

Human Rights Council - HRCO



142nd Special Report (Executive Summary)

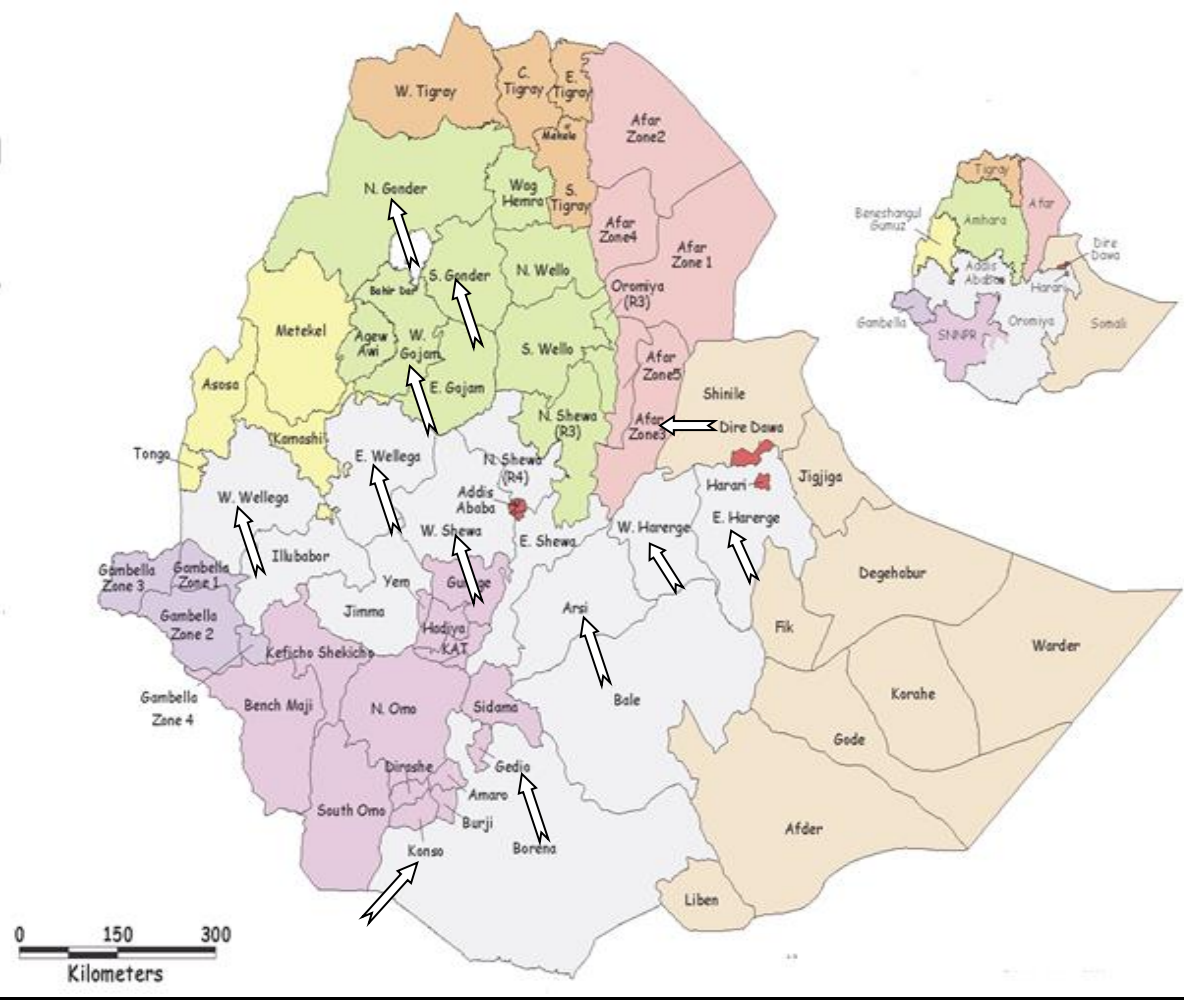
Human Rights Violations committed
during the State of Emergency in Ethiopia




**Put an end to Human Rights Violations Committed During the
State of Emergency!!**

May 28, 2017
Addis Ababa

Map of Ethiopia - Human Rights Violation Sites



 Places where the human rights violation were committed

1. Introduction

The Human Rights Council (HRCO) was initially established as “Ethiopian Human Rights Council” (EHRCO) on October 10, 1991, in accordance with the Transitional Period Charter and the Ethiopian Civil Code. Following the issuance of Proclamation No. 621/2009, it was registered under the name of **Human Rights Council** as an “Ethiopian Charity” and has since been legally undertaking its human rights monitoring and advocacy activities. The HRCO is a membership-based, independent, non-partisan, non-profit organisation that has no affiliation to any political party, religious institution, ethnic group, or social class. Its sole objectives are the defense of human rights, and the promotion of democracy and rule of law.

In line with these objectives, the HRCO has been closely monitoring the human rights violations in Ethiopia following the declaration of State of Emergency on 08 October 2017. It is to be recalled that HRCO investigated and reported on human rights violations committed in Oromia Regional State in connection with protests against the newly proposed integrated master plan for Addis Ababa and the surrounding towns in Oromia Region (See the 140th Special Report). HRCO has also investigated human rights violations perpetrated in connection with the Wolqayt people’s identity question and issued its findings in the 141st Special Report in May 2016. The protest which was initially started in support of the Wolqayit question in Gondar grew to a widespread public movement in July 2016, taking up broader agendas of democracy, good governance and rule of law in most of the Amhara region, especially in the different zones of Gondar and Gojjam. At the same time, the period saw resurgence of the protests in Oromia, covering the entire region. As a result the public protests in Amhara and Oromia regions reached a critical stage in July and August 2016. Moreover, the loss of life and injury at the Ereecha cultural festival in September 2016 created huge public anger and discontent in Oromia region, following which the Government of Ethiopia declared state of Emergency on October 08, 2017.

2. Brief Review of the Declaration and Directives on the State of Emergency

The Declaration by the Council of Ministers on October 08, 2016 stated that a national State of Emergency has been proclaimed in the entire country for 6 months because it was found difficult to enforce law and order using the regular law enforcement structure, and established a Command Post mainly composed of the military, police and security forces and led by the Prime Minister. The Command post is given broad powers to issue directives as necessary, including suspending human rights guaranteed in the Constitution except freedom from torture, equality before the law and the right to self determination. Accordingly, the Command Post issued a directive which has provisions that limit freedom of movement, freedom of expression, assembly and demonstration, right of accused persons to be brought to court within 48 hours, right to liberty and property. Among the acts prohibited under the Directive are communications that are likely to create resentment and suspicion among people, communication with groups which are labeled anti peace by the Directive, watching, displaying or reporting TV and radio programs of allegedly terrorist organizations, preventing private and public institutions from giving public services, rioting in educational and sports establishments, disruption of movement of vehicles and pedestrians, refusal to comply with orders of security officers; committing any act which is likely to hamper national unity, tolerance, sovereignty or the constitutional order; communication with foreign governments and NGOs which are “likely to jeopardize the country’s sovereignty, national security or constitutional order”. The Command Post is also given broad powers to arrest and detain suspects without court warrant, conduct searches without warrant, control and limit messages broadcasted on radio, TV, films, theatre or any other publications.

The analysis conducted by HRCO on the text of the State of Emergency Directive shows that:

- The Directive is intended to be applied retroactively and detain people for their participation in the protests which took place long before the State of Emergency is issued. In fact, most of the people detained during the state of Emergency were incarcerated for their involvement in the protests before the issuance of the Directive. This is a violation of the non-retroactivity principle.
- The Directive allows security forces to take actions “necessary to defend themselves.” As such action can include killings, it is apparent that the Directive imposes restrictions on the

enjoyment of the right to life, in violation of Article 14(2) of the ICCPR which stipulates that the right to life is not derogable even during State of Emergency.

- The Directive consists of provisions which are vague and prone to subjective interpretation, some of them affecting the work of human rights organizations such as HRCO. These include:
 - Prohibition of communications which are 'likely to cause disturbance, suspicion and resentment (Article 1 of the Directive): this provision imposes restrictions not based on the objectives or effects of communications, but on a guess on what the publications/communications might cause, thereby allowing law enforcement or security officers to detain persons for publications, online or offline, which they think might cause suspicion or disturbance. This has in effect instilled self censorship among citizens, who are finding it difficult to freely express their views on public issues as they are not sure how their statements could be interpreted/viewed by the security forces. Organizations like HRCO also found it difficult to freely issue publications and communications during this period, lest they might be subject to actions for reprisal for alleged violation of this provision, despite the fact that such communications are on human rights issues which are lawful.
 - The prohibition on holding outdoor meetings without the approval of the command post: (Article 3 of the Directive): Although this provision seemed to require the permission of the Command post only for public rallies and other outdoor meetings, it was interpreted by security officers to mean that any indoor meetings also require such permission. A case in point was the action of the security forces to interrupt the fund raising lunch organized by HRCO in October 2017 on the ground that HRCO did not get the permission of the Command Post, although the event was not even a meeting and was an indoor lunch program that did not technically require such permission.
 - The prohibition of communication with foreign governments and NGOs which are 'likely to undermine the country's security, sovereignty or the constitutional order': like the other provisions, this provision imposed a very vague and subjective restriction which impedes communications with fellow human rights organizations, foreign governments and others. Whether such a communication is 'likely to undermine the sovereignty or security of the country' is left to the subjective interpretation of a given security or law enforcement officer. As a result HRCO had found it very risky to freely communicate with foreign government delegations and embassies, as it was not clear how such communication would be perceived by the Command post despite the fact that HRCO is a lawfully established organization which has the mandate to conduct investigations on human rights violations and communicate its findings to the public, including foreign delegations and others.
 - Following the interruption of its fund raising program by security forces, HRCO submitted to the Command Post a request for clarification on the above provisions. To date, HRCO has not received any response on the matter.
- The State of Emergency was declared throughout the country, despite the fact that the protests were limited to Oromia and Amhara (and later some parts of the Southern region). The application of the State of Emergency Declaration in regions and places where there were no protests has no justification in fact or in law and constitutes unwarranted restriction of the exercise of civil liberties in these regions.
- The Declaration of State of Emergency has set up an Inquiry Board which was tasked with investigating allegations of human rights violations during the State of Emergency and holding the perpetrators accountable. However, the findings of HRCO show that the Inquiry Board has not done enough to investigate human rights violations and bring the violators to justice. Although the Declaration states that the Board will make its findings public periodically, the Board has not done that to date. The Board also failed to respond to HRCO's request for information on human rights violations during the State of Emergency.

3. Objectives and Methodology of the Investigation

HRCO has conducted field investigations regarding human rights violations committed during the public protests in Amhara and Oromia regions before and after the issuance of the State of Emergency Declaration. The purpose of this report is to call on the Government to stop

commission of human rights violations during the State of Emergency, redress victims of violations and take measures to prevent further violations. HRCO faced tremendous challenges to investigate human rights violations committed during the State of Emergency due to the pervasive fear created by the Declaration and the subsequent directives, as well as the negative perceptions on the part of security officials. The Report also seeks to urge the Government to create a conducive and enabling environment, support and recognition for HRCO to enable it to conduct an extensive investigation on the cause, nature and type of violations. HRCO would also like to call upon the Ethiopian Government to allow the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the UN High Commissioner's Office for Human Rights and other international human rights institutions to conduct an independent and neutral investigation on these violations. In the end, the goal of all these endeavors is to hold the perpetrators of the violations accountable, give adequate redress and psycho-social support to the victims, and take the necessary policy and legal measures to ensure that similar violations do not happen in the future.

3.1. Scope of the Investigation:

This report focuses on human rights violations committed in Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regions from October 08, 2017 (the date of issue of the State of Emergency Declaration) to end of May 2017. The bulk of the field investigation for this report was carried out by HRCO in February-March 2017, although follow up investigations and visits were conducted in May 2017. HRCO has conducted separate field investigations on human rights violations committed from March 2016 to end of September 2016 in Oromia, as well as violations in Amhara from May 2016 to end of September 2016. HRCO has also carried out separate investigations on human rights violations in the Southern Region, especially in Konso and Gedeo zones. The findings of these investigations will be issued subsequently.

The following table shows the regions, zones and districts (woredas) covered by HRCO's investigation during the State of Emergency.

	Region	Zone	Woreda		Region	Zone	Woreda
1	Oromia	1.1. Eastern Haraghe	1.1.1 Deder 1.1.2 Meta	2	Amhara	Awii Zone	Dangla
		1.2. Western Haraghe	1.2.1. Chiro 1.2.2. Asebot 1.2.3. Mieso			Western Gojjam	2.2.1 Bure 2.2.2 Jabi Tehnan 2.2.3. Bahir Dar Zuria (Tis Abbay)
		1.3 Eastern Wollega	Gudeya Billa			2.3. North Gondar	2.3.1. Gondar
		1.4 Western Wollega	1.4.1 Nejo 1.4.2 Bila 1.4.3 Worejiru 1.4.4 Boji 1.4.5 Yubdo 1.4.6 Begi			2.4. South Gondar	2.4.1. Debre Tabor
		1.5 Qellem Wollega	1.5.1 Neshgo 1.5.2 Embilta & Semaro 1.5.3 Tabo	3	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples	3.1. Segen Peoples	3.1.1. Konso Derashe
		1.6 Horo Gudru Wollega	Gudru Feye			3.2. Kembata Tembaro	3.2.1. Tembaro Woreda
		1.7 Western Arsi	Asasa	4	Addis Ababa Administration	Yeka, Bole, Kirkos, Arada, Akaki Kality, Lideta, Kolfe Qeranio, Nefas Silk Lafto and Addis Ketema sub cities	
		1.8 Arsi	Shirka				
		1.9 East Shoa	1.8.1. Batu 1.8.2. Bishoftu				
		1.10 West Shoa	1.10.1 Jeldu 1.10.2 Ambo 1.10.3 Gedo 1.10.4 Guder				

3.2. Data Sources and Investigation Methods

The main sources of information were families of violation victims, eye witnesses, and residents of the places of violation, as well as information from Government authorities whenever possible.

The main methods of investigation were collecting and analysing documents, on site collection of field data using audio-visual equipment from places of violation, interview of victims and witnesses, group discussions with relevant citizens and bodies. The 142nd Special Report is hence based on the data gathered through these means and direct observation of the damages inflicted.

3.3 Challenges encountered during the Investigation

- Chronic shortage of financial and human resources, as well as relevant investigation equipment;
- Pervasive state of fear and self censorship on the part of victims, families and witnesses due to the State of Emergency, which made it difficult to get their cooperation as desired;
- Lack of support and cooperation from Government authorities. The number of detainees stated in this report is very high. We requested the Addis Ababa Police commission and the Federal Prisons Administration to allow our investigators to visit the police stations and prisons in order to further verify the information we obtained about these detainees. However, we did not get any positive response. HRCO has also requested in writing several opposition parties to provide information on the status of their leaders, supporters and members who were arrested in connection with the protests. Most of the parties did not respond to this request. Even though very late, those who responded include the All Ethiopian Unity Party, the Blue Party and the Oromo Federalist Congress. Even then, it was not possible to further verify the information from the parties as HRCO was not granted access to the prisons or get further information from the Government Authorities on the matter. HRCO has therefore been compelled to publish the information from the parties, victims and complainants as it is. In April 2017, HRCO asked in writing the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to get a copy of the report presented by the Commission to the House of Peoples Representatives (Federal Parliament). The response it got from the Commission was that the report will only be available in print in late June 2017. HRCO would like to take this opportunity to urge government authorities to avail the necessary cooperation for further and deeper investigation into these violations.

4. Human Rights Violations During the State of Emergency

Concerned with the widespread and ever increasing public protests in the country, the Council of Ministers of the Ethiopian government has issued the State of Emergency Declaration No. 1/2016 on October 08, 2017. And citizens have been subjected to extrajudicial killing, beating and injuries, and incarcerated in prisons and temporary detention centers as well as forced disappearance.

4.1. Extrajudicial Killings:

The following citizens were killed by defence and security forces after the State of Emergency was declared in Ethiopia.

No	Victim's name	Age	Address	Date of Killing	Remarks
1	Degefu Shiferaw	29	Western Wollega Zone, Lalo wonji Woreda	October 09, 2016	Shot by members of defence forces near his house.
2	Megersa Bedlu	28	Qellem Wollega, Siye Woreda	October 08, 2016	Killed by members of the defence forces
3	Nigatu Emiru	26	Western Wollega zone, Lalo Wonj woreda	October 08, 2016	Killed by membrs of the defence forces. Witnesses told HRCO that the killing is related to the protest demonstrations following the Ereecha crisis
4	Getu Tamiru	33	Western Wollega Zone, Lalo Wonj Woreda	October 08, 2016	Killed by membrs of the defence forces. Witnesses told HRCO that the killing is related to the protest demonstrations following the Ereecha crisis
5	Ifa Dengeta	19	Qellem Wollega Zone, Dombi Dolo town, Tabor locality	October 12, 2016	Killed by defence forces while walking on the street with his friends

No	Victim's name	Age	Address	Date of Killing	Remarks
6	Leta Likasa	30	Qellem Wollega zone, Dembi Dollo town	October 28, 2016	Killed by members of the defence forces
7	Konisa Likasa	26	Qellem Wollega Zone, Dombi Dollo town, Ido Kebele	October 28, 2016	Killed by security forces
8	Ebisa Beketa	30	Eastern Wollega, Diga Woreda, Arjo Gudetu town	26 October 2016	Killed by defence force members
9	Dereje Tesfaye	18	Qellem Wollega, Dombi Dollo Siye woreda, Tabor locality	17 October 2016	Shot by security forces at the gate of his home on 12 October 2016, died in hospital on 17 October 2016.
10	Dessalegn Gari	28	Western Wollega, Boji Woreda,	05 November 2016	Was expressing his views at a meeting of civil servants on November 04, 2016. Police broke into his house, took him to the police station & beat him to death.
11	Maeregu Jemalo	25	Arsi Zone, Shirka Woreda Gobesa 01 locality	10 October 2016	Soldiers broke into his house, took out the victim and his two brothers, and shot them all at the gate of their house.
12	Abdisa Jemalo	18	Arsi Zone, Shirka Woreda Gobesa 01 locality	10 October 2016	Soldiers broke into his house, took out the victim and his two brothers, and shot them all at the gate of their house.
13	Tola Jemalo	22	Arsi Zone, Shirka Woreda Gobesa 01 locality	10 October 2016	Soldiers broke into his house, took out the victim and his two brothers, and shot them all at the gate of their house. The mother of the three victims got sick after watching the killings and their sister has become mentally ill.
14	Hammed Beyaho	23	Arsi Zone, Shirka Woreda, Sore Ferenqesa locality	October 10, 2016	Killed by defence forces.
15	Boja (Mekonnen Bekele)		Eatern wolega, Diga Woreda, Gemechisa locality	April 15, 2017	Was killed by unidentified gunman in suspicious circumstances. The police showed his sister his pictures, and hastily buried his body on April 14, 2017. Police were reluctant to pursue investagion into the killing.
16	Kasata Gnoke (Teacher and a father of three)	32	SNNPRS, Konso Woreda, Mechelo locality	December 15, 2016	Shot and killed by a member of the defence forces. Soldiers threw his body on the steet near an elementary school
17	Aylano Gidaya (A father of 8)	55	SNNPR, Konso Woreda, Mechelo locality	December 6, 2016.	He was shot in his house by the security forces. He was the uncle of the Gnoke Gidaya (victim No. 16).
18	Sergeant Gameda Roba (Father of 10)	49	SNNPR, Konso woreda, Karat locality	October 22, 2016	He was formerly a member of the Konso Woreda police force. He went into farming. He was shot by a police officer on his farm.
19	Mikru Chekol	64	Amhara region, Western Gojjam Zone, Bahir Dar zuria woreda, Tis Abay locality	November 1, 2016	Shot by security forces on the head and his waist on the pretext that he participated in a protest demonstration. He was the breadwinner of his family, who are now displaced.

4.2. Detentions

Article 17(2) of the Ethiopian Constitution, and Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UDHR stipulate that any person shall not be arrested except on grounds provided by the law, and shall not be detained except under prosecution or following conviction. Similarly, Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights guarantee the right of persons to liberty and physical integrity, adding that no one shall be arbitrarily apprehended or imprisoned. Ethiopia is a signatory to the Charter and the Covenant and has an obligation to enforce the rights guaranteed by them. HRCO's investigation showed that tens of thousands of citizens have been detained in regular prisons and in peasant association halls, teachers colleges, technical and vocational training centers, and military camps in a manner which is hazardous to their health and safety. The following table shows the findings of this investigation, conducted under very repressive political atmosphere and with limited capacity.

Table 1: Citizens Detained under the First Round of Detention from October 9 to December 20, 2016¹

No.	No. of Detainees	Identity/Locality of Detainees	Duration of Detention	Place of Detention	Remarks
1	37	Members of the Konso ² ethnic group	Since November 04, 2017	Konso Industrial College	Arrested for demanding zonal administration status for the Konso people
2.	572	Members of the Konso ethnic group		Aposto Police College	
3	440	Members of the Konso Ethnic group		Konso Technical and Vocational School	
4	75	Oromia region, Western Arsi Zone, Aje and Senbete Shala Woredas	Since 18 November 2016	Alage Agricultural College	
5	2600	Members of the Gedeo ethnic group, SNNPR	Since 09 October 2016	Dilla Teachers College	
6	33	Western Guji zone of Oromia region		Alage Agricultural College	
7	6	Westerns Guji Zone, Dugda Wawa Woreda, Arbecho locality		A building constructed for a TV station	
8	1174	Eastern and Northern Shoa, surroundings of Addis Ababa		Awash Military camp and Yirgalem Police Training Center	
9	4329	Wollega, Arsi and Eastern Shoa		Tolay Military Camp	
10	3048	Guji, Western and Eastern Hararghe		Zway Zonal Prison	
11	2114	Gedeo		Dilla and Yirgalem Temporary Detention Center	
12	532	Northern and Southern Gondar		BahirDar Temporary Detention Center	
13	410	Various sub-cities in Addis Ababa		Various Police stations in Addis Ababa	
Total No. of Detained in the first round: 15,370					

¹ These are some of the detainees whose release was announced by the Command Post, as quoted in the Ethiopian Reporter newspaper on 13 November 2016.

² Many adult members of the Konso ethnic group live in the jungle to avoid beatings, imprisonment and killings by government security forces.

Table II: Citizens detained in the second round (from December 22, 2016 to February 03, 2017)

No	Number of Detainees	Period of Detention	Place of Detention	
1	1180	December 21, 2016 to February 3, 2017	Awash Sebat Kilo Military Training Camp	
2	5643		Tolay Military Training Camp	
Total No. of detainees in the Second round= 6,823				
Total No. of detainees in the 1 st and 2 nd rounds= 22,193				

In addition, reports of field investigations show that 94 citizens most of whom are peasants and students, were arrested in Asasa Woreda of Western Arsi in October, November and December 2016. Of these citizens, 30 were detained in Assasa Police Station, while 56 were kept at Tolay Military training center. All the detainees were arrested on the ground that they participated in protest demonstrations that took place before the State of Emergency was declared. The detainees in Assasa Police Station were not released as of late February 2017, while those kept in Tolay military camp were released on February 02, 2017.

HRCO's investigation also shows that 24 persons were arrested in Jeldu town of Western Shoa Zone in Oromia. 20 of these persons were detained without charges on October 13, 2016 in Jeldu Police Station and released on bail on 8 May 2017 by the Western Shoa Zonal High Court. The remaining four detainees are still kept at the Federal Criminal Investigation Center also known as Maekelawi.

Table 3: List of Students of Jimma University Detained During the State of Emergency

No	Victim	Place of detention	Time of Detention	Remarks
1	Bekuma Tesfaye	Jima Town Police Station	19/11/2016-08/04/2017	Victims are students of Jimma University who were detained without court order.
2	Hussein Abdil Kadir Benti	Jima Town police station	23/11/2016-08/04/3017	
3	Gedefa Mengesha Beyan	Jima Town Police Station	17/01/2017-08/04/2017	

HRCO's investigations show that 30 teachers were detained in Eastern and Western Gojjam of Amhara region from 06 to 22 March 2017 on the allegation that they participated in a strike protesting the exclusion of teachers from the salary increase in the region. Likewise, 15 students of Debre Tabor University were detained from 08 December 2016 to 23 March 2017 due to an alleged disagreement on whether the Nationalities Day shall be celebrated in the University. Our investigations also show that 20 other individuals have been detained in different places, including Birr Sheleko, Ayra Guara, Debre Tabor and Finote Selam prisons and detention centers from October 2016 to February 2017. The whereabouts of two victims, Melake Qelate and Lieutenant Mulat Bogale are not known, while a victim called Getu Getnet and his wife were beaten in Birr Sheleko Military Camp and detained for two months and 11 days before his release on 02 February 2017.

Detention of Opposition Party Members

As mentioned previously, HRCO requested opposition parties to provide information on the identity and status of their members who were detained during the state of emergency. In response, the Blue Party reported that 15 of its members have been detained in this period, while the Oromo Federalist Congress noted that 102 of its members, including its president Dr. Merera Gudina, were arrested following the declaration of the State of Emergency. All Ethiopian Unity Party, on the other hand, reported that 11 of its members were detained in this period.

Table 4: Summary of detentions during the State of Emergency

No	Description	Total No. of Detainees
1	1 st and 2 nd round mass detentions	22,193
2	Residents of Western Arsi Province, Oromia region	94
3	Blue Party Members	15
4	Oromo Federalist Congress Members	102
5	All Ethiopian Unity Party Members	11
6	Students of Debre Tabor University	15
7	Students of Jimma University	3
8	Teachers in East and West Gojjam zones who complained on salary increase	30
9	Detainees from Jeldu district	24
10	Detainees from different areas in Amhara region	20
	Total No. of Detainees	22,507

4.3. Treatment of Detainees in the Prisons and Detention Centers

‘Our investigation shows that the treatment of detainees in prisons and ad hoc detention centers during the State of Emergency was very much below the minimum standards set in international human rights law, and that detainees were subject to abuse and degrading treatment. International human rights standards and guidelines require that prisons and other places of detention should provide adequate food, accommodation and sanitation and medical facilities. They also stipulate that detainees should be treated in a manner which respects their human dignity and that their families, friends, religious fathers and counsels should be allowed to visit them. However, the findings of our investigation show that persons detained during the state of emergency were held in conditions which do not meet these standards. Accordingly:

- Victims reported that detainees were subjected to torture and other forms of degrading and inhuman treatment, including beatings, denial of access to food and harsh physical exercise such as walking barefoot on gravel roads under adverse weather conditions. Testimonies given to HRCO also show that detainees in Awash Arba and Tolay Centers were subjected to physical abuse during interrogation and were forced to sit barefooted in very hot weather for days. Detainees in Finote Selam Prison told HRCO investigators that prison and security officers beat detainees and immerse some of them in latrine pits that are full of human refuse. Victims reported acute lack of toilet and sanitation facilities in Addis Ababa, Tolay and Awash Arba centers, where more than one hundred detainees were forced to defecate at the same time near a large pit or in the field. There was acute shortage of water in some of the centers, such as Debre Tabor Prison, where detainees could get water only once in a week, and were exposed to water borne diseases.
- Detention centers were established in places that are remote and lacked public transport access, and friends and family members were not allowed to visit detainees in some centers. This made it difficult for families and friends of detainees to visit the victims, and to provide them with food, clothes and other support. This also meant that families and friends of the detainees could not closely follow up the treatment of detainees in the centers, thereby contributing to the fact that instances of abuse and mistreatment in the centers continued unchecked and unreported.
- Most of the detention centers, which included schools, factories and military centers were not originally established for that purpose, and hence lacked basic prison facilities. Many of the centers were overcrowded, detention cells holding 5 to 10 times of their capacity. For instance, in Tolay Prison Center, there were more than 115 female detainees in one small cell. Likewise, 114 detainees were kept in one small room in Awash Arba Training center, and detainees were not allowed to leave the room at any time of the day. Victims reported that the situation was aggravated due to the extremely hot weather in these centers, forcing some detainees to fall unconscious.
- The supply of food in many of the detention centers was barely adequate. In centers like Awash Arba and Tolay, detainees were provided only with one or two loaves of bread per day and were forced to starve for months.

Summary of Human Rights violations During the State of Emergency (by Region)

The following tables show summaries of human rights violations mentioned in this 142nd Special Report. We wish to note that these violations were uncovered by the investigation of HRCO during the state of Emergency with very limited capacity and under very challenging conditions.

Table 5: Violations of Right to Life

Type of Violation	Region			
	Amhara	Oromia	Southern Region	Total
Extra Judicial Killings	1	15	3	19

Table 6: Arbitrary Detentions During the State of Emergency

Places of Arrest						Places of Detention					
Amhara	Oromia	South	Addis Ababa	Afar	Unidentified Places	Amhara	Oromia	South	Addis Ababa	Unidentified Places	Total
640	8778	5769	411	1	6926	606	13280	5764	2355	430	22525

Table 7: Injuries, Torture and Inhuman Treatment

Type of Violation	Region			Total
	Amhara	Oromia	South	
Beating, torture and bodily injury	1	3	3	7

Conclusion

The extra-judicial killings, bodily injuries, illegal detentions and disappearances presented in the HRCO's 142nd Special Report cover only violations committed during the period from the Declaration of the State of Emergency (October 08, 2016 until the May 2017) in 43 Woredas and sub cities in Amhara, Oromia, Southern Region and Addis Ababa which HRCO was able to investigate with its limited capacity. It is expected that the scope, type and magnitude of the violations could be much higher and severe under the circumstances. HRCO investigators have received reports and allegations of rape, looting property, mass arrest and displacement in many parts of the country. However, it was not possible to verify these allegations due to capacity constraints and the state of fear and high prevalence of security risk in the areas mentioned in the allegations. HRCO will continue its efforts to investigate these allegations in the future.

The Human Rights Council demands that the government urgently address these complaints, investigate the violations through an independent body, bring to justice those committing these offences, properly compensate victims, take measures to prevent the repeat of these offences and provide adequate protection to its citizens.

HRCO has faced numerous challenges during the conduct of the investigation. The excessive and at times wanton use of force taken by government security forces during the protests has caused a pervasive state of fear. This coupled with the tense political situation in the country and the large number of soldiers and security forces stationed and moving in different parts of the country has further curtailed the free movement of HRCO investigators in the country to collect information and evidences. Therefore, HRCO requests victims' families, victims, and all other citizens who desire to contribute to the protection of human rights to provide reliable information and other evidence on human rights violations to HRCO without fear and hesitation. HRCO also calls upon all citizens supporting the HRCO's human rights causes and efforts to provide it with the necessary support required for successful investigations and reporting of its findings.

Urgent Measures Needed

The constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia guarantees the right of citizens to hold demonstrations and present their demands to the government peacefully. The Government should organize forums to allow members of the public to present their demands freely. The absence of such public dialogue forums and failure of the Government to address the issues and concerns of the public peacefully and the heavy handed manner in which it handled the situation has caused this large scale human rights crisis.

Citizens resort to protest demonstrations in circumstances where there are no avenues to present their demands and issues peacefully and when those concerned about national issues are not availed the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Government and present their agendas to the public. HRCO therefore calls upon the Government of Ethiopia to:

- Address demands and grievances of citizens through democratic, peaceful and legal means instead of resorting to repression and violence;
- Create a conducive and enabling political and economic environment for HRCO to operate freely and in its full capacity by giving it due recognition, support and protection.
- Allow the UN High Commissioner's Office for Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and other international human rights organizations to conduct independent and credible investigation into the human rights violations committed in Ethiopia without any precondition.
- Release urgently those who have been illegally detained because of the protests
- Ensure that adequate compensation is paid to the families of the victims of extra-judicial killings and the victims of bodily injury, inhuman treatment and unlawful detention;
- Bring to justice those persons and officials who are responsible for the human rights violations on citizens during the state of emergency,

The Human Rights Council also requests all citizens as well as national and international institutions that stand for the respect of human rights to write to officials of the Ethiopian Government urging them to take the above mentioned actions to address human rights violation in the country.