



ኢሰመጉ  
EHRCO

የኢትዮጵያ ሰብአዊ መብቶች ጉባዔ  
**ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

ኢሰመጉ የቆመው ለዲሞክራሲ፣ ለሕግ ልዕልናና ለሰብአዊ መብቶች መከበር ነው።  
EHRCO stands for democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights.

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

January 2008

**Introduction**

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) in this 29<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 December 2007, 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.	Type of violations	Extent of damage	Page
A	Extra judicial killings	17 (see the details of nine of them in section 2, page 29 and 31)	2
B	Beating and torture	16	4
C	Rape	1	9
D	Violation of the right to freedom of expression	1	9
E	<b>Illegal detention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Detained and released</li> </ul> Still under detention	<b>244</b> 59 185	9
F	Enforced disappearances	3	19
G	Threats and intimidation	3	19
H	Unlawful dismissal from job	24	20
I	Denial of justice	2	23
J	Enforced isolation from social life/property damage/looting	6 families	24
Part Two: Rights violations associated with ethnic conflicts		Killings, destruction of property, eviction, enforced isolation from social life, etc	26

## Part One

### Various forms of Human Rights Violations

#### 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) also 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.

On 5 August 2007 on the excuse that the day was the last day before the start of the fasting period for orthodox Christians, prison officials allowed alcohol to get into the premises of Mota Prison, East Gojjam Zone in the Amhara Region ignoring rules that prohibit the use of alcohol in prisons. In the festivities, the prisoners got drunk. At around 5:00 p.m., a brawl ensued between the inmates and the prison guards, and as result the following five inmates were killed. The families of the late victims reported to EHRCO that they were not allowed to take the bodies of their loved ones and they later heard that all five men had been buried in one grave. The details are presented below.

1. **Bamlaku Azmeraw Worku:** 29, He was from Amhara Regional State, East Gojjam Zone, Huleteju Enessie Woreda, Mota town, Sona Medhanealem Kebele Farmers' Association. He was running a private business going to prison in 2006 suspected of killing a police officer. Hw was awaiting trial. On August 5, 2007, at about 5: 00p.m., he was shot and wounded by prison guard for allegedly trying to escape from prison. The prison guards kept on beating him with butt of the guns and truncheon until he died. He was then buried in the Mota Giorgis cemetery. Family members of the deceased reported to EHRCO that they were not allowed to take the body of late Bamlaku, and was buried with other four inmates killed in a similar account. Police have also refused to give back the personal effects of the deceased unless the family produced a letter from the Kebele stating that the deceased was killed because of his own fault. The mother of the deceased further reported that she put under detention for a day and were insulted and intimidated for asking the body of her son.
2. **Yeshiwas Mekonnen :** 50, He was from the Amhara Region, Ense-Sar Midir Woreda, Borebor Bete Midir Kebele. He was the head of a seven-member family, and member of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party (CUDP).He was arrested for allegedly concealing firearms in his house. On August 5, 2007 at

about 5:00 p.m., he was shot dead by the prison guards for allegedly to escape from prison. His body was laid to rest in the same condition as the late Bamlaku (stated in No. 1 above). The family of the deceased reported to EHRCO that the prison administration refused to hand over the personal effects of the deceased to them unless they produced a letter from the Kebele stating that the late Yeshiwas had died on his own fault.

3. **Ambelu Gedefaw:** 48, He was from Amhara Region, East Gojjam Zone, Enessie Sar Midir Woreda, Shewa Kebele Farmers' Association. He was also a member of CUDP. In January 2006, he was shot by police and arrested for allegedly concealing firearms. On August 5, 2007, at about 5:00 p.m. he was shot dead by prison guards for allegedly trying to escape from prison. He was buried in the same condition as Bamlaku and Yeshiwas (No. 1 and 2 above). His family reported to EHRCO that the prison administration refused to hand over the deceased's personal effects to them unless they produced a letter from the Kebele stating that Ambelu had died on his own fault.
4. **Jemberu Yibeltal:** 24, He was from Amhara Region, East Gojjam Zone, Enessie Sar Midir Woreda, Jan Gebeya Kebele Farmers' Association. He was a member of CUDP, and arrested being accused of hiding firearms. On August 5, 2007, at around 5:00p.m. , he was shot dead by prison guards for allegedly trying to escape from prison. His family reported to EHRCO that, he was buried in a similar condition as the other victims mentioned above. They also said that the prison administration refused to hand over the personal effects of the deceased to them unless they produced letter from the Kebele stating that the Jemberu had died on his own fault.
5. **Nigat Settie:** He was from Amhara Regional State, East Gojjam Zone, Enessie Sar Midir Woreda, Yizana Kebele Farmers' Association. He was in Mata prison for reasons EHRCO was unable to establish for the time being. On August 5, 2007, at about 5:00p.m., he was shot dead by prison guards for allegedly trying to escape. As his family reported to EHRCO, he was buried in the same conditions and in the same grave with the other victims mentioned above.
6. **Zerihun Abate:** 17 He was a resident of Oromia Region, East Wollega Zone, Guto Wayu Woreda, Nekemt town, Kebele 09. On 29 April 2007 at about midnight, he was shot by a police officer on his chest and died instantly. Although the killer was put under control, he was not formally charged by the time this report was being compiled.
7. **Aregash Gebemariam (F):** 45, She was a resident of Somali region Jijiga town. On August 17, 2007 she was brutally stabbed to death by a member of the Somali ethnic group who had a long-standing claim to the house she was living in. The deceased reported the threats to her life several times to the kebele office as well as to the police but nether acted in time to prevent

her death. After her death her house was broken into in the night of 3 September 2007 and property belonging to her was looted. After this incident her family, reported the house breaking to the police and requested the police to seal off the house to prevent further break in. The region's Police Commission wrote a letter to the kebele to seal off the house as per the request of the owners but kebele officials refused to comply with the order saying that the letter should have come from the Regional Council, not from the police. IT was learnt that the killer was not apprehended and brought to justice by the time this report was being compiled.

8. **Ehite Getahun (F):** She was a resident of Somali regional state, Jijiga town, On August 17, 2007, she was stabbed to death along with the late Aregash (No. 7 above) by the same assailant.

## **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.

1. **Honorable Gutu Mulisa:** He is a member of the FDRE House of Peoples Representatives, representing the Oromo National Council (ONC) from Oromia Regional State, West Shoa Zone, Dendi No.1 election constituency. On October 20, 2007, while he was maintaining his house in Ambo town, at about 1:00 p.m. seven individuals, whom he couldn't identify, entered his house and beat him. As a result, he sustained sever injuries on his head and hand. Gutu told EHRCO that although he reported the case to the House of Peoples' Representatives, he was not given adequate response. Meanwhile, on October 30, 2007, at around 11:00 a.m., when the victim went to the Ambo Woreda Police Station to get a summons to his attackers, he was detained, threatened and intimidated by the police before he was released at about 6:30 p.m.
2. **Dawit Degefu:** 22. He is a student at the Bahir Dar University. On September 17, 2007 he was arrested by the police and detained for 17 days in the Holota police station for allegedly carrying the logo of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). He reported to EHRCO that during his detention he was kept in solitary confinement, repeatedly beaten, especially during the night, by the police, and was also coerced to confess that he was a member of the OLF and to expose other OLF members. Owing to the beatings, he sustained sever injuries on his hand, leg and on other parts of his body. He was released on 4 October 2007, a1000 Birr bail

3. **Tewodros Awgichew:** 16. He is a 10th grade student living in Oromia Region, Assela town kebele 08. On July 26, 2007 at about 4:00 p.m., he was arrested by the police officers that went to his house and taken to a nearby detention center. There, he was beaten on the head with the butt of a rifle. Soon, an executive committee member of the Kebele 08 administration came and slapped him saying, “ This boy was known for distributing the CUDP poster and tearing down the EPRDF poster during the 2005 National election.” As Tewodros reported to EHRCO, after being interrogated and held under police custody for one hour, he was released.
4. **Digis Adane:** He is a resident of Amhara region, Tach Armachiho Woreda, Fechena Kebele. On September 20, 2007 at about 8:00 a.m., members of the security forces, who claimed to have been ordered by the Militia Section Head, forcibly entered his house saying that he is suspected of holding a CUDP propagation letter. Without producing a search warrant, they searched his and his parents’ houses, and took away his 1441.00 Birr and other personal belongings. As he reported to EHRCO, he was then forced to go to a school compound that was being used as police camp. There, he was subjected to various forms of torture. According to him, he was put in a solitary confinement, his legs and arms tied up with his neck, they inserted a pen into his nose and brutally stirred him down until he became unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he escaped through the window and rescued his life.
5. **Muluken Habtamu Demissie:** 24. He is a student living in Amhara Region, East Gojjam Zone, Enessie Sar Midir Woreda, Kebele 01 Mertolemariam. He is a member of CUDP, and served as an election executive during the 2005 national elections. He was detained with three of his friends in July 2005 in connection with his involvement in the elections. Shortly after his release, while he was sitting in a bar with friends, they were arrested by police officers were told to sign a document saying that they were conspiring to instigate an up rising. Since they refused to sign the document, they were detained for six days. As Muluken reported to EHRCO, on October 26, 2005, he was arrested again by police and wereda security chief, taken to a nearby river called Mariam Minch, where he was severely assaulted and tortured. His captors immersed him into the river water to make him confess that he was concealing arms.
6. **Melkamu Worku Ayalew:** 32. He is a resides of Amhara regional state, East Gojjam zone, Enessie Sarmidir Woreda, Kebele 02 Mertolemariam town. During the 2005 national election, he was fielded as a candidate for the regional council election representing CUDP. Kebele militiamen

tried to attack him during the vote counting but police officers rescued him. Moreover, in September 2005, at night, the Kebele militiamen went to his house and beat him with the butt of a rifle until he became unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he reported the incident to the police but police refused to conduct investigation. Again, in November 2005, he was arrested from his house by the police and kebele militiamen and was charged with the crime of overthrowing the constitutional order, a charge he was later acquitted of. As he reported to EHRCO, he is still being threatened and intimidated by the Kebele militiamen who frequently go to this house.

7. **Asmamaw Gebeyehu Ejigu:** 38, He is a resident of Amhara Region, East Gojjam Zone, Enessie Sarmidir Woreda, Kebele 02 Mertolemarium town. He is a member of CUDP, and during the 2005 national elections he served as an election executive. Following the announcement of election results, he was detained from July to mid September 2005. In October 2005, the security personnel from the wereda justice and security office went to his home at midnight and took him to the police station and detained him in the police station. Then, along with the other detainees he was taken to a river called Guansa where they were beaten all night to extract information as to the whereabouts of a bandit. Then, as he reported to EHRCO, he was told to leave the area he did not want to be killed. Amamaw has left his hometown and is living elsewhere.
8. **Haileyesus Adamu Getahun :** 24. He is a resident of Amhara Region, East Gojjam Zone, Enessie Sarmidir Woreda, Kebele 01 Mertolemarium town. In July 2007, at around 7:00 p.m., while he was sitting in a cafe, a Kebele militiaman ordered him and others to get out of the cafe. When he asked why, The militiaman beaten him with a stick on the hand and legs. He told EHRCO that although he reported the case to the police, his petition was thrown away.
9. **Abebe kebede Bogale:** 36. He is a resident of Amhara Region, East Gojjam Zone, Enessie Sarmidir Woreda, Kebele 01 Mertolemarium town. On 23 May 2007, he was summoned to the wereda police station and detained there the whole day accused of meeting with 'strangers' in his house. Then, a wereda police officer instructed the kebele militiamen to beat him if they found him moving around after 8:00 p.m. On the following day he escaped an attack by three militiamen. HE reported to the werda police and justice offices but he was told to go home as the matter had been resolved. However, on 28 May 2007, at 11:00 p.m., the militiamen broke into a café where he took refuge and beat him severely. As a result of the attack he has a broken bone and is still suffering from the injury.

10. **Feleke Kebede:** He lives in Awasa town, Tabor Kebele in a house he rented from a landlord. One day, the landlord, Hon. Seifu Tadesse, a member of the House of Peoples Representatives, told him to leave the house immediately without any prior notice. When Feleke asked to be given sometime until he was able to find another house, the landlord beat him with the butt of a pistol. Feleke told EHRCO that he reported the incident to the Tabor Kebele Police station and the police station referred the case to the Awassa town police Department in a letter Ref.No. 475/07/2000 dated October 18,2007stating that the matter was beyond their jurisdiction. However, police did not conduct investigation by the time this report was being compiled.
  
11. **Kebede Koro:** He is a resident of Oromia Region, West Shoa Zone, Mida Kegn Woreda, Baleme town. He was a member of the Oromo National Congress (ONC) and now a member of the Oromo Peoples Congress (OPC). He campaigned for ONC during the 2005 elections. As a result, he was harassed and threatened by the security forces. On 30 March 2006, while he was traveling to Shakiso town, plainclothes security personnel forced him to get off the vehicle, beat him, and took him to a detention facility in Addis Ababa. HE told EHRCO that as a result of the beating, he sustained injuries on his legs and genitals. As he reported to EHRCO, he was also taken to the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*), and asked to join the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization (OPDO), When he refused, he was beaten, and detained for four months without charges. On November 7, 2007 he was released by the order of the Federal High Court. He said he is security personnel continue harassing him and he still fears for his life.
  
12. **Abebe Boriye Woldemeskel:** 45. He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Nefas Silk Lafto Sub City. From February 25- March 3, 2007 he was detained in the 3<sup>rd</sup> police station. There he was beaten so hard that he confessed to have receiving from an inmate in the same police station a flyer meant to propagate a popular political movement. However, on November 27, 2000, when he appeared before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Criminal bench of the Federal High Court as a prosecution witness against the inmate, he told the court that he didn't receive any flyer from him, and said that he had confessed to the police because he was tortured. He told EHRCO that while he he was leaving the courtroom after his testimony, police arrested and detained him for four hours, took away his I.D. Card, and released him after ordering him to go to the prosecutor's office the next day. The following day, when he went to the office he was asked why he changed his statement. He was also told that he would be prosecuted for doing that. Police still refused to return his ID card.

13. **Tsega Terefe Hailu:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Kolfe Keraniyo Sub-City, Kebele 10, House No. 099. He is a protestant and director of “ a church called “*Yetesfaw Kal Alemakef Betechristian*”. When the church was founded, he received an operational license from the Ministry of Justice. However, on August 27, 2007, he along with other 11 members of the Church, was arrested by the police without a court warrant, and detained for two months in connection with religious papers they disseminate. However, while their case was pending in court, police released them on November 3, 2007. Tsega told EHRCO that he had undergone a surgery for the injury he sustained on his bladder as a result of the beating he received in prison. He said that he did not do anything illegal except exercising his constitutional rights. And yet, apart from the abuses he and his family endured, their church of worship was closed down without a court order police took custody of the property.
14. **Endale Simegn:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Arada Sub City, Kebele 07/08, and House No. 009. On September 10, 2007, plainclothes security personnel arrested him at his home and took him away and detained him at the Arada Sub City police station. After several hours, he was taken to the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*). He reported to EHRCO that in Maikelawi, he was kept in a dark room and was beaten and tortured. HE lost a tooth as a result of the beating. Although he received medical treatment at the police hospital, he has not yet fully recovered. On October 22, 2007, the Federal First Instance Court ruled that it dismissed the case because the defendant had no case to answer. However, police continued holding him in defiance of the court order. On November 7, 2007, he appeared before the Federal Higher Court and was released on bail. He told EHRCO that he was still being intimidated and harassed by the police, and his personal safety is in danger.
15. **Dagosse Mulatu:** He is a resident of Amhara Region Tach Armachiho Woreda. On October 3, 2007, at around 12: 00 A.M., while he was waiting for a car, government armed men arrested and beat him saying that he owned a gun. He told them that he had a license from the Kebele Administration office. However, they took the gun and his 950 Birr and released him. He reported to EHRCO that owing to the beatings, his right arm and other parts of his body were injured, and he is receiving medical treatment in Gonder town.
16. **Dinku Gesesse:** He is a resident of Amhara region, Gonder town. He has served as a guard in the Kebele Office for 14 years. In August 2007, at 5: 00 a.m., while he was on duty, unidentified armed men had him open the gate, and then forced him to carry a corrugated iron sheet found in the kebele compound. For reasons he could not understand, the armed men labeled him as a thief beat and jailed him for a week at the 1<sup>st</sup> police station. Later, he was

released by the Gonder Woreda court on bail. He reported to EHRCO that although the court did not convict him of any crime, the kebele office where he used to work refused to reinstate him to his job by saying that he was a criminal.

### **C. Rape**

**Nimio Ahmed Abdi:** 22. She is a resident of the Somali Region, Fik Zone, Fik Woreda. She makes a living by selling "*Khat*". She reported to EHRCO that on 6, October 2007, at around 7:00 p.m., while she was walking with other people on the road from Fik Zone to Babile town, at a place called Dunedum, two members of the members of the army unit that was patrolling the area forced her to a nearby farm and raped her there.

### **D. Violation of the right to freedom of expression**

**Eskinder Nega and his wife Serkalem Fasil:** are both journalists, who had been in prison for a year and six months following up their trial with CUDP executives under the file of Engineer Hailu Shawl et al, and were later acquitted. After their release from prison, they wrote a book about their stay in prison and gave it to a printing press for publication. Eskinder reported to EHRCO that while the printing press was publishing the book, on 7 September 2007, plainclothes security men went to the printing press and told the manager to stop printing or his life would be in danger. As a result, the printing of the books was interrupted and Eskinder was given back the money he paid up front for the printing.

### **E. Illegal Detentions**

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 have been arrested and detained for days, and some for months, without due process of law. EHRCO verified that some of the individuals are still under police custody in defiance of court orders for their release.

1. **Constable Moges Kebede:** 27. He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Kolfe Keraniyo Sub-City. He was a police officer with the Addis Ababa Police Commission, and had resigned from his job as of 4 May 2007. On September 5, 2007 at around 8:00 a.m., while he was in a hospital accompanying a sick relative, individuals whom he did not know called on his cell phone and asked him where he was. He told them

where he was. When he was leaving the hospital after he hung up the phone, members of the federal police arrested him without a court warrant, forced him into a police vehicle and took him to *Maikelawi*, where he was detained. The next day, he appeared at the Arada bench of the Federal First Instance Court accused of disseminating anti-government papers. As police requested for extra time of further investigation he was remanded in custody. After four adjournments given by the court at the request of police, the court ordered his release as on 3 October 2007 as police could not produce sufficient evidence to warrant his further detention. However, as family members of Moges told EHRCO that police kept him in detention until 16 October 2007 in defiance of the court order.

2. **Tadesse Yeshanew:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Arada Sub City, Kebele 03/09, House No.432. On September 6, 2007, at about 10:00 a.m., police arrested him and he was not brought before court until 21 September 2007. He was released on a 2000 birr bail on 20 November 2007.
3. **Lt. Colonel Tesfaye Hailu:** He resides in Addis Ababa, Yeka Sub-City, Kebele 11/12, in a military officers' apartment building in an area called *Adwadildiy*. He used to work in the administration section at the Gafat Engineering. During an annual evaluation meeting in the army conducted on September 18, 2006, at a military establishment called "*Project 40,720*", he was arrested for allegedly having links with CUDP. As his family reported to EHRCO, Tesfaye is still in detention at *Tatek* military camp, without appearing to a court of law.
4. **Lt. Colonel Getinet Admasu:** He is a resident in Addis Ababa, Yeka Sub-City, Kebele 11/12, in a military officers apartment building in a locality called *Adiwadildiy*. He was head of a military establishment called "*Project 40,720*". During an annual military evaluation meeting held on September 18, 2006, he was arrested for allegedly supporting CUDP. His family told EHRCO that he has been incarcerated at the *Tatek* military camp since more than a year ago, and is still in detention without being brought to a court of law.
5. **Captain Kassahun Nigussie:** He resides in Addis Ababa, Bole Sub-City, Kebele 14/15. He is a maintenance officer at a military establishment called "*Project 40,720*". During an annual evaluation meeting held on September 18, 2006, he was arrested for allegedly having links with CUDP. As his family reported to EHRCO, he has been in detention at the *Tatek* military camp for more than a year without being brought to a court of law.

6. **Coloniel Abebe Asrat:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Yeka Sub-City, Kebele 11/12 in a military officers' apartment building in locality called *Adiwadildiy*. He was head of the industry office at National Defence Force. During an annual evaluation meeting held on September 18, 2006, at a military establishment called "*Project 40,720*", he was arrested for allegedly supporting CUDP. His family told EHRCO that he has been in detention at *Tatek* military camp for over a year, and he is still in detention without being brought to a court of law.
  
