely,

- Mr. Muche Alemu, age 60,
- Mrs.Abez Atalo (Mr.Muche Alemu's wife), age 45
- Mrs.Embet Muche, age 21.

## **2. Nitsuwork Dubisa**

Nitsuwork Dubisa, 20 years old, and a mother of a two year old daughter, lives with her father Dubisa Wakeyu in Yeka sub- city Woreda 11, Kebele 19 in Addis Ababa. She has complained that on September 20, 2008 a person called Mussema Jemal, a lessee in her father's house has appealed to the police claiming that she has stolen his DVD player. According to her report the investigating police officer took her to the police station grabbing her by the neck using excessive force and beating her all the way to the police station. Nitsuwork, appeared in court after spending six days in detention. Her domestic servant Demekech was asked to give testimony and testified that "Nitsuwork has not told me to steal but I was told to testify that she told me to steal". The court has granted her bail at three thousand birr, but after her release she reported that she found her two year old daughter sick and had to be hospitalised for twelve days since she was not breast fed while her mother was in custody. The custody had exposed the family to a high financial expense. .

Every person has the right to be brought to a court within 48 hours of their arrest and to be protected from a cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.<sup>15</sup>

## **3. Dagne Bonssa Gobu**

Dagne Bonssa is a married man, who lives in Sout.West Shewa, Becho Woreda is self employed business man. Dagne reported that he has been illegally detained repeatedly on different occasions. On September 24, 2006, because of his opposition to the police searching his house without a warrant was imprisoned for three days.

Mr Dagne also reported that on January 1, 2006 he was asked by the police to go with them for a crime of threatening the peace and stability of the Woreda. But when he answered to be presented with a court warrant he said he was beaten by the Special Forces of the police

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<sup>15</sup> FDRE Constitution Article, 19 Sub Article, 3.

causing injury upon his right leg. His attempt to get redress by appealing to the Woreda police was not successful.

Dagne has also reported that on February 4, 2008, 11am he was taken to the police station at gun point and without a court warrant at the same time being beaten. He was then imprisoned without appearing in court for seventeen days from February 4, 2008 to February 21, 2008 to finally be released on bail.

On April 1, 2009 Dagne, while attending his brother's funeral was forced to get into a vehicle by two people. After taking him to a place of detention, he was threatened by saying " are you trying to sue us? Is that why you went to the Zone? You should never mention our name". He said he was later released at 10pm at night the same day.

On September 8, 2010 at 6am the police came to Dagne's house claiming that he has hidden a weapon in his house and conducted a search. Even though they did not find the weapon, the police detained him until September 19, 2010 on the condition that he brings the weapon. He was finally released on a 1000 Birr bail. This interminable ordeal of Dagne continued and on January 29, 2011 11am he was threatened by a member of the Woreda police officer amid an assemblage of people pointing a gun at him saying "I will kill you and you won't do nothing about it". Dagne was rescued by neighbours. He appealed against this action to the Woreda Police Department but was told that he should not sue a police officer but settle the matter amicably.

Later on Dagne was arrested by the police and detained for nine days and released upon a bail of 500 Birr telling him not to ever sue a police. Despite the order by The Oromia Police Commission Crime Prevention Director writing a letter on May 4, 2011 to the Zone police to make the perpetrator give testimony the police official has refused to do so. Dagne reports that this police official has still continued to pose threats and intimidations. Because the police were not willing to receive his complaint Dagne reported that he went to the court and they told him to lodge his complaint to the Zone Prosecutor. Dagne said the prosecutors were still not helpful and postponing his case frequently.

On April 8, 2011 on 10am Dagne reported that he was forcefully taken by the police and detained for nine days and released upon a bail of 500 Birr telling him not to ever sue a member of the Police Department The Oromia Police Commission crime prevention director writing a letter on May 4,2011 to the Zone police to make the perpetrator of the crime give testimony on Dagne's complaints. But the police officer has refused to do so. Dagne reported that this police officer has still continued to make threats on him and that he lives in constant fear and insecurity as to what would happen to himself and members of his family.

#### **4. Workneh Mojo**

Mr. Workneh Mojo, a resident Oromia Region, Borena Zone, Gelan Woreda, in the town of Tore has reported that he was illegally detained and severely beaten on November 18, 2009 by anti-demonstration special forces accusing him of “inciting students against the Shakiso gold mine”. He was then released from custody after nine days in detention by the Woreda Court for lack of incriminating evidences.

Mr. Workneh also reported that on September 16, 2011 on a public meeting called by the town and kebele executives, these officials announced that they suspected Workneh to be a thief and began beating him on the spot. Workneh complained to HRCO that he has sustained injuries on his back and left arm.

#### **5. Yared Melaku**

Yared Melaku, a young man of 28, has reported to HRCO that on January 7, 2010 at around 11pm he has been severely beaten by a police officer of the Lideta Sub-City Police Station. The account of witnesses and medical evidence show that Yared has sustained a severe injury upon his skull and his right shoulder due to the beating. He has reported when he has complained to the police he did not receive a timely response he was beaten for the second time. Until the writing of this report Yared has reported that he continues to receive threats.

#### **6. Yared Tekle**

Yared Tekle is a resident of Addis Ababa, Kolfe Keranio Sub City Since May 3, 2009 who has been serving as a chairman of The Ethiopian Druggists Association and also a member of All Ethiopian Unity Party playing an active role in the Gurage and Silte Zones since 1997.

On September 17, 2011, Yared Tekle reported to HRCO the violation of his and his son's rights by government officials.

While he has been serving the Druggists Association Yared reported to the police the robbing of the association's properties. But after following up this case he was arrested by members of Police of the same district while he was taking examinations at university. Yared has reported that he was illegally arrested by a member of police without being served an arrest warrant or informed of the reasons of his arrest. He was also detained for three days without food and unable to contact his family.

Yared said that he was released upon bail and after a year his case has been dropped by the Lideta Prosecution Office. The reason given was that the crime he has been charged with that "he has not accounted for the associations properties before leaving the office" has not been substantiated by enough evidence since the proper accounting and auditing of the properties has not been made to prove the loss of properties.

Yared complains to HRCO that he lives under a lot of undue scrutiny and that his life is in danger.

#### **7. Teshome Tsegaye**

Teshome is a resident of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Teshome Tsegaye, Tsegaye Belemo and Asnake Belemo, have been beaten and detained on July 8, 2011 and released the next day because of their expressed opposition to the moves by officials of the *Sidama Zone Aleta Chuko Woreda Kosorcha Kebele* to give up the surrounding plots of Tsegaye Teshome's compound as a market place for coffee products. The Woreda administration has finally intervened deciding that the move by the officials is illegal and should be revoked.

#### **8. Bedlu Mengistu**

On December, 18, 2009 at 2pm Bedlu was taken up by the Oromia Regional State security forces being beaten in a degrading and inhuman manner and detained in the Tore town police station. He was interrogated the next day and told that he is suspected of inciting public unrest and sold benzene to people to set a cabinet official's house on fire. These were, according to Bedlu all trumped up charges. He was transferred on December 19, 2009 from the Gelana Woreda to Hagere Mariame Police Station and then to Yabelo Correction Centre being severely beaten and inhumanly treated all the while, reports Bedlu in his complaint to HRCO.

Bedlu was charged with the Anti Terrorism Proclamation article 3 sub-articles, 1-7 and been found innocent by the Oromia Regional Supreme Court and set free on February 1, 2010. After being detained for a total of fifty five days without any conviction Bedlu went back to Tore, his town of residence, and faced harassment from the Woreda cabinet officials who told him that he is a member of an opposition party. Because of this intimidation he left his family by taking shelter in another area and reported that when he came back to his family he was threatened by a person called Mitiku Tsegaye amid an assemblage of more than ten people telling him that "I am a stalwart of the EPRDF and I will kill you" adding that reporting these to the police they replied him "how can you sue a cabinet member? you have been imprisoned in Yabelo and you

have a record as terrorist". In the same manner, Bedlu reported that his repeated appeals to the Woreda prosecution office finally succeeded in the finding of the above person guilty by the Gelana Woreda Court on June 23, 2011. Bedlu says that he is still being threatened by this cabinet member "I would put you to jail as a terrorist".

HRCO has investigated the matter by going to the Gelana Woreda, Tore town and interviewed the residents. And thus, we were able to understand from these witnesses that Bedlu Mengistu is a peaceful, respectable working person who helps his family and does not have a criminal history before.

Bedlu is a member of a legally registered political party 'Unity for Justice and Democracy' working as a representative in the Woreda and as such has been receiving persistent threats to persuade him to terminate his membership of the party. HRCO's efforts to contact both in person and by phone the Woreda administrative head did not succeed.

This threat has still continued which is a clear indication of the violation of his right to work and freely participate and join a political party.

## **H. Insecurity of Job and Livelihoods**

### **1. Job Insecurity and Livelihood, Maladministration on Communities by Government Officials**

The physical and the economic rights of citizens have equal significance and are guaranteed equal protection by the constitution. Even though the fulfilment of these economic rights is to be attained based on national capacity their protection should be given the same amount of attention and redress.

These economic rights allow citizens to actively participate in the process of policy formulation and practice without regard to gender, political or any other differences thus requiring a favourable and transparent legal and administrative frame work for implementation. The equal enjoyment of the resources of development endeavours is also constitutionally guaranteed.<sup>16</sup>

It is a well-known fact that the construction sector, due to the high amount of finance outlet involved, influences other sectors of development. Hence it requires creating much favourable administrative governance for the creation of jobs and participation in the business and

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<sup>16</sup> FDRE Constitution Article, 41 Sub Article, 3.



economic activities.

Bright Construction Association through its chairman and representative reported to HRCO on February 7, 2008 complaining that the Arbaminch Town Housing Development Project Office infringed upon our contract and committed administrative abuses following the illegal transactions of the administration which caused disagreements. These administrative abuses have been complained upon in detail with evidences claiming that "government officials have abused their power prohibiting us of our payments" and adding that "my right to earn a living has been violated by making me leave the association I am a legal member of".<sup>17</sup>

The representative also said "because of my endeavours to get justice and legal redress I have been a victim of threats and harassments and been forced to leave my family and place of residence."<sup>18</sup>

### **Lack of Accountability**

The report submitted by the representative of Bright Construction Association shows the refusal of payments and the job insecurity that has been created by " the venality of the Arbaminch Town Housing Development Project Office officials being involved in corrupted transactions, swindling documents, engaging with private business people and trying to cover up these by simulating contracts and forcing the company to do the same over threats of losing payments.

Such a stark loss of accountability by public officials disregards the constitutional right of citizens to equal access to publicly funded construction projects and the duty of the state to undertake all measures necessary to increase opportunities for citizens to find gainful employment<sup>19</sup> and also discourages the full fledged active participation in the development of their country.

This disregard of accountability was reported most conspicuously in the findings of an Ad hoc steering Committee formed to resolve the disagreement between the company and the Town administration. The committee was able to indicate that there were incorrect transactions in the process of acquiring of goods and their distribution and these were taking place in a non-transparent manner.<sup>20</sup> Rather than looking into the matter, government bodies, according to the

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<sup>17</sup> Complaint lodged to HRCO December 16, 2010.

<sup>18</sup> Complaint lodged to HRCO December 16, 2010.

<sup>19</sup> FDRE Constitution Article, 41 Sub Article, (3) (7) .

<sup>20</sup> Expert group findings report established to resolve the dispute between the associations and the Arbaminch construction, September 2008.

Bright Construction Association representative, have targeted him and members of the association to different kinds of intimidations.

Temesgen Tamrat the representative of this association says that he has taken the matter to every level of the regional administration including the regional head of administration. Federal authorities have also been approached by Tamrat including the Federal Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission, the office Of Ombudsman, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and others even though he claims that there was no tangible response nor has the situation been resolved. The Gamo Gofa Zone Administration is not responsive to two consecutive letters from the Office of The Ombudsman calling it to explain the matter and give accounts of the transactions that have given rise to the complaints of Bright Construction Association.<sup>21</sup> HRCO denounces such kind of derision of rule of law by administrative officials and calls upon the government to look into the matter to both give the complainants redress and build public confidence by bringing the culprits to justice.

As discussed in detail above, representatives of Bright Construction Association are trying to appear to be looking for possible route for solving the problem, but the loss of resolve on the sort of the concerned government authorities has led to the wrong assumption that they are above the law. Hence the representative of the above mentioned association report that they have become a victim of undue influence.

As reported by Mr.Temesgen the association has been forced to halt its operations and has been denied of his payments. According to the report, of these same officials who denied of payments due to the construction association, and involved in these fraudulent transactions are threatening him thus forcing him to abandon his family and flee his home.

HRCO denounces the activities of Arbaminch Housing Development Project Office. It also calls upon those organisations that have been approached by the complainants including the Federal Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission to take an urgent look into the matter in a transparent manner that would do justice to both the complainants and the wider community by once again building a sense of accountability in the public officials.

Even though the above case concerns only one construction enterprise, it deserves attention from the point of view of human and economic rights and the rule of law. The overall consequence this kind of maladministration will be prejudicial to the fair exercise of the legal rights of citizens and a hindrance to the holding of public officials accountable. Unless a timely redress is given in a transparent and legal manner it will result in the loss of confidence on the

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<sup>21</sup> Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Institution of the Ombudsman letter to Gamo Gofa Zone Administration August 11, 2010.

part of citizens regarding consistency in the execution of public projects.

Thus HRCO calls upon all concerned government bodies to give due attention to the above matter.

## **2. SNNPRS**

In the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNPRS) regional state after issuing a regulation providing for a new code of discipline for public servants in 2002 and circulating it to different units and sectors of the regional administration, one thousand and five hundred employees were dismissed from their jobs. This has destined the employees and their families to great misery and some of the children of these people were forced to live on the streets. Because their appeals to the regional administration were not headed to they took their case to the regional administration president, the Prime Minister, and the Office of the Ombudsman. Finally on July 8, 2007 it was publicly announced that they can be re-employed but with the proviso that they have no prior criminal conviction. Some of them have also been required to write a letter stating that they were dismissed from their jobs because of faults of their own and sought forgiveness; such persons were put back to their jobs. The reinstated employees did not get back payments for the two years they were illegally suspended from their jobs.

The FDRE constitution and international human right conventions to which Ethiopia is a signatory provide that the state shall undertake all measures necessary to increase opportunities for citizens to find gainful employment and their right of citizens to bargain with their employers.

## **3. Demelash Dagnev Tamire**

Demelash Tamire, a young man of 26, is a graduate of Hawassa University and completed his studies in Bachelor of Laws in 2007.E.C. After his graduation he was recruited on February 28, 2008 for a training of prospective prosecutors and judges as a candidate judge offered under the auspices of the Amhara Regional State Supreme Court on a monthly salary of 1500Birr. He reported to HRCO that on December 15, 2008 he was dismissed from the training for an alleged "overriding of the training centre's rules". Demelash has reported that he was prevented from being employed in any institution, government or private organization since then. He also

reported that government agents have come to his neighbourhood inquiring about his day to day activities and putting him under surveillance. One day in October at 5:30pm, two people in civilian clothes came to his house and told him that they have an order to search his house. After doing so they took him with his note book to police station '1' detaining him for half a day. Then after, he reported that he was detained in a military camp known as Mekod for two days and taken back to the police station he was first detained in.

On his release Dagneu reported he was told that if he talks of this to anyone he would face imprisonment. Because of this Demelash said he was forced to take refuge in his sister's home in the countryside for a week.

The FDRE constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provide that everyone has the right to liberty and security of person and no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with personal privacy, family, home, or correspondence.

#### **4. Tensay Tehone Alemu**

Tensay Tehone is a resident of Addis Ababa, Akaki Kality Sub City Zone 6, Woreda 26, Kebele 04 and a member of the All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP). He has been working in the Akaki Steel Factory since 1977. On January 8, 1998 he was transferred to another department to work as a foreman of heavy machineries. But then he was notified of his demotion from salary scale 8 to 7 on May 19, 2000. Tensay had an accident at work for which he received treatment for seventeen days in the Black Lion Hospital. The hospital has prescribed that Tensay should not be working on laborious activities due to a diagnosed heart problem. The factory has not adhered to this prescription and assigned Tensay to an assignment not fitting his health condition.

On the other hand Endeshaw Mamuh and his wife Aberu Yitayih were engaged in steel industry investment but in 2006 the government dispossessed them of their land without providing a substitute plot. Because of this they reported to HRCO that they have sustained enormous financial damage because of having to suspend work for a year and paying rent for store keeping of their machinery. They also reported that they took their case to court, to the regional and sub city administrations but to no avail.

To work in a safe and healthy environment and to have equal opportunity of promotion in one's employment are embedded in the international convention on economic, social and cultural rights. It is also everyone's right to bring a justifiable matter to, and to obtain a decision or judgement by, a court of law or any other competent body.

## **5. SNNPRS, Kenbata Tenbaro Zone, Teachers**

In the Southern Nations and Nationalities Regional State, sixteen teachers working in different Woredas of the region were permitted to make a transfer to the town of Durame for accepted reasons of social, health and marriage issues commencing June 24, 2011. But they reported to HRCO that after they completed and handed over materials to their former offices, the zonal education bureau has banned their legally obtained transfers telling them the transfer was illegal. Among these teachers four of them were able to be assigned to their post while the rest twelve have not yet been given a response. These teachers waiting for reassignment include Mr.Derebe Yohannes, Mr.Zewde Desta, Mr.Tilahun Abebo, Mr.Amanuel Petros, Mr.Kifle Lodamo, Mr.Teketel Lopso, Ms.Meselech Begigo, Ms.Simiret Kebede, Ms.Tenaye Demeke. They reported that they were told to go back to their former posts even though the latter office has responded “we have used your budgets to hire others since you have already been transferred and left your posts”. The teachers complained that some of them have not been paid their salary for five months leaving them and their families in a precarious condition.

The appeals of the complainants to the concerned authorities ,i.e. the regional administration, the civil service, the Teachers' Association, have not solved their problem and orders by the regional civil service for their reassignment and repayment of their salary has not been adhered to by the Durame Woreda administration up until this report was prepared.

The teachers have reported that they live in fear because of the threats that have been made on them by Woreda officials because of their endeavours to make their problems heard by the regional authorities.

### **I. Denial of Justice**

#### **1. Yared Tekle**

According to The United Nations Basic Principles of Justice For Victims Of Crimes and Abuse Of Power, "Victims" means persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws and it provides that victims include where appropriate, the immediate family or dependants of the

direct victim.<sup>22</sup> This same declaration provides that victims should be treated with compassion and respect for their dignity. They are entitled to access to the mechanisms of justice and to prompt redress, as provided for by national legislation.<sup>23</sup>

The complainant, Yared Tekle reported that his son Tewodros Yared who was a student of Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Architecture was found dead in a river for reasons not known while he went with his fellow students for a recreational trip. Mr.Yared added that his endeavours to follow up into the death of his son have been met with undue harassment.

It is the duty of the police as such provided in the law that investigating police officers shall carry out their duties notwithstanding that they are of the opinion that the accusation, complaint, or information they receive is open to doubt.<sup>24</sup> Nevertheless despite all the clues and evidences indicating the murder of his son, for example the broken door of the hotel room where Tewodros stayed during the vacation, witnesses, the phone call by Tewodros on July 15, 2011 to his mother describing his fears in a tone of anxiety. His father reported that the police have failed to gather evidences timely and initiate investigations.

The father of the deceased, Yared Tekle, also complained that during the time when the dead body of Tewodros was being pulled out of the river his request for the assignment of an investigating police officer to gather evidence was not adhered to and rather a traffic police officer with no direct relevance with the matter was sent to the sight.

Until the writing of this report Yared Tekle was in the process of making applications to the Federal Police Commission and the Oromia Regional Police Commission requesting the start of investigations of the death of his son, Tewodros Yared.

## **2. Birtukan Gebru**

Birtukan Gebru, a three year old girl, was run over by a car registered under the name of the Benishangul Regional Administrative Council with plate number Code 4-08567 and left her dead. The car was accompanying other cars when it veered out of the main road and hit the girl in a horrific manner and run away without reporting the accident. The father of the dead girl reported the case to the West Gojam Zone Mecha Woreda Police Bureau from where orders

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<sup>22</sup> The United Nations Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice For Victims Of Crimes and Abuse Of Power, A/RES/30/44/1985; Article (1) (2)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, Article 4.

<sup>24</sup> Ethiopian Criminal Procedure Code, Article 23.

were made to the Dangla and Kosober police stations to stop the car. Accordingly the Dangla police tried to stop the car but the driver refused to do so driving in the direction of the town of Pawe. After that the girl's father Mr. Gebre Sinte has continued his efforts to ensure that bring the culprits to justice.

The girl died immediately on her arrival to hospital. The medical evidence indicates that she died because her body was squashed severely. It was reported later that the person suspected of causing the death of the girl, is a member of The Benishangul Regional Council. According to the information we received the person is going to be brought to justice once his immunity of not being accused is lifted and such process has been initiated even though the end result has not yet been confirmed.

## **J. Enforced Disappearance**

Getnet Habtemichael, a resident of the Amhara Region, Gondar Town, is a business man of thirty years old. As an active member of a political party, 'Coalition For Unity And Democracy' /CUD/ in the town he was frequently imprisoned and put under surveillance. He was thus forced to move on July 12, 2011 to Adiss Ababa Gulele Sub City Woreda 3 Kebele 04 where his uncle Tesfa Tegegn lives.

On July 21, 2011 approximately at 8.am he left his uncle's home but did not return. His family has made searches for Getnet in different hospitals and prisons and notified the police but all their attempts did not succeed. And up until the writing of this report the family has reported that the whereabouts of Getnet is not known.

The Ethiopian constitution as well as international conventions to which Ethiopia is a party guarantee that no person shall be deprived of his or her liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law.<sup>25</sup> Despite this, Getnet Habtemichael, before his disappearance has frequently been illegally detained and put under surveillance and intimidated according to the complaint lodged by his family to HRCO.

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<sup>25</sup> FDRE Constitution Article 17, Sub Article 1; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9, Sub Article 1.

## **K. Suppression of the Right of Self Determination**

### **Human Rights Violations in the SNNPRS Region *Gurage* Zone Following Requests for Partial Self Determination**

Members of the Kontoma community in the SNNPRS Region, Gurage Zone, Mareko Woreda have faced different forms of human right violations following their protracted campaign of more than two decades for the realization of their constitutional right to self rule.

Even though these violations committed against the Kontoma Community have been thoroughly described in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regular Report and the 114<sup>th</sup> Special Report, on September 2009 and February 2011 respectively, of HRCO calling for the amicable resolution of this state of affairs, the problem still persists and have worsened because of the unresponsiveness and continued silence of the concerned administrative bodies. Members of this community have complained to HRCO even after the publication of the 114<sup>th</sup> Special Report of HRCO administrative injustice, destruction of properties, denial of public education, razing of homes, and illegal dismissal from jobs has continued on aggravated proportions.

Hence, HRCO calls once again all concerned authorities for the speedy resolution of the matter aiming towards the ending of the above persecutions transgressing the administrative, legal and human rights of these people before the situation escalates into a deeper catastrophe.

## **Conclusion**

The situation of human rights in Ethiopia as depicted in this report indicates the need for intervention and attention. This report has covered a wide range of human rights violations i.e. one case of extra judicial killing, five illegal evictions, i.e. one violation against freedom of expression, one violation against the right of liberty, eighteen illegal Detentions, one torture, eight cases of inhuman treatment, five cases of insecurity of jobs and livelihoods, two cases of denial of justice, one case of suppression of the right to self-determination.

During the preparation of the report it has been realized that the curtailment of the freedom of expression is on the rise as a direct result of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation. Similarly, illegal detention, beatings and threats to peaceful existence has intensified. Especially the illegal detention of political party leaders and journalists and their incarceration in unknown places for a long period are frequent cases reported to HRCO.



Another major complaint is related to the expropriation of land without replacement plots or adequate compensation which is guaranteed by the Ethiopian constitution.

## **Recommendations**

HRCO requests the Government of Ethiopia to respect human rights and liberty of citizens and the rule of law;

It also calls up on all concerned Government bodies to:

- Uphold the rights under the Ethiopian constitution and international human rights law;
- Ensure that persons who have had their properties confiscated illegally are recompensed or provided with a replacement plot in line with the Ethiopian law;
- Amend or repeal all laws that infringe on the rights of freedom of expression and association including the Charities and Societies Proclamation, and the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to bring them into line with international human rights law;
- Discipline or prosecute as appropriate all government officials, regardless of position, implicated in human rights violations;
- Take measures towards the better protection of people in custody in their right to get visits in accordance with the constitution and get a timely justice.

Finally, the Human Rights Council would like to call upon national and international organizations committed to the respect of human rights to write or telephone the state bodies listed below compelling them to take the necessary legal and institutional measures to ensure the respect for human rights.

- To the office of the Speaker of the House of Peoples Representatives:  
P.O. Box: 80001 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tel: (+251) 011 124-1000; Fax: (+251) 011 155-0400;  
Email: [national.parliament@telecom.net.et](mailto:national.parliament@telecom.net.et)
- To the office of the Speaker of the House of Federation: P.O. Box: 20122 / 1000 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tel: (+251) 011 122-3322; Fax: (+251) 011 124-1208 / 011 124-2308; Email: [kumashih@gmail.com](mailto:kumashih@gmail.com)
- To the Office of the President: P.O. Box: 23698 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Tel: (+251) 011 551-8186; Fax: (+251) 011 551-8656

- To the office of the Prime Minister: P.O. Box: 1031 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;  
Tel: (+251) 011 124-1155; Fax: (+251) 011 122-6292
- To the Office of Ministry of Justice: P.O. Box: 1370 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;  
Tel: (+251) 011 551-3620; Fax: (+251) 011 551-7775; Email: [justabr@ethionet.et](mailto:justabr@ethionet.et)
- To the office of the Commissioner of the Federal Police Commission of the F.D.R.E: P.O. Box: 199 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tel: (+251) 011 551-2744
- **To the Institution of the Ombudsman:** P.O. Box: 2459 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tel: (+251) 011 554-3336; Fax: (+251) 011 553-2073;

Email: [ombudsmaneth@ethionet.et](mailto:ombudsmaneth@ethionet.et)

- **To the Human Rights Commission of the F.D.R.E.:** P.O. Box: 1165 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;  
Tel: (+251) 011 550-4031; Fax: (+251) 011 550-4125;

Email: [hrcm@ethionet.et](mailto:hrcm@ethionet.et)

- **To the Ministry of Federal Affairs of the F.D.R.E.:** P. O. Box: 5608 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;  
Tel: (+251) 011 515-3204; Fax: (+251) 011 551-1200;

Email: [mofatr1@yahoo.com](mailto:mofatr1@yahoo.com)

- **To the Federal Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission of the F.D.R.E.:** P.O. Box: 34798/34799; Tel: (+251) 011 553-6991; Fax: (+251) 011 552-9100

Email: [feacedum@ethionet.et](mailto:feacedum@ethionet.et)

- **To the office of the Speaker of the Council of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State:** P.O. Box: 1546 Hawassa, Ethiopia; Tel: (+251) 046 221-4778 / 046 220-5848; Fax: (+251) 046 220-2408

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

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**HRCO has an observer status with 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.**

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