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**ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (EHRCO)**

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## **The Illegal Arrest and Pressure on EHRCO should be Stopped!**

January 05, 2023

Following the complaints received by the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) from individuals whose houses have been demolished *vis-a-vis* the demolishing activities around Addis Ababa, today January 05, 2023, EHRCO's three human rights experts and one driver, alongside the organization's vehicle, whilst around *Alem Bank* to check into the complaint, without being able to find out their exact whereabouts after being held by the police, through persistent efforts, it has been confirmed that they are being arrested at *Alemgena 02 Police Station*.

Additionally, EHRCO's Human Rights experts are facing various threats and pressures by the government securities. This act is an illegal act but also an impediment to the realization of EHRCO's human rights vision and activities as EHRCO is a legally registered as per the Civil Societies Proclamation No. 1113/2019, with registration number 1146. EHRCO strives for the Respect of Human Rights, but this type of illegal acts that is being done to prevent its Human Rights experts from working for Human Rights protection and intimidating them is not acceptable.

Thus, EHRCO urges the government to refrain from committing illegal arrests and various types of pressures and to immediately release its Human Rights staff members who are in prison at the time of this statement.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia