



**The Human Rights Situation in Ethiopia  
 30<sup>th</sup> Regular Report**

May 2008

**Introduction**

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) in this 30<sup>th</sup> regular report assesses the general human rights situation in the country. The human rights violations incorporated in this report have not been covered by any of EHRCO's preceding reports issued until the end of March 2008, and are compiled based on complaints received from victims, evidence gathered through onsite investigations and testimonies of eyewitnesses.

**Table 1: Human Rights Violations incorporated in the Report**

No.	Nature of human rights violations	Magnitude of the violations	Page
A	Extra judicial killings	18	2-3,20-21, 22
B	Beating and torture	69	3-10
C	Assault by firearms	16	10
D	Illegal detention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Detained and released</li> <li>▪ Still in detention</li> </ul>	176 58 118	11-17
E	Threats and intimidation	5	17-18
F	Denial of justice	1	18
G	Destruction/Looting of property	12	19
Part Two: Violations caused as a result of ethnic and religious conflicts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 persons killed (the details are incorporated in the "Extra judicial killings" section)</li> <li>• Property estimated to be worth 29,000 Birr has been damaged</li> <li>• An elderly man was stabbed to death by a machete and 15 others sustained bodily injuries.</li> </ul>	19-23

## PART ONE

### Human rights violations committed against citizens in various parts of the country

#### A. Extra judicial killings

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 15 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) recognizes the right to life.

However, in violation of the aforementioned provisions of the country's constitution and of international human rights instruments, the following persons have been killed.

- 1. Welelaw Muche Tsega:** 20, He was living in Amhara region, west Gojjam Zone, Mecha woreda, Enamirt Kebele Farmers' Association (KFA). On December 11, 2007, at around 6:00 A.M., three government militiamen went to his house and arrested him saying that he was wanted. Escorted by the militiamen, he was taken away. On the way, one of the armed men shot him to death. His family reported to EHRCO that they found the body of Welelaw at the place where he was shot and it was laid to rest at the cemetery of Enamirt Kebele Baita church on 12 December 2007.
- 2. Habtamu Alemu:** 25, He was a driver living in the Benishangul Gumuz region, Assosa town. On November 23, 2007, at about 10:30 P.M., while he was going back home with his friend after watching a football match, he saw policemen beating another individual. He then asked the policemen why they were beating him. He also kindly told them to take him to the law if they suspected him of committing a crime. While he was trying to pull apart the man from the grip of the policemen, the alleged offender run away and escaped. In reprisal, one of policemen shot Habtamu to death accusing him of helping the alleged culprit to run away. Both the policeman who shot Habtamu and the escapee were put under police custody latter on the day. The body of the late Habtamu was taken to Assosa hospital for autopsy before it was laid to rest the next day.
- 3. Abdu Mohamed:** 26, He was a resident of the Benishangul Gumuz region, Assosa town. He was an employee of the regional finance bureau. On November 24, 2008, while local residents were staging a demonstration to denounce the brutal killing of the late Habtamu (No. 2 above), police fired bullets in the sky to disperse the crowd. Amidst the mob, one of the policemen grabbed Abdu and asked him to show him his Identification Card. While Abdu was trying to take out his I.D. card, the policeman shot him on the forehead and killed him. The policeman was arrested after 12 days on December 8, 2007.
- 4. Afework Bonja Awsato:** 24, he was a resident in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), Arbaminch zuria Woreda, Male KFA. He was serving his prison term in the Arbaminch prison since September 2006. While he was in prison, his case was under review following the appeal he lodged to a

higher court. Meanwhile, on October 22, 2008, at midnight, he was said to have been caught while he was trying to break from prison. According to the family of Afework upon his capture, he kneeled down and begged the policeman for mercy admitting his wrongdoing. However, the policeman killed him firing bullets on his head, stomach and armpit. They said that the policeman who killed their son is still on his job and they received threats and intimidation because they asked the authorities to bring the killer to justice.

- 5. Zewdu Abate:** He was a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Geography student at the Dilla University. On February 22, 2008, while he was in his dormitory, his classmate named Gelan Tiruneh stabbed him to death. Some students of the University told EHRCO that since the killer was a member of the Oromo ethnic group and the killer was from the Hadiya ethnic group, the incident had turned into an ethnic conflict. Students of the South region (where the deceased came from) attacked other students. As a result, classes were disrupted for four days. The informants told EHRCO that they are worried that the tense state of affairs on campus might escalate to another round of violence.

## **B. Beating and Torture**

Article 16 of the FDRE Constitution provides, "Everyone has the right to protection against bodily harm." It is also stated in Article 14 of the Constitution that the right to security of person is inviolable and inalienable. Nevertheless, in violation of these Constitutional provisions, the following persons have been beaten or/and tortured.

Militiamen and police in the Amhara regional state, West Gojjam zone, Mecha woreda, beat and tortured some residents of *Addis Alem* and *Dage Abiot* KFAs, (*whose names mentioned below*) in an attempt to extort information about 'thieves' whom they alleged were causing trouble in the areas. Based on the information it received, EHRCO conducted an investigation in the area and came up with the following.

- 1. Yenew Bishaw Berihun:** 39, he lives in West Gojjam zone, Mecha Woreda, Dage Abiot KFA. On November 26, 2007, at about 5:40 A.M., police and Kebele militiamen broke into his house, beat his wife asking her to tell them the whereabouts of her husband. Then, the militiamen broke into the nearby shop where Yenew was hiding. When the armed men captured and started beating Yenew, his children cried out and neighbors came to the rescue of Yenew's family. Yenew told EHRCO that he went unconscious as a result of the beating, and sustained sever injuries, which caused him an ongoing pain although he received treatment in Bahr Dar town.

- 2. Senait Bantiyeggn:** 28. She is the wife of Yenew Bishaw No. 1 above). On November 26, 2007, Kebele militiamen forced themselves into her house and beat her. She sustained injuries on her back.

- 3. Yechale Eniyew Bogale:** 32. He is a farmer living in West Gojjam zone, Mecha woreda, Dage Abiot KFA. On November 25, 2007, at about 10:00 P.M., local Kebele militiamen went to his house, forced him out saying that he was wanted and detained him at the Kebele premises. Then, the armed men took him to the forest, where he was beaten and tortured in order to make him confess the whereabouts of his brother. He told EHRCO

that he was released the next day without being brought to court. Yechale said he sustained serious bodily injuries as result of the beating and torture.

**4. Gedefaw Mersha:** 37, He is a businessman living in West Gojjam zone, Mecha woreda, Dage Abiot KFA. He is a member of Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). On November 26, 2007, at around 11:00 P.M., six members of the Kebele militia went to his house and apprehended him saying that he was wanted. Then, they forcibly took him with them and detained him in the Kebele premises. Shortly, a police officer and a militiaman took him to a nearby bush where they tortured him for allegedly supporting and propagating in favor of the CUD. The victim told EHRCO that he was unable to walk for a week due to the injuries he suffered on his back and leg.

**5. Alene Tarekegn Moges:** 28, He is a businessman living in West Gojjam Zone, Mecha Woreda, Dil Betigil KFA. On November 25, 2007, at 2:00 P.M., woreda policemen accompanied by local militia members detained him at the Dage KFA saying that he stole stuff. On the same day, at about 10:00 P.M., they took him to another place where they tortured him asking him to confess for stealing. Alene told EHRCO that he sustained injuries on his back and finger as a result of the beating.

**6. Alemneh Takele Worku:** 35, He is a resident of West Gojjam zone, Mecha Woreda, Addis Alem KFA. On 25 November 2007, Kebele militiamen went to his house, arrested him, took him away and detained him at the Kebele premises. At around 6:00 p.m., five other police officers joined the militiamen and tortured him asking him to confess for theft. At 3:00 A.M., he was taken to the Dage Abiot KFA where he was tortured again. The victim told EHRCO that he sustained injuries on his back, leg and head as a result of the beating.

**7. Corporal Atanew Taye Tessema:** 50, He is a farmer living in West Gojjam Zone, Mecha woreda, Dage Abiot KFA. On November 26, 2007, at 7:00 A.M., a police officer along with local militiamen went to his house and arrested him without a court warrant. And then he was threatened and intimidated for being the member of the CUD party. The victim told EHRCO that he was released three hours later.

**8 Eyayu Meta Sinishaw:** 20, He lives in West Gojjam Zone, Mecha woreda, Merawi town. On December 11, at around 6:00 A.M., four Kebele militiamen went and rounded up his house from outside while he was inside but he managed to escape. A week later, at about 2:30 A.M., the militiamen went to his house again, knocked at the door, and opened fire on his house. The victim, along with his family, told EHRCO that in the morning they had found the door tattered with six bullets.

**9. Woldie Dana Anebo:** 41, He is a teacher living in SNNPR, Wolayita zone, Boditi wereda. He teaches in a school called *Aratu Sayke* in Damot Weyde wereda He ran for Parliament representing CUD during the 2005 elections. On December 15, 2006, while he was teaching in class, six plainclothes government security personnel forcibly took him away and detained him at the Wolayita zone police station, where he was beaten all night to make him reveal the whereabouts of his wife, Wubit Legamo. On the next day, the security men took him to Awassa town, where they have also arrested his wife and his four-year old child. They were detained in Awassa with other CUD members arrested from various parts of the region. The next day, Woldie was transferred to the Central

Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*) in Addis Ababa where he was denied food, videotaped, mistreated and tortured for three days for an alleged involvement in inciting the local community to riot against the Government. The victim also told EHRCO that he was getting medical treatment as he sustained injuries in his left hand and bladder as a result of the beating. He was later made to appear in the 2nd bench of the Federal High Court, and was released on bail on October 29, 2007,

**10. Wubit Legamo Leka:** 28, She lives in SNNPR, Wolayita Zone, Boditi town. She is also the wife of Woldie (No. 9 above). During the 2005 national election, when her husband was running for Parliament she was an observer. She was arrested on 16 December 2007 and was beaten and tortured as a result of which she had a miscarriage of her four months pregnancy. She told EHRCO that while she was detained her four-year old child was taken by police to a childcare center. She said she was released on bail by the order of the high court.

**11. Endale Simegn:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Arada sub-city, Kebele 07/08, House No. 009. On September 10, 2007, plainclothes security men went to his home, took him away and detained him at the Arada Sub-city police station. Hours later, he was taken to the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*), where he was beaten and tortured. The victim reported to EHRCO that his right jaw was broken as a result of the beating. He also said that though he received medical treatment at the Police Hospital, he has not yet fully recovered. Although the Arada bench of the Federal First Instance court in its ruling on October 23, 2007 had closed the file on the ground that he had no case to answer, police continued detaining him. He was only released after the Federal High Court ordered his release on bail fifteen days later. However, he told EHRCO that police officers have continued threatening him even after his release.

**12. Dawit Honja Anjelo:** 25, He is a farmer, living in SNNPR, Arbaminch Zuria wereda, Omo Lante Kebele. He was an inmate in the Arbaminch prison while attending his case at the Gamugofa zone high court. On November 2, 2007, he was caught while trying to break from prison. Then, he was beaten and tortured for a week by the police officers and prison guards as a result of which he sustained serious injuries. As he could not go to court by himself to attend his hearing, other inmates carried him to the court. After looking at the seriousness of his injuries, the judge ordered that he get medical attention. Then he was taken to Arbaminch Hospital. Due to the injury he sustained as a result of the beating, his left leg has been amputated, and he is feeling serious pain on his right leg. The police officers and prison guards were not brought to justice by the time this report was being compiled.

**13. Paulos Yared:** 32, He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Arada sub-city. He is an employee of a private business enterprise. On November 6, 2007 he was imprisoned at the 5<sup>th</sup> police station for five days for allegedly committing fraud in a business transaction deal concluded between the enterprise he is working for and the Arbaminch University. On November 11, 2007, he was taken to the Gamugofa Zone police station out of Addis Ababa and was detained there. Five days later, he was released on a bail of 3,000 Birr. However, while he was getting out of prison, police officers and university staff stopped him, forced him into a vehicle and drove him to the zonal police station, where he was mistreated and tortured until he lost consciousness. The police officers poured water on him but he was so weak even after regaining consciousness that they took him to a clinic

where he got medical attention. As Paulos was seriously ill, he was transferred to the Arbaminch Hospital where he was being treated by the time this report was being compiled.

**14. Asegedech Wude:** 20, She lives in SNNPR, Gamugofa zone, Arbaminch zuria woreda. She is a daily laborer. On December 12, 2007, at around 8:00 A.M., an armed policeman went to her house, beat her with a truncheon, and searched her house without a court warrant in the excuse that she was hiding a stolen property. Then, the policeman took her and her personal belongings to the Arbaminch police station where she was also beaten till she got unconscious. She reported to EHRCO that although she reported the beating to the Arbaminch police chief, no measure was taken on the police officer. Some of her belongings taken away from her during her arrest were not returned to her.

**15. Bekele Assefa Daka:** He is a resident in Addis Ababa, Gulele sub-city, Kebele 15/09. He is a member of CUD. On January 21, 2008, police officers and plainclothes security personnel arrested him saying that he was wanted for questioning. Then, they took him to the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*) where he was beaten to make him confess that he had links with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Bekele reported to EHRCO that he sustained bodily injuries as a result of the beating. He also said that he was detained for nine months without any charges before he was released by the Federal High Court on a 5000 birr bail.

**16. Alemayehu Seifu Ayene:** He resides in Addis Ababa, Gulelle Sub-city, Kebele 01/02, house No. 421. On January 11, 2008, at about 8:00 P.M., while he was going back home from work, he was arrested by police officers and plainclothes security men and was taken to the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*) where he was tortured for eight days in a row to make him confess that he was part of a plot to overthrow the government. Alemayehu told EHRCO that as a result of the beating, he sustained a serious injury on his right rib bones.

**17. Alemayehu Tamire Kassa:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Kirkos sub city, Kebele 04, and House No. 147. On December 15, 2007, police officers and plainclothes security men arrested him at his office for allegedly being a member of CUD. He was beaten and stayed handcuffed for five days. Alemayehu reported to EHRCO that the Federal High Court ordered his release on bail after being detained for eighteen months.

**18. Neja Shukure:** He is a farmer living in SNNPR, Selti Zone, Misrak Azernet Berbere woreda, Adazer Abicho KFA. He has been having problems with kebele officials since the time that he exposed that the officials had misappropriated public funds. Kebele officials refused to give him fertilizers even though he effected the down payment. On January 3, 2006, at about 7:30 P.M., in a locality called "*Amora*", he was stopped by policemen, handcuffed, and was severely beaten. Moreover, as he filed a lawsuit against the police officers and refused to drop the charges, he was arrested on December 4, 2007 by the woreda police and remained in detention without charges by the time this report was being compiled.

**19. Sosina Teshome:** 19, She is a resident of Nekemt town, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. She is a 1<sup>st</sup> year Law student at the Africa Beza College. On December 26, 2007, she was arrested and detained at the Nekemt town police station for three days for

allegedly supporting the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). After several adjournments, she was released on a bail of 2000 Birr on February 14, 2008. Her family told EHRCO that during her detention, Sosina was harshly beaten, and she is now subjected to severe pain on her abdomen.

**20. Tarekegn Wakgari:** 21, He resides in Nekemt town, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He is a 1<sup>st</sup> year student at the Nekemt Technical and Vocational College. On December 23, 2007, he was arrested for allegedly being a supporter of OLF. He was taken to court five days later, and after several adjournments, the court closed the file in a ruling on January 30, 2008. However, police had kept on detaining Tarekegn. As his family petitioned the High Court, Tarekegn was released on February 11, 2008 on a 1000 birr bail. His family told EHRCO that during his detention, police and members of the security forces beat Tarekegn.

**21. Ayena Cheri:** 20, He lives in Nekemt town, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at the Nekemt Technical and Vocational College. On December 26, 2007, he was arrested for allegedly being a member of the OLF. On December 28, 2007, he was taken to court. After a number of adjournments, the court closed the file. However, police continued detaining him. Ayena was released on February 11, 2008 on a 1000 birr bail after his family petitioned the High Court. Ayena was reported to have suffered severe beating during his detention.

**22. Cherinet Terefe:** 25, He is a resident of Nekemt town, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. On December 24, 2007, he was arrested by the police for allegedly being a member of the OLF. Although no evidence was found when his house was searched, members of the security forces beat him after taking him to the kebele office. He was then transferred to the Nekemt town police station and detained there. On December 28, 2007, he appeared before court, and after several adjournments, his file was closed on January 30, 2008. However, Cherinet remained under police custody although the High Court ordered his release on February 11, 2008 on a 1000 Birr bail after his family petitioned the Court. The reason for his continued detention was reported to be his parents' inability to post the bail money.

**Following are residents of Diredawa town, who were assaulted and mistreated by police during a protest**

The Dire-Dawa provisional administration council has leased to a person a plot of land in a locality called Goro Kebele 02 Kebele 36. Ato Hassen Mussa, who lives in a house adjacent to the plot of land was ordered to vacate his house. Hassen protested against the decision of the Council. On February 15, 2008, when the new lessee of the land went with police and daily laborers to start his construction on the plot he leased, Hassen voiced his protest. This time, some members of the community joined Hassen as a result of which a disturbance ensued. In response, police opened tear gas and fired live bullets in order to disperse the crowd, and started beating them with truncheons and butts of rifles. EHRCO was able to document human rights violations occurred as a result of the action taken by police.

## Names of persons who were beaten by police and sustained bodily injuries

No.	Name	Injury sustained	Remarks
1	Bahir Mohammed	Assaulted on his head and leg	
2	Abdulaziz Muzeyin	Assaulted on his back	
3	Abdulaziz Mohmmmod	Assaulted on part of his body	
4	Remedan Abdulahi	Police broke into his house and beat him	
5	Fatuma	Her front teeth broken	
6	Ahmed Nur Abdulahi	Police broke into his house and beat him	
7	Mohamed Amin	Physically assaulted	
8	Fuad Ahmed	Suffered bone fracture on his left leg	Released after being taken to police station
9	Abdulkadir Amin	Physically assaulted	
10	Ahmedin Isa	Beaten with truncheon and butt of rifles	
11	Amina Mohammod	Had a miscarriage as a result of the beating	
12	W/ro Genit Abduletif	Assaulted on the back	
13	Meliya Abdella	Physically assaulted	
14	Asherafe Mohamod	Physically assaulted	
15	Kemer Abdulahi	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
16	Meazi Esmail	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
17	Ibrahim Ismael	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
18	Fatuma Mohammod	Beaten, and injured as she fell down when she was being forced into a police vehicle	
19	Jari Abdulkadir	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
20	Hassen Zeyid	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
21	Zeytuna Oumer	Beaten with her 12-year son, Fantahun Ousman	Released after being taken to police station
22	Abdella Mussa	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
23	Indiya Ahmed	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police



			station
24	Mohamed Ismail	Physically assaulted	Released after being imprisoned for three days
25	Husria Ahmed	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
26	Abdella Shafi	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
27	Shemsedin Amid	Physically assaulted	Released on bail after being imprisoned for four days
28	Mohamed Yesuf	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
29	Kedir Hassen	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
30	Siraj Mohamed	Sustained bone fracture on his leg	Released on bail after being imprisoned for three days
31	Assa Indris		Imprisoned with her baby at the police station and later released
32	Abdo Abdurhaman	Physically assaulted	Released on bail after being imprisoned for three days
33	Shamil Hussein	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
34	Abdurhaman Ame	Physically assaulted	Released on bail after being imprisoned for three days
35	Siraj Mohamed	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
36	Musa Hussein	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
37	Abdi Ahmed	Physically assaulted	Released after being taken to police station
38	Arfite Ahmedin	An eight year old girl, beaten	Released after being taken to police

			station
39	Tofik Efiya	An eleven year old child, beaten	Released after being taken to police station

The following persons are farmers living in SNNPR, Gedeo zone, Dill Zuria Woreda, Otilcho KFA who were beaten, illegally detained and intimidated by zonal and wereda militiamen and police officers as well as by local government officials. The victims told EHRCO that they reported the cases to pertinent zonal and regional government officials, but to no avail.

**1. Bogale Mamo:** He resides in Shigedo KFA. On October 6, 2007, government militiamen entered his house, pointed a gun at his head and beat him asking him to give them the gun they said he was hiding. After searching his house and finding nothing, the militiamen forcibly took him to his business premises in town to continue the search and harass other traders they found there.

**2. Mussie Yimiru:** He resides in Otilcho KFA. He runs his own musical instruments maintenance shop. On the same day the militiamen searched the house of Bogale Mamo (Number 1 above), they also searched Muse's shop, and beat him with the butt of a gun. After the beating, the local people took him and Bogale to Dilla Hospital for treatment. While they were in the waiting room of the hospital, the chief of the militia office and three police officers arrested the two victims and the people who took them to the hospital and took them to the Dilla town police station where they were detained for five days before a court ordered their release on bail.

**3. Beyene Tero :** While he was accompanying the victims mentioned in numbers 1 and 2 to the hospital, he was arrested by police. He reported to EHRCO that he was beaten and illegally detained at the Dilla town police station, and was released on bail after five days of detention together with the victims mentioned above. The following four individuals were also subjected to similar human rights violations with the foregoing three persons.

4. Ato Tadesse Tero
5. Ato Abraham Masresha
6. Ato Birhanu Kebede
7. Ato Tadesse Kebede
8. Ato Yimiru Kumbi

### C. Assault by firearms

**Amare Jorega:** 25, He resides in Wegidi woreda, south Wollo zone of the Amhara region. On December 29, 2007, at 9:00 P.M., while he was trying to stop a fight between a woreda cabinet member and another person, the cabinet member fired a bullet and wounded his left hand. Since Amare got bone fracture, the Dessie hospital referred him to the Addis Ababa Tikur Anbessa Hospital for further treatment. Amare told EHRCO that his attacker was not brought to justice by the time this report was being compiled.

## D. Illegal Detention

Article 17(1) of the FDRE Constitution provides that “ No one shall be deprived of his or her liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law.” Article 19(3) of the Constitution further provides, “ Persons arrested have the right to be brought before a court within 48 hours of their arrest.”

Nonetheless, in violation of these constitutional provisions, the following individuals were arrested and detained for days, and some for months, without due process of law.

- 1. Teklay Araya Gebresilassie** He is a construction worker living in Mekele town, Tigray region. On August 13, 2007, police officers and plainclothes security personnel arrested and detained him for thirty-six days without taking him to court. He was released on September 11, 2007 without being even told why he was detained. He reported to EHRCO that money, documents and household items that were taken from his house by security forces during his detention have not been returned to him despite his repeated appeals to the authorities.
- 2. Wondafrash Mulatu:** 22, He resides in Nekemt town, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He is a member of EHRCO. On December 24, 2007, police arrested him without an arrest warrant for allegedly being a member of the OLF. He told EHRCO he was detained for seven days before he was released on December 31, 2007 without appearing before a court of law.
- 3. Kinati Abdissa:** 59, He is a resident of Nekemt town, Guto Guadi woreda, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He is a member of the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM). On January 11, 2008 he was arrested by security forces from the Burkajoto primary and junior secondary school where he was teaching. After taking him to his house the security forces searched the house for firearms, which they couldn't find. They then took Kinati to the police station and detained him for four days without taking him to court. Kinati told EHRCO that he was harassed and mistreated while he was in detention.
- 4. Kinde Serbelem:** 20, He lives in Nunu Kumbi woreda, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at the New Generation College in Nekemt town. On January 4, 2008, while he and his friend Zerihun Wordofa, were traveling home to join their families for Christmas, policemen stopped the bus they were in and ordered the two to get off. They were then handcuffed and taken to a police station where they spent the night before they were transferred to the East Wellega police department where they were detained for nine days without charges. Upon release, their ID cards were confiscated and they were told that they would be summoned if necessary.
- 5. Zerihun Hordofa:** 20, He resides in Nunu Kumbi woreda, East Wellega Zone of the Oromia region. He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at the Care Medical College in Nekemt town. (The details are similar with Kinde No. 4 above)
- 6. Adugna Belina Gobena:** He is a resident of Wayu Tuka woreda, East Wollega zone of the Oromia region. He is a member of OFDM. He was fielded as a candidate representing

his party for the April 2008 local and by elections. However, he was arrested by police on January 28 and his party membership ID Card was taken away along with other party documents when his house was searched. In a letter dated February 5, 2008 Ref. No. OF/G/003/2000, the Wayu Tuka woreda OFDM office reported to EHRCO that Adugna was being held without charges by the time this report was being compiled.

**7. Abdissa Yadessa:** Arrested and detained in similar circumstances with Adugna (No.6 above).

**8. Shiferaw Tadesse:** He resides in Nekemt town, East Wollega zone of the Oromia region. He is a driver at the Central Health College. On January 4, 2008, police arrested him without a court warrant for allegedly being a member of the OLF. He reported to EHRCO that he was released after six days of detention without appearing before court.

**9. Bizuayehu Kebede:** 42, He is a resident in Nekemt town, East Wollega zone of the Oromia region. On January 4, 2008, police arrested him without an arrest warrant for allegedly being a member of OLF. He told EHRCO that he was released six days later without appearing before court.

**10. Kumera Fete:** 46, He resides in Nekemt town, East Wollega zone of the Oromia region. On January 11, 2008, police arrested him for allegedly being an OLF member. He was released three days later without being brought to court.

**11. Mizanu Kemso:** 65, He is a pensioner living Nekemt town. During the 2005 national election, he was an independent candidate running for the house of peoples' representatives. Presently, he is a member of the Oromo Peoples Congress (OPC). As a result, he was fielded as a candidate representing his party for the April 2008 local and by elections. On January 11, 2008, he was arrested by police for allegedly being a member of the OLF. Mizanu told EHRCO that he was released three days later without appearing before court.

**12. Workineh Dinsa:** 45, He is a teacher living in Nekemt town, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He was arrested on January 11, 2008 for being an alleged member of OLF. He told EHRCO that he was released three days later without being brought to court. It is to be recalled that Workneh had been repeatedly arrested for allegedly having links with OLF. EHRCO had reported on his previous arrest and detention in a special report issued on August 8, 2007.

**13. Belina Gobena:** 46, He is a farmer living in Ariya Jawi locality, Gute Kebele, Wayu Tuka Woreda, East Wellega zone of Oromia region. He is a member of OFDM and was a candidate during the 2008 local and by-elections representing his Party. On January 30, 2008, he was arrested by members of Wayu Tuka wereda police for reasons he did not know. Following his arrest, his house was searched and his party membership ID Card and a copy of the statute of the party were confiscated. He was detained for seven days before he was released following a court order on February 6, 2008.

**14. Tegegn Hirpa:** 22, He is a farmer living in Gute Kebele, Wayu Tika Wereda, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He told EHRCO that on January 30, 2007, wereda

police officers arrested him for unknown reasons. He was detained for a week and released without being brought to court.

**15. Demelash Geleta:** 20, He is a resident in Nekemt town, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. On December 23, 2007 he was arrested by members of the security forces for allegedly helping his friend, Tarekegn Wekgari, to escape from police. He told EHRCO that he was detained for five days and released on bail without being brought to court.

**16. Legesse Gebreselassie:** He resides in Addis Ababa Kirkos sub-city, Kebele 17/18, house number 619. On March 18, 2004, members of the federal police surrounded his house, arrested him alleging him of being a member of OLF. He was then taken to the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*) and detained there. After being interrogated for a week, he was taken to the Arada Bench of the Federal First Instance Court. Later, his file was referred to the High Court. He reported to EHRCO that after being imprisoned for four years, he was acquitted by the court as the prosecutor couldn't submit sufficient evidence against him.

**17. Corporal Goshinet Hudu:** He is an army officer living in Dire-Dawa town, Kebele 03, House No. 756, in a locality called Sabian Gende Tesfa. While he was on mission in Jijiga town Somali region, he faced health problems. He took a sick leave and went back to his home in Diredawa. While he was following medical treatment, on August 21, 2007, at 9:30, he was arrested by three unidentified persons without an arrest warrant, and forced into a vehicle. Members of his family reported to EHRCO that the whereabouts of the victim had remained unknown for a month till it was finally discovered that he was detained in a police station in Harrar town. Corporal Goshinet has been incarcerated since then without being charged and brought to court.

**18. Mohammad Farah Abdi:** 59, He resides in Segeg woreda, Fik zone of the Somali region. After long years of exile in Canada, he came back to his country and engaged in the agriculture business. He reported to EHRCO that on February 13, 2008, he was arrested by members of the regional police and detained for unknown reasons. EHRCO learnt that he was in detention in Jijiga town police station by the time this report was being compiled.

**19. Mebrat Metekia:** She resides in Ambo town, West Shoa zone of the Oromia region. During the 2005 national election, she campaigned for the then Oromo National Congress (ONC). In this connection, she had severely been beaten and imprisoned. In 2006 she reported to EHRCO that a decision had been taken by the West Shoa Zone Administration banning her from being admitted in any public school in Oromia. Due to the repeated challenges she faced, she fled the area and joined the Batu No 3 School in Zeway town under an assumed name. On March 13, 2008, when the federal police rounded the school and attempted to arrest her, students, staff and teachers protested against the action. As a result, the policemen were forced to leave the school's compound. Fearing further persecution, Mebrat went to Addis Ababa and began to live with her brother. On March 24, 2008, at 6:30 P.M., she was arrested at her brother's house without a court warrant and detained at the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*). Two days later, she appeared at the Arada Bench of the Federal First Instance Court. Her mother, Derby Yirga

told EHRCO that she was not allowed to visit her daughter in *Maikelawi* and did not know the real reasons for her detention.

The *Meskan* and *Mareko* woredas in Gurage zone of SNNPR, which had been in one woreda administration until 2002 were divided into two to be separate woredas. In the process, some residents who claimed that they were of Mareko-origin had been made to be in the nine Kebeles under the '*Meskan*' woreda administration without their consent. As a result, they complained that they were denied their constitutional right of attending education in their mother tongue, and the Meskan woreda officials discriminated them against in their social, economic and political lives. Accordingly, members of the Mareko-origin lodged their petitions to pertinent regional and federal offices, but to no avail. Because of this, recurring conflicts were flaring up in the area. On December 26, 2008, a disturbance ensued at *Koshe* and *Dida Midele* schools and in other different places of Mareko woreda and caused human and material damages. Moreover, the following individuals (including minors) were detained.

**List of persons still under detention in Mareko police station by the time this report was being compiled**

No.	Name	Age	Details
1	Ersula Ashamo	16	9 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Koshe school
2	Belainesh Ditika	16	8 <sup>th</sup> " "
3	Niri Fela Sigelo	15	8 <sup>th</sup> " "
4	Gacheno Korma Atalo	18	10 <sup>th</sup> " "
5	Degu Nadato	19	9 <sup>th</sup> " "
6	Endalkachew Sugato	15	8 <sup>th</sup> " "
7	Wegayehu Muze	14	8 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Dida school
8	Teshome Mugiro	17	8 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Koshe school
9	Shabel Bilto	18	8 <sup>th</sup> " "
10	Sirwana Mugro	18	5 <sup>th</sup> " "
11	Alemu Kuraze	35	Farmer
12	Muhadin Ahmed	15	5 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Dida school
13	Hayiru Kediri	16	10 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Koshe school
14	Wendu Wegamo	17	9 <sup>th</sup> " "
15	Daniel Morko	16	10 <sup>th</sup> " "
16	Geremew Bayu	17	8 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Koshe school
17	Nuru Turwere	17	" "
18	Fichamo Geletu	17	6 <sup>th</sup> " "
19	Solomon Abera	16	7 <sup>th</sup> " "
20	Abu Edo	16	8 <sup>th</sup> " "
21	Priest Wabiko Berasso	42	
22	Hussein Shambo	24	Farmer
23	Murad Aliyu	15	6 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Meka school
24	Hassen Zeyine	14	10 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Koshe school
25	Nuredin Sirgan	19	10 <sup>th</sup> " "
26	Fedasa Shehacha	15	6 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Meka school
27	Alute Jebesso	22	11 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Butajira school
28	Guchinda Tenemo	16	8 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Koshe school
29	Weya Ouliso	18	9 <sup>th</sup> " "
30	Shikur Ahmedin	16	" "
31	Nuredin Gurmu	16	
32	Shibru Jito	16	6 <sup>th</sup> Grader at Koshe school

33	Ahmed Jamal	16	8th	"	"
34	Bushira Arebo	16	10th	"	"
35	Wamisho Sikito	14	6th	"	"
36	Rahmeto Muktar	23	9th	"	"
37	Haji Jateno Meki	76	Farmer		
38	Merka Wegato	42	Farmer		
39	Meseret Liro	18	10th Grader at Koshe school		
40	Mantegbosh Bogale	15	5th	"	"
41	Emebet Fora	15	8th	"	"
42	Meselech Wangero	15	"	"	"
43	Tesfanesh Hule	16	"	"	"
44	Tsehay Lalugo	17	7th	"	"
45	Bilcha Bobsa	16	8th	"	"
46	Lekelesh Surala	16	"	"	"
47	Martha Hussen	15	5th	"	"
48	Zulfa Gudeta	16	5th	"	"
49	Tano Berasso	15	8th	"	"
50	Amami Mustefa	15	5th	"	"
51	Zebider Laliga	16	7th	"	"

**List of persons arrested on December 26,2007, detained at Mareko police station and released without charges:**

No.	Name	Age	Details
1	Semi Dermu	16	Released on December 27, 2007
2	Bizuayehu Tesfaye	16	Released on December 31, 2007
3	Sintayehu Eshetu	14	Released on December 30, 2007
4	Siraj Irdago	48	" " " "
5	Alemu Darfisa	16	" " " "
6	Gude Bayito	16	" " " "
7	Eliso Babiso	21	" " " "
8	Birhane Haile	15	" " " "
9	Yenenesh Haile	16	" " " "
10	Sultan Gona	31	Released on December 29, 2007
11	Nega Mesur	30	" " " "
12	Kedir Roba	24	" " " "
13	Shemsu Werka	18	Released on January 1,2008
14	Redi Ankamo	17	" " " "

**List of persons in detention in Butajira town, Meskan woreda police station after being remanded in custody**

No.	Name	Age	Address
1	Sinbiro Kormago	30	Semien Dida
2	Dinde Gesse	62	" "
3	Meles Forewero	15	" "
4	Betero Tinishe	18	" "
5	Mitiku Hissabe	18	Dida Midale
6	Tariku Hissabe	14	" "
7	Mohamed Hussien	14	" "
8	Sega Lire	15	Semien Dida

9	Semeru Argafo	14	" "
10	Mustefa Sheleko	15	Koshe 01
11	Yasin Muke	14	Semien Dido
12	Senkemo Erdolo	15	Koshe 01
13	Muhedin Temam	13	" "
14	Gudissa Yilma	17	Misrak Dido
15	Ousman Balcha	18	Weje Jerdenbey
16	Tatek Abera	13	Faka Washe
17	Weya Degu	15	Semen Dido
18	Adi Kedir	17	Semen Koshe
19	Hussien Ergugu	17	Koshe 01
20	Dilgaba Orbilo	18	Oudas Rega
21	Weble Agebo	15	Weje Jerdenbey
22	Anule Abito	13	Oudema Gula
23	Ereso Tsegayu	60	Semien Dido
24	Babiso Negeye	42	" "
25	Eyuro Gesse	29	" "
26	Andarghe Shigute	23	" "
27	Mohamed Fara	24	" "
28	Abegaz Dekoro Orebo	72	Ensino Ousme
29	Kaltro Gurba	60	" "
30	Edemo Gurba	53	" "
31	Tediso Aboyu	45	" "
32	Turashe Tediso	80	" "
33	Melese Babiso	20	" "
34	Wegile Dekoro	17	" "
35	Fantu Dekoro	20	" "
36	Lulesso Ashemo	30	" "
37	Azmach Dula Nune	70	Bamo
38	Baykade Jero	34	" "
39	Sude Beyene	40	" "
40	Dile De giga	33	" "
41	Genene Gobena	33	" "
42	Melese Dula	34	" "
43	Adelo Orié	55	
44	Nigussie Worku	56	Ensono 01
45	Maru Hemecha	50	" "
46	Gonemo Assefa	60	Smien Koshe
47	Wabela Kedir	32	" "
48	Demere Jebo	37	Bati Fato
49	Birane Bayato	60	" "
50	Jemal Eyasu	40	Dido Madere
51	Silkore Edeo		" "
52	Sode Sherengo	18	" "
53	Mukamel Muste		

**List of children, who were detained with adults for one day and released the next day**

No.	Name	Age
1	Jenberu Badebo	14
2	Shemsu Kedir	14
3	Hailu Kebede	14
4	Awol Zeynu	14



5	Belete Selkeno	14
6	Sherfedin Hisab	14
7	Hussein Lemengu	14

Individuals whose names are listed below are in detention for over a year in the Police Department of the Shinille zone of the Somali Regional State. The individuals were never formally charged and are being held in a place where there are no sufficient food and medical facilities for inmates.

1. **Alayu Tilahun:** He lives in Meiso woreda, Gedamayitu town. On August 7, 2005, he was arrested for an alleged crime of murder. For the first time, he appeared in court on February 3, 2007. He is still under detention in the zonal police station without charges. He is being provided only with two loaves of bread a day.
2. **Abdi Boh:** He lives in Bukke town, Afdem wereda. He was arrested in November 2005 for an alleged crime of murder. He was brought before a court after six months of detention. He is still in detention without being formally charged. He lives on two loaves of bread a day.
3. **Roble Hussein:** He lives in Shinele woreda, at a locality called *Gad*. He was arrested in July 2005, and was taken to court after four months of detention. The court ordered his being kept in custody in a regular prison as a result of which he was transferred thereto. However, after two months in prison, he was taken back to the Shinille police department and is being held there without charges.
4. **Tahir Ali:** He lives in Meiso woreda, at a place called *Mulu*. In 2005, he was arrested on suspicion of homicide. He is still in detention at the Shinele police station without being formally charged.
5. **Mehadi Hussien;** He resides in Shinele woreda, at a local area called *Gad*. In 2005, he was arrested for allegedly killing a person, and he is still being detained at the Shinele police station with out charges.
6. **Ahmed Ali:** He lives in Errer woreda, and was arrested in 2005 for an alleged crime of rape. He is being held in Shinille police station without charges.
7. **Shelimew Worku:** He is a resident in Bukke town, Afdem woreda. He was arrested on suspicion of forgery in 2007. He is being held in Shinille Police station without charges.

## E. Threats and Intimidations

1. **Zelege Alemu Jiru:** 65, He lives in Addis Ababa, Bole sub-city, Kebele 08/09. He runs a private business. He was a member of the former Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) Supreme Council. On February 1, 2008, at 8:00 A.M., two plainclothes security personnel got him off a taxi he was in after showing him their ID. Then, they took him to the Bole Sub-city, Woreda 17 police station and detained him for an hour. He reported to EHRCO that he was interrogated, and also intimidated by an interrogator that his life

would be in danger unless he cut off his involvement in the former CUD party. He was released at 1:30 P.M. after being told that he would be summoned if wanted. He said documents seized during his arrest were not given back to him.

**2. Ato Yismalem Zeleke:** He lives in Addis Ababa, Lideta sub-city, Kebele 03. He is an employee of the Ethiopian Air Lines. During the 2005 national election, he campaigned for the CUD in Sodo Sedene woreda of the Oromia regional state. In this connection, on June 9, 2005, he was arrested and detained for 14 days. He was released on a bail of 3000 Birr. He sustained injuries as a result of the beating he received during his detention. He also reported to EHRCO that since November 2007, he has been under constant threat and police surveillance.

**3. Sergeant Shiferaw Lemma:** 68, He is a resident in Addis Ababa, Akaki Kaliti sub-city. On January 30, 2008, at 9:00 A.M., while he was getting out of his house, the Kebele's security section head and two other unidentified plainclothes individuals stopped him and intimidated him saying, " You, and your friend, Girma, had better refrain from agitating the people not to register in this election.' The security people also threatened him making reference to his detention in Dedessa detention center in 2005 and if he did not behave that would be repeated. Shiferaw was a member of the CUD and served as an observer during the 2005 national elections representing his party. His previous arrest in connection with the election related demonstrations was reported in EHRCO's 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Report.

**4. Tariku Tolessa:** 43, He lives in Guto Gida woreda, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. On January 28, 2008, at around 6:00 A.M., over 10 militiamen put him under control without an arrest warrant. He was taken to the office of the kebele security chief, where he was threatened and intimidated for allegedly advancing OLF's causes under the guise of being a member of Oromo National congress (ONC). He told EHRCO that he was released at 12:30 A.M. On the same day, at about 4:00 P.M., his door was knocked at and a stone was thrown through the roof of his house.

**5. Honorable Direbe Yirga Sirdo:** She is a resident in Oromia region, West Shoa zone, Ambo town. She was a member of the then Oromo National Congress (ONC), the now Oromo Peoples Congress (OPC). During the 2005 national election, she won a seat in the House of Peoples Representatives from the Ambo constituency. Following the split of ONC, she opted for OPC, and became a member of the newly renamed party. On March 2, 2008, one Bekele Erana, Ambo town's ONC representative, went to her house and threatened to kill her brandishing a pistol. As she reported to EHRCO, her life was saved as neighbors went to her rescue. She said though she reported the case to the town and zonal police, it was all in vain. The alleged offender had also reportedly fired a bullet at Asfaw Negera, another member of the newly the OPC.

## **F. Denial of Justice**

**1. AleMBERHAN Dguma:** He resides in Benishangul Gumuz region, Assosa town. On January 19, 2008, he sustained serious injuries on his head and right shoulder in a car accident. The Assosa Hospital, after assessing the seriousness of the injury, referred him for further medical treatment. In the meantime, he was arrested and detained in connection with the accident as a result of which he could not get the treatment. The

complainant petitioned the Assosa zone high court that he needed to get the medical treatment covering all the per diem expenses for police escort to Addis Ababa. Though the court ruled in his favor, the prison administration refused to execute the court's decision. His family reported to EHRCO that since Alembirhan has been denied access to medical treatment, his health is deteriorating.

## **G. Destruction/Looting of property**

1. **Tariku Kassa:** He is an Ethiopian by birth and an American by nationality. He has agricultural investment work in SNNPRS, Amaro special woreda, Bedana Bulti KFA, at a place locally known as 'Tade'. He started working in the area after obtaining investment license from the regional investment bureau in May 2000. The area he received was verified to have been free from the local community's farming zone. He invested over half a million birr for growing coffee and banana on 15 hectares of land. Tariku had also created over 90 permanent and casual jobs in the area. However, following the ethnic conflict that occurred in the area in July 2006, his plantation was completely destroyed. He repeatedly reported the case to the regional government and requested that the offenders be brought to justice. He told EHRCO that although a five member investigating committee (including police) established and assessed the magnitude of the damage he incurred, no measures have yet been taken.
2. **Kebede Gadena:** He resides in SNNPRS, Awassa town, Tabour Kebele, Atote locality since 1995. In the meantime, he was told by the town's municipality to dismantle his house and fences as the place has already been transferred to another person. He, however, objected the decision and lodged his complaints to pertinent regional offices. On March 15, 2008, 10 policemen went to the house in the municipality vehicle, dismantled the fences and burnt his hut down. Kebede told EHRCO that cash and household property worth over 50,000 birr have been destroyed.
3. **Gemechu Ensermu:** 45, He lives in Oromia region, Nekemt town, Kebele 07, House No. 758. He is a member of the Oromia regional council representing ONC. He is also head of the East Wellega zone ONC office. On January 28, 2008, his house was stoned, and the wall has been tattered with over five bullets. An EHRCO investigator was able to see the damage.

## **PART TWO**

### **Human rights violations associated with ethnic and religious conflicts**

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which is adopted by Ethiopia states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Articles 6(1) and 9(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Ethiopia has ratified, reaffirm these rights in no uncertain terms. Moreover, Article 2(1)(2) of the Covenant provides the obligation of states to ensure the respect and protection of the rights in their jurisdictions. Furthermore, Article 14 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia states that, "Every person has the inviolable and inalienable right to life, the security of person and liberty."

However, these fundamental human rights of citizens are being routinely violated due to various reasons. In this regard, ethnic and religious conflicts have become some of the major causes of the violations. Following is human rights violations caused by the ethnic conflicts between members of Borena Oromo who live in various KFAs of Teltelle wereda, Yabelo zone of the Oromia region and the Konso ethnic groups.

### 1. Conflict between Borena Oromos and members of Konso ethnic group

There had been conflicts between Borena Oromos who live in various KFAs of Teltelle wereda, Yabelo zone of the Oromia region and members of Konso ethnic group as of October 3, 2007 due to claims over farm and grazing land. The conflict, which had apparently subsided for sometime, occurred again on October 14, 2007, and caused human casualties and property damages. The Borena Oromos are largely pastoralists. Some of them sold plots of farmlands to members of the Konso ethnic group. As a result, most of the area that had been a pastureland has eventually been turned into a farming land. This created a sense of deprivation on the part of the Oromo pastoralists who felt that Konso farmers have gradually taken their grazing land away. This state of affairs has been the cause of an ongoing conflict between members of the two ethnic groups. The conflict escalated as the Borena Oromos resorted to demanding members of the Konso ethnic group to evacuate the area. The conflict resulted in loss of human lives, bodily injuries and property damages. Although EHRCO could not conduct a full-scale investigation because the EHRCO investigator who went to the area was arrested and detained by local authorities, it was possible to document some of the human rights violations caused as a result of the conflict.

#### Persons reportedly killed in the conflict

No	Name	Age	Address	Details
1	Amare Tolla	25	Derashe special woreda Dega Mashile KFA	He was a daily laborer. While he was going back home from the day's work, he was shot to death amidst the conflict. As he had no relatives in the area, his body was laid to rest in the bushes by members of the defense force three days later.
2	Mekuria Telamo	31	" "	He was a day laborer. While he was going home after the day's work, he was shot to death amidst the clash. His body was laid to rest in the bushes by members of the defense force three days later as he had no relatives in the area.
3	Antika Itanu Terefe	19	" "	While he was going back home after work, he was shot to death amid the ethnic conflict. As he had no relatives in the area, his body was laid to rest in the bushes by members of the

				defense force three days later.
4	Dagne (father's name unknown for the time being)	80	Teltelle town	A member of Konso ethnic group stabbed to death.
5	Ayano (father's name unknown for the time being)	-	" "	A member of Konso ethnic group killed in the conflict
6	Tola Abera	25	Hatuse KFA	He was killed in the conflict.
7	Addisu Ole	32	" "	A member of Konso ethnic group shot to death in the conflict.
8	Birchana Keneno	55	" "	" " " "
9	Kushile Duba	50	" "	" " " "
10	Bora Guda	50	Chebi/Balke KFA	He was shot to death in the conflict.
11	Kassaye Ketikebo	75	" "	" " " "
12	Mareko Beriso	20	Hadow KFA	" " " "

## 2. Conflict between the Sidama and Guji Ethnic groups

It is to be recalled that as a result of recurrent conflicts between members of the Sidama and Guji ethnic groups living in Shisha and Kakale KFA in Sidama zone, Wendo Genet wereda of the South Region, several people were killed and property was destroyed. In a recent conflict that flared up between members of the two ethnic groups, damage was caused to private property owned by the following individuals.

No	Name	Property Damaged	Date
1	Edao Ataro	A house was burnt down	Dec.13/2007
2	Bufa Bututa	" "	Dec.14/2007
3	Warsoma Diamo	" "	Dec.16/2007
4	Ato Fishe	" "	Dec.16/2007
5	Ebiso Edao	" "	Dec.17/2007
6	Gemechu Tiba	" "	Dec.25/2007
7	Godana Megene	" "	Dec.25/2007
8	Ermias Sole	'Khat' plantation on 4,000 square meters of land was destroyed and sugarcane plantation valued at 13,000 Birr was also burnt to the ground.	December 2007
9	Bewari Gobena	Ready for sale sugarcane stems worth 8000 Birr was burnt down.	" "

## 3. Human rights violations caused due to religious conflicts

Fundamental rights such as the right to life, liberty and security enshrined in international human rights instruments, which Ethiopia ratified and the FDRE Constitution are being

violated on account of various reasons. In this regard, recurring attacks often spawned under the guise religion have caused serious human rights violations.

It is to be recalled that a considerable damage had been caused on human lives and property due to attacks mounted on various churches in the Illubabor, Jimma and West Wollega zones of the Oromia regional state in September 2006. Recently, Muslim extremists attacked protestant Christians by storming a church in Nensebo Chebi KFA, Nensebo Woreda, Arsi zone of the Oromia regional state. EHRCO was able to investigate and document the human rights violations caused as a result of the attacks.

There are hundreds of Orthodox and Protestant Christians who moved from West Shoa and other parts of the country and engaged in farming and pastoral activities in Nensebo Woreda, Arsi zone of the Oromia regional state. Members of the local community, who are largely Muslim have threatened and intimidated followers the other religions to evacuate the area claiming that, " By no means can the woreda host any religion other than Islam." Members of non-Muslim communities told EHRCO that they have also been subjected to various sorts of attacks because of their religious beliefs. For instance, On September 22, 2004, extremist Muslims dismantled the fences erected on a plot of land for the construction of a church for Protestant Christians. Moreover, on September 23, 2004, the Muslim extremists burnt down the house of an individual where Protestants were worshipping. Furthermore, on October 13,2006, the Kale-Hiwot Church and Chebi Gebriel of the Orthodox Church were burnt to the ground by the Muslim extremists in the area.

On March 2, 2008, at about 12:30 A.M, the Muslim extremists mounted another attack on worshippers in two protestant churches called Berhane Kristos and Kale Hiwot. The extremists locked the doors from outside, entered the churches through the windows and attacked the worshippers by machetes. As a result, one person was killed and 15 others sustained serious bodily injuries.

## **Details of victims attacked while praying**

### **A. Killing**

**Tulu Mosisa:** 50, He was a resident of Nensebo KFA. He is head of a four-member family. On March 2,2008, at around 12:30 A.M., while he was worshipping in the *Birhane Kirstos* church, he was hit on his neck by a machete and died instantly.

### **B. Bodily Injury**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Magnitude of the injury</b>	<b>Place of the assault</b>
1	Nuru Mulsa	45	His left hand was amputated, after being hit by a machete	Birhan-Kiristos church
2	Abdisa Gedefa	32	Sustained injury on his back as a result of an attack by a machete	" "
3	Gizachew Ajesibo	15	" "	" "

4	Jimma Yadete	16	Sustained injury on his hand as a result of an attack by a machete	“ ”
5	Boke Abera	5	“ ”	“ ”
6	Solisa Tola	15	“ ”	“ ”
7	Dereje Chala	16	“ ”	
8	Dafa Guta	30	His left hand was amputated after being hit with a machete	Kale-Hiwot church
9	Diruba Buta	32	Sustained injuries on both hands as a result of an attack by a machete	“ ”
10	Diguma Kenene	45	Sustained injuries on the head.	“ ”
11	Chala Dida	46	Sustained injuries on his hand	“ ”
12	Jima Yadete		“ ”	“ ”
13	Delesa Guta	15	Sustained injuries on the head	“ ”
14	Bedada Gemechu	20	Sustained injuries on his hand	“ ”
15	Diribe Abdissa	30	Sustained injuries on her back	“ ”

## Conclusion

Human rights violations incorporated in this 30<sup>th</sup> Regular Report are based on complaints received from victims, evidence gathered through onsite investigations and testimonies of witnesses. As could be gathered from the report, there still remains much to be done to improve the human rights situation in the country. The fact that many of the violations are being perpetrated by government security forces and other agents of the state with impunity makes the situation even more worrying. Thus, EHRCO urges the government to respect and protect the fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution of the country. In particular,

- EHRCO calls on the government to give due attention to the human rights violations in this report and bring perpetrators to justice.
- As the number of persons who claim to have suffered beatings, torture and mistreatment while in detention is increasing, EHRCO urges the government to take the matter seriously and protect citizens from such abuses and hold perpetrators to account.
- EHRCO also urges the government to release detainees who are arrested without due process of law and are being held illegally.
- Furthermore, EHRCO urges the government to ensure that commensurate compensation is paid to the families of those who were killed and to those injured, beaten, illegally detained, and had their property looted and/or destroyed.
- As human rights violations occurring as a result of ethnic conflicts are becoming very serious, we urge the government to take its duty of protecting the life, property and

personal security of citizens seriously and seek durable solutions by carefully studying the root causes of ethnic conflicts in the country.

- EHRCO would like to reiterate its appeal that the government should give due attention to attacks and conflicts induced by religious grounds and to bring perpetrators of the West Arsi Zone Nenesebo wereda attacks on protestant Christians to justice without delay.

Finally, EHRCO calls on citizens, national and international organizations, government envoys and representatives of international organizations that stand for the respect of human rights and the rule of law, to exert pressure on the Ethiopian government to put in place the necessary legal and institutional mechanisms and ensure their proper implementation to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law, by writing to government bodies and officials listed below.

## CC

- H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga, Speaker, House of Peoples Representatives, FDRE. P.O. Box 80001, Fax: (251-1) 1 55 0900 Tel. (251-1) 1241013 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- H.E. Ato Degife Bula, Speaker, House of Federation, FDRE P.O.Box 80001, Fax: (251-1) 1 55 0722 Tel. (251-1) 1 242301, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Girma Woldegiorgis, President, FDRE. P.O.Box 1031, Fax: (251-1) 1 55 2020, Tel. (251-1) 5518850, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister, FDRE P.O.Box: 1031, Fax: (251-1) 1 55 2020, Tel. (251-1) 1 226767, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Siraj Fegessa, Minister of Federal Affairs, FDRE. P.O.Box: 1370, Fax: (251-1) 5 520000 Tel. (251-1) 5 520000 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Assefa Kesito, Minister of Justice, FDRE, P. O. Box: 1370, Fax: (251-1) 5 52 0874, Tel. (251-1) 5 515099, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Dr. Mohammad Yasin, House speaker, Oromia Regional State Council, P.O.Box 101769, Fax, (251-1) 551 3642, Tel. (251-1) 5510455 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- H.E. Ato Fikru Gnagal, House Speaker, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State, P. O. Box: 18, Fax: (251-46) 220 1950, Tel. (251-46) 2200042, Awassa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Abdulaziz Mohammad, Mayor of Dire-Dawa Provisional Administration, P.O.Box, 240, Fax (251-25) 1111072, Dire-Dawa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Commissioner Getachew Asres, Dire-Dawa Provisional Administration Police Commissioner, P.O.Box, 1453, Fax (251-25) 111 40 89, Dire-Dawa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Dr. Misrak Mekonnen, House Speaker, Amhara Regional State Council, P.O.Box 312, Fax (251-11) 058 220 1068, Telephone (251-11) 058 220 2252, Bahr Dar, Ethiopia
- H.E. Commissioner Workineh Gebeyehu, Director, Federal Police P.O.Box 199, Fax (251-11) 153 42 53 Telephone (251-1) 551 2744, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



- H.E. Ambassador Kassa G/Hiwot, Chief Commissioner, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, P.O.Box: 1165, Fax: (251-11) 6 45 9290, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Abay Tekle, Ombudsman, FDRE, P. O. Box: 2459, Fax: (251-11) 6 45 9229, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia