



የኢትዮጵያ ሰብአዊ መብቶች ጉባኤ ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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

Worsening situation of ethnic clashes needs due attention 110th Special Report

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Introduction

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Ethiopia has endorsed, provides that everyone has the right to life. Article 6(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Ethiopia is a party, states that every one has a natural right to life. Likewise, Article 14 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) states that everyone has the inviolable and inalienable right to life, the security of person and liberty.

Nevertheless, these fundamental rights and freedoms are being violated due to various reasons. In his regard, conflicts among members of various ethnic groups that flare up in different parts of the country are becoming a major cause of human rights violation. Violent ethnic clashes that occurred in different parts of the country just this Ethiopian year have claimed the lives many people and caused damages to property.

In this 110th Special Report, the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) presents its findings on the human violations that occurred as a result of the violent clashes that flared up between members of the Oromo and Gumuz ethnic groups that inhabit neighboring villages in Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz Regional States. The cause of the conflict was reported to be a long-standing claim over farmlands between members of the two ethnic groups. This report covers the human rights violations documented as result of the investigation EHRCO conducted in areas within the Oromia region. EHRCO could not conduct investigations in the areas within the Benishangul Gumuz Region for the time being as the security situation has not allowed it to do so immediately after the clashes flared up.

Details

Members of the Oromo, Gumuz, Amhara and other ethnic groups live in the bordering kebeles of Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regional states. There

have been clashes in the past particularly between members of the Oromo and Gumuz ethnic groups over claims to farmlands. As the cause of the clashes has not been addressed adequately, the clashes turned violent and caused the loss of lives and damages to property.

The conflict occurred starting on May 17, 2008 in the Anger locality in a place called Haro Wata (Arategna), Amestegna, Sementegna, Zetenegna and Asereгна villages in Sasiga wereda, East Wollega zone of the Oromia regional state between members of the Oromo and Gumuz ethnic groups. Survivors of the conflict told EHRCO that more than hundred people were brutally killed and injured and thousands were displaced from their homes. Local transportation services were disrupted for security reasons by the time this report was being compiled. As a result, EHRCO investigators could not get access to all the areas affected by the conflict. The information in the following tables were documented based on interviews conducted with local authorities, survivors of the conflict who are receiving medical treatment in Nekemt Hospital and persons who fled their homes and sought refuge in Nekemt and neighboring towns.

1. Details of persons killed during clashes in the Anger Arategna, amestegna and Sementegna villages

No.	Name	Age	Details
1	Tesfaye Kenea	45	Killed with a gunshot
2	Wagari Deti	30	" "
3	Jida Dengea	-	" "
4	Bole Waqtole	45	Stabbed to death
5	Fikafdu Olkeba	-	Killed with a gunshot
6	Lemma Oli	60	" "
7	Selbana Geleta	60	" "
8	Kebede Solbana	-	Killed with a gunshot (son of Selbana, No. 7 above)
9	Zelalem Saketa	-	Killed with a gunshot
10	Olane Ejeta	-	" "
11	Feyissa Wodajo	70	" "
12	Kedir Yayu	-	" "
13	Terefe Negari	70	" "
14	Baby Abdi Mesfin	11	" "
15	Temesgen Olfada	47	" "
16	Kebede Duferra	-	" "
17	Tesfu Awido	-	" "
18	Tadele Geleta	38	" "
19	Dengele Tula	-	" "
20	Girma Kinate	-	" "
21	Ebisa Kinate	-	" " (Brother of Girma, No. 20 above)
22	Birhanu Darghe	40	Killed with gunshots along with six of his family

23	Tadesse Dirbessa	-	Killed with a gunshot
24	Kumera Duressa	-	" "
25	Darghe Shiferaw	55	" "
26	Fikadu Selbana	35	" "
27	Samuel Temesgen	20	Killed with a gunshot (son of Temesgen, No. 15 above)
28	Fello Bulti	-	Killed with a gunshot
29	Fekadu Ateyana	-	Shot dead, and his body burnt in his house
30	Efa Asefa	17	Killed with a gunshot
31	Abush Seboka	-	" "
32	Amsalu Gebeyehu	-	" "
33	Tesfaye Asres	60	" "
34	Sintayehu Mitiku	20	" "
35	W/ro Bedri Jemal	35	" "
36	Asmere Chikul	50	" "
37	Eskebo Gameda	-	" "
38	Selomon Wana	-	" "
39	Hailu Metaferia	67	" "
40	Tadesse Dirbessa	60	" "
41	Tsega Tura	70	Stabbed to death
42	Bulcha Daba	50	Killed with a gunshot
43	Erena Jisha	80	" "
44	Kebede Geleta	-	Shot dead by a bullet (a brother of Ato Selbana, No. 7 above)
45	Priest Menberu Getinet	-	Killed and his boy was mutilated (A resident in 'Kenaf', he was a priest in 'Medhanialem' Church)
46	Getahun Wolde	40	A resident at Bello, killed with a gunshot

2. Residents of the Anger Arategna, Amestegna and Sementegna villages who are receiving medical treatment in Nekemt Hospital after sustaining bodily injuries during the clashes

No.	Name	Age	Details
1	Dereje Fekadu	32	Wounded by a bullet on his left hand
2	Adem Mohammad	35	Stabbed with a spear on his left ankle
3	Lemma Molla	-	Shot by a bullet on his chest
4	Melaku Birra	-	Wounded by a bullet
5	Adamu Amene	45	Shot by a bullet on his back
6	Samuel Tessisa	52	Wounded by a bullet on his right hand
7	MitiKu Adaho	-	Wounded by a bullet
8	W/ro Workinesh Fikadu	19	Wounded by a bullet on her thigh
9	Tolina Abdissa	35	Shot by bullets on his chest and back
10	Debela Oumeta	17	Wounded by a bullet on his abdomen
11	Getachew Birhanu	-	Wounded by a bullet on his right hand
12	Abdissa Mekonnen	50	Wounded by a bullet on his left hand
13	Maregu Oulfina	-	Wounded by a bullet

14	Birhanu Werfina	-	
15	Birhanu Desissa	40	Wounded on his right hand in a grenade attack
16	Daniel Daba	60	Seriously wounded by bullets on his face, neck and chest
17	Mohammod Ali	32	Wounded by a bullet on his right leg
18	W/rt Mitike Tilahun	-	Wounded by a bullet on her back
19	Toleni Belina	-	Wounded by a bullet on his chest
20	BabyAbreham Melese	13	Stabbed on his left leg with a spear
21	Abreham Tujuba	-	Wounded by bullets on his neck and abdomen
22	Mitiku Mengesha	-	Wounded by a bullet on his back
23	Gemechu Aga	-	Wounded by a bullet on his chest
24	Jemala Biftu	-	Wounded by a bullet on his vertebrae
25	Musa Oumer	-	He is a Sudanese national. he was stabbed on his head at the Nekemt town bus terminal while he was traveling to 'Sherkole' refugee camp.

Conclusion

As pointed out above, incidents of the human rights violations incorporated in this report are only those documented based on information obtained mainly from survivors of the conflict. Information reaching EHRCO evidently point to the fact that the actual human and material casualties could be much more than this.

- EHRCO expresses its deep sorrow over the death and injury of people caused as a result of the conflict and reiterates its appeal to the government to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice and also urges it to take its responsibility of protecting the lives and property of citizens seriously.
- EHRCO also urges all concerned particularly the government to provide emergency assistance to citizens who have been displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict.
- 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 reiterates its appeal to the government to investigate the causes of the recurring conflicts between members of the two ethnic groups and make sure that the conflicts would not

happen again by addressing the real causes of the conflicts and by holding all responsible to account.

In addition, EHRCO urges citizens, national and international organizations, representatives of government and international organizations 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, to extend adequate protection to citizens' rights to life, security and property and to foster the culture of resolving disputes only through legal means.

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