7. **Lt. Colonel Gossaye Bogale:** He resides in Addis Ababa, Yeka Sub-City, Kebele 11/12, in a military officers' apartment building in a locality called *Adwadildiy*. He was head of the maintenance section at a military establishment called "*Project 40,720*". During an annual evaluation meeting held on September 18, 2006, he was arrested for allegedly having links with CUDP and is still in detention at the *Tatek* military camp without being taken to court.
  
8. **Lt. Colonel Tesfaye Lemma:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Yeka Sub-City, Kebele 11/12, in a military officers' apartment building in a locality called *Adwadildiy*. He was an arms maintenance officer with the armed forces in Addis Ababa. During an annual evaluation meeting conducted on September 18, 2006 at the military establishment called "*Project 40,720*" he was arrested for allegedly supporting CUDP, and he is still in detention at the *Tatek* military camp *without* being brought to court.
  
9. **Lt. Sisay Degefa:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Lafto Sub-City, and was an arms maintenance officer with the armed forces in Addis Ababa. During an annual evaluation meeting held on September 18, 2006 at the military establishment called "*Project 40,720*" he was arrested for allegedly having links with CUDP, and he is still in detention at the *Tatek* military camp without being brought to court.
  
10. **Shiek Mohammad Tusuru Tufa:** He is a resident of Oromia Region Arsi Zone, Gedeb Assasa Woreda, Tijo Sema Kebele Farmers' Association. He is a farmer and a member of the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM), an opposition political party. On May 17, 2007 he was arrested by police without an arrest warrant for an alleged abuse of trust. On June 21, 2007, he appeared before court, and was released on bail. On 14 November 2007 he was arrested while he was helping OFDM rent an office in the town. A Member of Parliament representing OFDM told EHRCO that Mohammed was in detention without appearing before a judge by the time this report was being compiled.

11. **Demeke Yasin:** 20, He is a businessman living in Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema Sub City, Kebele 13/17. On 21 November 2007, at around 5:00 a.m., plainclothes security personnel went to his house and arrested him without an arrest warrant, and asked him to tell them the whereabouts of his brother whom the police were looking for. Demeke's family told EHRCO that he was in detention in a police station without appearing before a judge by the time this report was being compiled.

1. Some 571 heads of families living in Oromia Region Borena Zone, Abaya Woreda, Gungua town who were making a living by planting various vegetables on plots of land near their homes were evicted in February 2007. They were evicted from their areas after being informed that the area is wanted for the construction of a health station. They reported to EHRCO that without being given substitute plots of land and commensurate compensation, they were displaced from the area, and their property have been damaged. EHRCO was also able to see the damage caused to property. Although the farmers repeatedly petitioned pertinent government offices, they were not given remedies. In stead, the following farmers were arrested for inciting the community to demand compensation for the damaged property and the eviction. They were released after being fined 300 birr each.

Table 2. Names and other details of detainees

No.	Name	Date of arrest	Date of release
1	Birhanu Daka	March 18,2007	April 8,2007
2	Tadelech Warrera (F)	"	"
3	Kebede Gobena	"	"
4	Asefa Gami	"	"
5	Birhanu Mengesha	"	"
6	Kasu Mariam	"	"
7	Daka Shoto	"	"
8	Workinesh Beriso (F)	May 31, 2007	June 2,2007

Individuals whose names listed in the table below are members or supporters of OFDM, an opposition political party, who have been arrested without a court warrant and detained at the Addis Ababa Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*) and in other locations since August 21, 2007 for allegedly having links with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and for other reasons, as OFDM reported to EHRCO in a letter dated on 15 October 2007 Ref. No. O.F.D.M/100/617.

Table 3. Names of detainees

No.	Name	Place of arrest	Place of detention
1	Seyoum Girma	Girar Jarso	Fiche
2	Girma Teferra	"	"
3	Solomon Tsega	"	"
4	Fiseha Lemma	"	"
5	Birhanu Aberra	"	"
6	Dereje Janka	"	"
7	Cheru Zewdie	"	"
8	Kara Zewdie	"	"
9	Negasha Meka	"	"
10	Sibhatu Banja	Addis Ababa	Central crime investigation
11	Birhanu Mulsa	"	"
12	Hailegebriel Ararso	"	"
13	Kelbessa Abau	"	"
14	Dereje Yiheyis	"	"
15	Ferdisa Yadeta	"	"
16	Tewodros Mijena	Lalo Asabi	Unknown
17	Fetene Emana	Geba Robi	Geba Robi
18	Raga Amana	"	"
19	Abiot Fekadu	Bishoftu	Unknown
20	Abdi Gari	"	Bishoftu
21	Dadi Gelan	"	"
22	Melka Tegenu	"	"
23	Tuji Koreje	"	"
24	Ephrem Lemma	"	"
25	Abate Bekele	Nekempte	Central crime investigation
26	Dereje Tassew	Bishoftu	Bishoftu
27	Assefa Mulat	"	"
28	Birhanu Tolera	"	"
29	Kate Gidris	Addis Ababa	Central crime investigation
30	Tamirat Abdo	Bishoftu	Bishoftu
31	Nanessa Lemu	Yaya Gullele	Yaya Gullele (Fital)
32	Girma Gameda	"	"
33	Kidane Girma	"	"
34	Tesfaye Gari	"	"
35	Ayelech Worku	"	"
36	Addis Bezaw	"	"
37	Dereje Hailu	"	"
38	Solomon Shumi	"	"

39	Tedi Birhanu	“	“
40	Bado Melka	Bishoftu	Bishoftu

In its letter OFDM added that its members and supporters whose names listed below have been in detention since 23 September 2007 after being arrested in Nekemt Wollega, Awa Gelan Woreda.

Table 4. Names of detainees

No	Name	Place of arrest	Place of detention
1	Jemal Awol	Awa Gelan Woreda	Awa Gelan police station
2	Fetene Amana	“	“
3	Kedir Yonas	“	“
4	Yaya Edris	“	“
5	Oumar Jibril	“	“
6	Zakri Haymed	“	“
7	Mamud Humar	“	“
8	Mohamud Hussein	“	“
9	Mohamud Jemal	“	“
10	Murad Ebro	“	“
11	Siad Ibrahim	“	“
12	Ibrahim Mohammad	“	“
13	Jemal Jale	“	“
14	Elias Amedo	“	“
15	Hussien Ameda	“	“
16	Meriam Mohammed	“	“
17	Bashota Adeba	“	“
18	Gizaw Ambicho	“	“
19	Mohamed Oumar	“	“
20	Abdi Humar	“	“
21	Amed Mohammad	“	“
22	Gusu Aliy	“	“
23	Jemal Abdi	“	“
24	Ibrahim Abdosh	“	“
25	Hassen Aliy	“	“
26	Hussein Aliy	“	“
27	Mohammed Erebo	“	“
28	Almash Aboyu	“	“
29	Miftahudin Mohamed	“	“
30	Zebir Shiek Haymed	“	“
31	Dino Adem	“	“

32	Negassa Weyusa	“	“
33	Gudina Rufa	“	“
34	Raga Imana	“	“
35	Sultan Kemal	“	“
36	Aliy Ousman	“	“
37	Tah Mohammed	“	“
38	Tah Dawidi	“	“
39	Idris Yesuf	“	“
40	Abdulay Mohammed	“	“
41	Atsiku Rehats	“	“
42	Ahibe Mohammod	“	“
43	Chala Jobir	“	“
44	Hame Atsiku	“	“
45	Gutu Tamiru	“	“
46	Chara Regassa	“	“
47	Yihun Jirata	“	“
48	Garuma Etana	“	“
49	Kedir Irga	“	“
50	Muhise Sheka	“	“
51	Mohamed Tsitsa	“	“
52	Haimed Jibril	“	“
53	Haimed Adem	“	“
54	Mohammed Rehas	“	“
55	Ato Dingeta	“	“

Similarly, in a letter dated December 5, 2007, Ref. No.O.F.D.M/100/635, the OFDM reported to EHRCO that its members and supporters whose names are listed in the table below, were arrested without a court warrant on 24 July 2007 and have been in detention in Illubabor Zone, Bedele wereda Prison by the time this report was being compiled.

Table 5 Names of detainees

No	Name	Place of arrest
1	Meseret Binor	Geji Woreda
2	Salasib Aynalem	Dapo Woreda
3	Rebuma Jaleta	Dapo Woreda
4	Paguma Firisa	Chewaka Woreda
5	Awelu Alemu	Chewaka Woreda

OFDM also reported to EHRCO in a letter dated 13 December 2007 Ref. No. OFDM/100/650 that its members whose names are listed below were arrested by police while leaving the courthouse after the court released

them on bail on previous charges. The detainees were reported to have been in custody at the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*) by the time this report was being compiled.

1. **Ibrahim Sherif:** The Federal High Court released him on a five thousand birr bail after he was detained for five months. However, when he appeared before the court for the adjournment after a week, police arrested and took him to *Maikelawi* without him attending the scheduled hearing.
2. **Tola Chalina:** He was leaving the Kality Prison on 14 November 2007 after posting a five thousand birr bail which was ordered by the Federal High Court to bring an end to his five month detention when police arrested him again at the gate of the prison and took him to *Maikelawi* where he has been in detention since then.
3. **Bikila Teferra:** He was leaving the Kality Prison on 4 December 2007 after posting a three thousand birr bail which was ordered by the Federal High Court to bring an end to his detention of several months when police arrested him again at the gate of the prison and took him to *Maikelawi* where he has been in detention since then.
4. **Solomon Abebe:** Arrested and detained in similar circumstances with Bikila Teferra (No. 3 above)

A member of the FDRE Parliament who is also an ONC elect representing the Midakegn Woreda election constituency, reported to EHRCO that some 26 students of Balemi junior secondary school, in Oromia region, West Shoa Zone, Midakegn Woreda requested to quit school because they were reportedly forced by local authorities to renounce their membership to the opposition Oromo National Congress (ONC) and join the ruling Oromo People Democratic Organization (OPDO). Officials of the school denied the students clearance that attests that the latter quit school. The students lodged complaints with the local authorities against the decision of the school officials. Meanwhile police arrested the students on 4 November 2007 without a court warrant and detained them in Midakegn werda police station. Nine parents who went to visit their children in the police station on the following day were also arrested by police, physically assaulted and later taken to an unknown location where they were being held by the time this report was being compiled. The names of the detained students and parents are listed below.

#### **List of detained students**

1. Getachew Edosa
2. Gemechu Tolosa

3. Gutu Abite
4. Endalkachew Aboma
5. Tamirat Desalegn
6. Getachew Kajela
7. Tolosa Ararso
8. Geremu Ararsa
9. Geremu Regassa
10. Temesgen Assefa
11. Reta Yadessa
12. Deressa Weltaji
13. Mukru Geta
14. Degitu Teshome (F)
15. Negassa Ture
16. Ayana Negassa
17. Anbessa Tariku
18. Tamirat Terefa
19. Dejene Ababiya
20. Etenu Negari (F)
21. Yadera Lemessa
22. Girma Negassa
23. Tamiru Dessu
24. Ararsa Assefa
25. Girma Chimdessa
26. Dejene Adugna
27. Bianssa Terefa

**List of detained parents**

1. Negassa Wagella
2. Ararsa Mamo
3. Kersa Tolera
4. Desalegn Ararssa
5. Tamiru Edosa
6. Gedefa Mideksa
7. Tariku Bodena
8. Edossa Seboka
9. Ababiya Abebe

2. It is to be recalled that EHRCO reported in its 28th Regular Report that Ato Meredo Mega, a young man of 30, who was a resident of the South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), Wolayita Zone, Damotweydie Woreda, Anka Damot Kebele Farmers' Association, was shot and killed by the Dugunafango wereda police chief on 25 April 2007. It was also mentioned in the report that the alleged killer was not brought to a court of law.

In connection with this, out of the 30 persons who were arrested on 24 April 2007 for allegedly inciting the protest against the new wereda delimitation and detained in Wolayita Sodo prison, 17 were falsely charged with the murder of Meredo Mega who was killed by the police chief. The defendants appeared before a judge on 1 October 2007. EHRCO confirmed that the remaining 13 were in detention without any formal charges by the time this report was being compiled. The following is a list of the 30 detained persons

The first 13 are in detention without any formal charges. The rest are those who were falsely charged with the murder of Meredo Mega

1. Yishak Doda
2. Kebede Kassa
3. Merkineh Mada
4. Wondimu Erkie
5. Esayas Duka
6. Bekele Uka
7. Wondimu Gamo
8. Simon Moliso
9. Gashaw Dicha
10. Germamo Gebre
11. Petros Tora
12. Alemayehu Meskele
13. Eyob Koliso
14. Tafesse Roba
15. Tesfaye Mintebo
16. Getachew Gebo
17. Tadiwos Lenda
18. Ayele Bogale
19. Bosh Bunaro
20. Hailu Bundasa
21. Hames Hantalo
22. Feleke Faltamo
23. Paulos Mekuria
24. Mohammed Gezimo
25. Asefa Anjajo
26. Geto Kolbaye
27. Birhanu Geta
28. Kassa Gudno
29. Yacob Basha
30. Asefa Oro

3. Families of the following individuals reported to EHRCO on 25 November 2007 that the individuals who are officers of the National Defence force have been detained in the Amhara regional state, Gonder town, Azezo Loza

Mariam prison. The families reported that the prisoners were forced to sleep outdoors, have no bedding suits and are not getting medical attention when fell ill. The names of the prisoners are listed below.

1. Second Corporal Tamirat Assefa
2. Captain Alebachew Teshager
3. Second Corporal Getinet Getu

## F. Disappearances

1. **Mebrat Metekia Asres**, 20, She is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student living in Ambo town in West Shewa Zone of the Oromia region. During the 2005 election she was a member of the musical group organized by the Oromo National Congress (ONC) to help its election campaign. On 9 February 2006 she was arrested and assaulted by police in Jeldu town while she was performing with the musical group. The incident was reported in EHRCO's 25th Regular Report. While this was the case, Meberat has disappeared since 11 February 2006. According to her family, Merbtat's whereabouts was unknown by the time this report was being compiled.
2. **Hailegebriel Ararso**: 44, He is a resident of Addis Ababa Kirkos Sub city, Kebele 07, House No. 622. On September 6, 2007, at about 5:00a.m, five armed members of the federal police took him away from his home to an unknown location. His family reported to EHRCO that his whereabouts was not known by the time this report was being compiled.
3. **Kelbessa Abew**: 49, He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Kirkos Sub-city, Kebele 13, House No. 1145. On September 6, 2007, policemen took him away from his office in the National Bank of Ethiopia. His family reported to EHRCO that his whereabouts was not known by the time this report was being compiled.

## G. Threats and Intimidation

1. **Kebede Alemu Gutema** : He resides in Addis Ababa Bole Sub-city, Kebele 11. He is an employee of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. He was a member of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party (EPRP) during the "Derg" regime. In connection with this, he was imprisoned for years since 1991 and later released. He said that he hadn't become a member of any political organization since then. He told EHRCO that of late, he was being followed on his way to and from work by people whom he doesn't know. He said his followers spat on his face and threatened him referring to his political activities in the past. Kebede blames some members of the ruling party in the Ministry to be behind the threats and intimidation. He also said that he was denied the scholarship opportunity he won by the decision of the EPRDF

committee in the Ministry. His appeals to the Minister, the appeals committee in the Ministry as well as to the Ministry of Capacity Building against this decision also remained unanswered. Asked about the matter by EHRCO the Minister of Mines and Energy told EHRCO in a letter that the result of the scholarship competition that Kebede had won was cancelled because the competition did not take into consideration the age of the candidates. In the new competition, Kebede was not invited because he was not eligible to compete because of his age.

2. **Eshetu Abebe Woldegebriel:** He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Arada sub-city, Kebele 11/12, House No. 647. During the 2005 election, he was an active member of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUDP). As a result, he was imprisoned for 45 days at the Dedessa detention center outside of Addis Ababa. After his release, he was threatened and intimidated by security forces on several occasions. He reported to EHRCO that on 18 November 2007, plainclothes security personnel spat on his face and threatened him with his life saying that he has not quit his membership with the CUDP.
3. **Aschenaki Yasin:** 27, He resides in Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema Sub-city, Kebele 13/17. He is engaged in metal work. He is a member of the CUDP. During the 2005 national elections, he campaigned for CUDP in his sub-city. On 6 May 2005, on the eve that CUDP called a mass rally in support of the Party, government security forces found Aschenaki wearing a T-shirt with a CUDP logo on it. They arrested and detained him for three hours in Kebele 13/15, and intimidated him saying that he will be responsible for any disturbance and stone throwing that may be caused in that locality. He then was released after signing a document to that effect. Fearing further intimidation, he left Addis Ababa, and stayed in another place until 18 August 2007. He reported to EHRCO that once he returned to his home in Addis, the threats and intimidation started again and he has now left his place of residence and is living elsewhere.

## **H. Unlawful dismissal from job**

1. **Inspector Muluneh Cherie:** He is a resident of Harar town, Kebele 01. He has been a member of the police force since 1977. On 3 November 2006, at about 11:00 a.m., while he was attending an evaluation meeting of high-ranking police officers chaired by the chief of the region's Justice and Security bureau, he was arrested for allegedly committing a crime, and detained for 21 days. He was subsequently released following his appeal to the regional Supreme Court. He reported to EHRCO that the zonal prosecutor closed his file as per Article 42(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code as there was no reason to prosecute him. However, in a letter written by the Harari Police

Commission under Ref.No. 12/71/74/319/99, he was suspended from his job since 22 April 2007 and he is now under a difficult condition.

2. **Deputy Inspector Kebede Alemu:** He a resident of Harar town, Kebele 07. He has been a member of the police force since 1978. On 3 November 2006 at 7:00 p.m., while he was attending an evaluation meeting of high-ranking police officers of the region he was arrested at the meeting hall without an arrest warrant for allegedly committing a crime and detained for 21 days. He was subsequently released on bail following his appeal to the regional Supreme Court. He reported to EHRCO that the zonal prosecutor closed his file as per Article 42(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code as there was no reason to prosecute him. However, in a letter written by the Harari Police Commission under the Ref.No. 12/71/74/319/99, he was dismissed from his job for an alleged disciplinary offence.
3. **Deputy Inspector Tesfaye Asfaw:** He is a resident of Harar town, Kebele 07. He had been a member of the police force since 1982. On 3 November 2006 at 10:30 a.m., while he was attending an evaluation meeting of high-ranking police officers of the region he was arrested at the meeting hall without an arrest warrant for allegedly committing a crime and detained for 21 days. He was subsequently released on bail following his appeal to the regional Supreme Court. He reported to EHRCO that the zonal prosecutor closed his file as per Article 42(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code as there was no reason to prosecute him. However, in a letter written by the Harari Police Commission under the Ref.No. 12/71/74/318/99,he was dismissed from his job for an alleged disciplinary offence.
4. **Constable Alemayehu Woldie:** He is a resident of Harar town, Kebele 08. He has been a member of the police force since 1998. On 5 November 2007, at around 9:45 a.m., he was arrested in a hotel in Harar town where he was sitting with a friend. On the same day, his house was searched without a warrant. He reported to EHRCO that he was detained for 20 days, and released on bail following his appeal to the regional Supreme Court. The zonal prosecutor closed his file as per Article 42(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code as there was no reason to prosecute him. However, in a letter written by the Harari Police Commission under the head No. 12/71/74/318/99, he was dismissed from his job for an alleged disciplinary offence
5. **Melaku Teferra :** 56, He is a lawyer working for the Borenea Zone administration in the Oromia region. He was imprisoned at the Kaliti prison after the political crisis that followed the 2005 elections and was released as a result of a pardon granted to political prisoners. After his release from prison, he reported to his former office to get back to his

job. However, officials in the organization have not given him satisfactory answers to his request giving reasons such as the committee that decides on requests like his has not met. He reported to EHRCO that although he was granted a full pardon by the government, he was denied his right to reinstatement. As a result, he is now facing problems along with his family.

6. **Mandefro Tadesse:** He has been a teacher since 1979 and taught in different schools in the Sidama zone of the SNNPR. While he was teaching at the Bawada primary school he was suspended from his job without any reasons communicated to him and by virtue of a verbal notice in violation of the civil service regulations. He then appealed to the SNNPRS capacity building bureau, education bureau and to other regional government bureaus. He told EHRCO that although all the pertinent offices which investigated the case wrote letters stating that the decision is unjust and illegal, the Woreda education office could not get him back to his job. As a result, Mandefro is now in a difficult situation.

Individuals whose names are listed in the table below were employees of government offices in various zones of the Somali region for many years. However, they reported to EHRCO that they were dismissed from their jobs since November 2004 without their pensions rights respected.

Table 6. Names and other details of dismissed employees

<b>N o.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Year of employe nt</b>	<b>Name of the employing office</b>	<b>Place of work</b>	<b>No. of family members</b>
1	Mulugeta Tegegn	1976	Agricultural and Rural Development East pastoral Development project	Jijiga	6
2	Lema Kitaw	1988	" "	" "	5
3	Mulu Weldemedhin	1976	" "	Babile	4
4	Asnakech Belay (F)	1980	" "	Jijiga	6
5	Almaz Lemma (F)	1981	Regional Finance Bureau	" "	5
6	Nigussie Tilahun	1976	" "	" "	7
7	Tadesse Melkie	1977	" "	Godie	5
8	Kasu Mulat	1988	Education Bureau	Afdera	7
9	Etaferaw Woldie (F)	1978	Finance Bureau	Babile	6
11	Yishak Hassen (F)	1982	Woreda Admin. Office	M/Ami	9

12	Meseret Bekele (F)	1982	Finance Bureau	Jijiga	4
13	Yeshiareg Lemma (F)	1985	Woreda Admin. Office	Kebridehar	4
14	Aschalew Bogale	1973	“ “	Mustahil	3
15	Hussein Ali	1986	“ “	Harshen	4
16	Wolansa Kebede (F)	-----	Finance Bureau	Jijiga	4
17	Senait Tedla (F)	-----	“ “	Babille	3
18	Almaz Tiruneh (F)	1977	Finance Bureau	Jijiga	4

## I. Denial of Justice

**1. Getinet Besufekad:** 34, He resides in SNNPR, Wolayita Zone, Areka town, Kebele 02. He makes a living as a carpenter. He was a member of All Ethiopian United Party (AEUP). On 25 November 2007, at about 9:30 p.m., while he was in his father’s house, seven individuals entered the house and beat him up. On 15 September 2007, at around 9:00 a.m. four men forcibly stopped a vehicle he was in, assaulted him and took away his ETB 4500, and ‘*Khat*’ valued at ETB 3000. Getinet told EHRCO that although he pressed charges against the attackers at the Araka town police station, police have declined to investigate the case. Similarly, on 21 September 2007, at around 9:30 a.m., his personal property was looted for the third time. He filed a complaint about the incident with the town’s police but instead of investigating his case, police detained him for this for four days in the police station. EHRCO asked the town’s police representative about the matter. The representative admitted what happened to Getinet was all true and said that they will correct it for the future. EHRCO further learnt that the complaints of Getinet was not investigated and sent to the public prosecutor by the time this report was being compiled.

**2. Sheik Hassen Adem:** 38, He is a resident of Oromia region, West Arsi zone, Gedeb Assasa Woreda, Temele Burkitu Farmers’ Association. He is a farmer and head of a family of seven. In September 1993, the Temele Burkitu Kebele officials and residents agreed and rewarded him a seven-hectare plot of land for the services he rendered in teaching Koran to children of the area. Accordingly, he has been cultivating the land and paying taxes to the government. However, in September 2006 the Temele Burkitu Kebele executives ordered him to stop using the land. He petitioned the wereda court on this order of the kebele officials and the court decided in his favor and allowed him to continue using the land. However, the Kebele officials didn’t heed to

the court's ruling. On 4 October 2006, while he was harvesting, Kebele executives went to his farm and took away his 120 quintals of wheat. Sheik Hassen told EHRCO that although pertinent regional authorities passed orders to local authorities based on his repeated petitions, no remedies were given. And also despite the fact that the Oromia regional state administration office, in a letter dated 9 April 2007 Ref. No.BMNO1-3/206/z10-3 wrote a letter to the zonal administration office to seek a lasting solution, the problem remained unsolved mainly due to the intransigence of the Kebele executives.

#### **J. Enforced isolation from communal life, property damages and looting**

It is to be recalled that an ethnic conflict had flared up in 2000 between members of the Wolayita and Ocholo ethnic groups in SNNPR, Gamogofa zone, Arba-Minch Zuria Woreda, Lante Farmers' Association. The cause of the conflict was a dispute over claims to land rights. The conflict had caused loss of lives, property damages, and other social problems including expulsion of some members of the Wolayita ethnic group from '*Edir*', a traditional self-help association.

While this was the case, some members of the Wolayita ethnic group, who were expelled from '*Edir*', had set up a new '*Edir*' that also embraced members of other ethnic groups in the area. However, on 12 December 2006, officials of Lante Farmers' Association and the self-styled Ocholo cultural norms watchdog group issued an order saying that it is not allowed to form an '*Edir*' other than the one established by the Ocholo ethnic group and all other '*Edirs*' be disbanded. As members of the Wolayita ethnic group did not comply with the order, the officials resorted to forcefully taking away property belonging to the newly established '*Edir*'.

On 17 October 2007, when a member of the Wolayita *Edir* named Kawtie Dossa passed away, the self-appointed Ocholo cultural norms watchdog group obstructed the funeral ceremony, and took away the *Edir's* tent and other property worth about 50,000 Birr. The funeral could only be conducted with the help of police. The complainants told EHRCO that as the Woreda and zonal justice and security offices preferred to turn a blind eye to the problem, the looted property has not yet been returned. They also expressed their fears that if the problem continues unaddressed, it will grow into a large-scale ethnic conflict in the area.

The following individuals who were identified as those who refused to abide by Ocholo traditional norms because they appealed the above mentioned abuses to the authorities were subjected to various forms of attacks and were forced to flee their homes.

1. **Kassa Gochero :** He is a resident of SNNPR, Arbaminch Zuria Woreda, Lante Kebele. He told EHRCO that on 27 August 2007, at about 12:00 p.m., a group backed by the local kebele administration robbed his house and took his 21 inch TV set, 26,000 birr cash, various household utensils and demolished the house. Moreover he, along with other members of his family, was banned from utilizing communal facilities such as aqua ducts to his farm, grazing land and was denied access to the market where he trades his agricultural products. Kassa further reported to EHRCO that apart from the isolation, several attempts were made on his life his life. As a result, he fled his home as of 3 October 2007 and is living in Arbaminch town under a difficult condition.
2. **Tomas Gessa:** He is a resident of SNNPR, Arbaminch Zuria Woreda, Lante Kebele. On 27 August 2007, at about 12:00 p.m., a gang organized by the Kebele Administration, threw stones and broke into his house, looted his household utensils, and demolished the house. He was also isolated from social life, and prohibited from becoming beneficiary of communal facilities. Tomas told EHRCO that since his personal safety was in danger, he was forced to leave his home as of 3 October 2007 and is living in Arbaminch town under a difficult condition.
3. **Buna Buka:** He is a resident of SNNPR, Arbaminch Zuria Woreda, Lante Kebele. On 27 August 2007, at about midnight, a group backed by the local kebele administration broke into his house, assaulted him, took 2,000 Birr cash, looted his household utensils and demolished the house. Besides, he was banned from any form of social interaction with the local community. Moreover, he was denied access to the provision of communal services. Buna reported to EHRCO that since his life was in danger, he fled his home as of 3 October 2007 and is living in Arbaminch town facing lots of difficulties.
4. **Desta Gemechu:** He is a resident of SNNPR, Arbaminch Zuria Woreda, Lante Kebele. A group backed by the Kebele administration, imposed several sanctions on him prohibiting him from accessing communal facilities and market for his agricultural products. Desta reported to EHRCO that since several attempts were made on his life, he was forced to leave his home and is living in Arbaminch town subjected to numerous difficulties.
5. **Addisu Arba:** He is a resident of SNNPR, Arbaminch Zuria Woreda, Lante Kebele. A group backed by the Kebele administration, imposed several sanctions on him prohibiting him from accessing communal facilities and market for his agricultural products. Addisu told EHRCO that since several attempts were made on his life, he was forced to

leave his home and is living in Arbaminch town subjected to numerous difficulties.

6. **Ayide Ashango:** He is a resident of SNNPR, Arbaminch Zuria Woreda, Lante Kebele. A group backed by the Kebele administration, imposed several sanctions on him prohibiting him from accessing communal facilities and market for his agricultural products. Ayide told EHRCO that since his life was threatened, he fled his home and is living in Arbaminch town under difficult conditions.

## **Part Two**

### **Human rights violations associated with ethnic 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 conflicts have become one of the major causes of the violations. Following is a report on human rights violations occurred during ethnic conflicts that flared up in different parts of the country.

#### **Sidama Zone, Wendogenet Woreda, SNNPR**

It is to be recalled that although members of the Guji ethnic group living in Wendogenet Woreda, Sidama Zone of the SNNPR petitioned regional authorities since 1993 and subsequently the House of Federation to be granted a self-administration status, their request has not been adequately addressed. As a result, an ethnic conflict had flared up between members of the Guji and Sidama ethnic groups on 16 May 2007. In connection with this, 82 individuals belonging to the Guji ethnic group were arrested without a court warrant and were subsequently released. The following human rights violations occurred during the conflict on May 16, 2007.

#### **Killings**

The following individuals belonging to the Guji ethnic group were shot dead during the conflict.

1. Neko Nenko: 36
2. Markos Katiso: 40
3. Tsefaye Mengistu: 22
4. Mitiku Lemma: 34

## Bodily injuries

**Adane Ariso:** He is a member of the Guji ethnic group. He sustained injuries as he was stoned.

## Property Damages

Table 7 Names of persons whose property were damaged and looted

No.	Name	Address	Property damaged and looted
1	Terkaso H/Mariam	Weshana Soyama Kebele/Farm/Assoc.	Shop with merchandise looted
2	Gega	"	House burnt down
3	Kefyalew Bena	"	Shop with merchandise looted
4	Mulu Tediso	"	"
5	Haile Shulemo	"	"
6	Awol	"	"
7	Zenbaba	"	"
8	Arusa	"	"
9	Tirago	"	House burnt down
10	Harisso Hatke	"	Bar looted
11	Belaynesh Degefu	"	Property worth 23,196 ETB looted
12	Eyamo	Shashana Kekalle Kebele/Farm/Assoc.	Sugarcane plantation destroyed, house burnt down
13	Buware	"	Sugarcane plantation destroyed, house burnt down, and an ox taken away.
14	Agena	Shashana Kekalle Kebele/Farm/Assoc.	House and property destroyed
15	Kassim	"	"
16	Dalemo	"	Four cattle taken away
17	Tiruneh	"	Sugarcane harvest and house destroyed
18	Zewdu Birhanu	"	House with all household property destroyed
19	Amanuel Nebi	"	Hotel with all property in it destroyed
20	Eyob Kemso	"	Shop with merchandise looted
21	Amanuel Nebi	"	'Khat' plantation destroyed, door and windows of his house dismantled and taken away
22	Seyoum Yilma	"	Property in the house looted
23	Chikako Gikso	"	House burnt down
24	Senbeto	"	"
25	Argo Adato	Basha Chuko Keb/Farm/Assoc.	Property in the house and merchandise in shop looted

26	Degu Teferra	“	Cafeteria with all property in it destroyed
27	Adato Fonka	“	House burnt down
28	Lemma Letamo	“	“
29	Getu Shibru	“	House burnt down
30	Tamene Hunkaka	Busa Keb/Farm/ Assoc.	Shop with merchandise burnt down
31	Abera Tosha	“	Woodwork machine and household utensils looted
32	Ugamo Weticha	“	A house and seven service rooms burnt down
33	Samuel	Aruma Keb/Farm/ Assoc.	House and grains burnt down
34	Tafesse Hamar	Baja Keb/Farm/ Assoc.	House burnt down
35	Kachaso Kari	“	“

### Meiso Woreda, West Hararghe Zone, Oromia Region

It is to be recalled that ethnic conflicts had been flaring up between members of Somali and Oromo ethnic groups living in Meiso Woreda, West Hararghe Zone of the Oromia region due to a dispute over claims of ownership to Meiso town. As per the result of a referendum held in 2004 the town has become part of the Oromia region. Local militia members who had been guarding the disputed town were then instructed to get back to their respective localities. However, about ten members of the militia defied the instruction and escaped to the bushes after killing the following persons who were officials of the Meiso wereda.

Table 8 Names of Meiso wereda officials killed by the militiamen

No.	Name	Detailed descriptions
1	Mesay Kenea	He was head of the Wereda education office. He was killed in Meiso town on July 26, 2006, at 8:30a.m.
2	Adem Wako	He was the Militia sector head of Meiso wereda. He was killed in Meiso town on October 8, 2006
3	Inspector Negash Aragaw	He was chief of the Meiso wereda police. He was killed on November 16, 2006.
4	Asha Korme	She was reportedly imprisoned at a place called China camp, in Meiso Woreda suspected of having involvement in the killings of the above officials. On 30 December 2007 her body was found half eaten by wild animals.
5	Mohammad Kure	Same as No. 4 above.

In connection with this, the following individuals whose names are listed in the table below have been detained without a court order suspected of having links with the militiamen who were alleged to have killed the three officials. Those whose names are mentioned from No. 32-45 were detained from November 19-December 21, 2006. They were later released on bail. Those whose names are mentioned from No. 46-50 were in detention in Chiro prison since 10 March 2007 for alleged involvement in the killings of Asha Korme and Mohammed Kure and were not released by the time this report was being compiled. The rest as they reported to EHRCO, were released on bail after staying in detention from 11 October 2006 until 11 January 2007 at a detention center named China Camp located in Meiso Woreda.

Table 9 Names of individuals detained

No.	Name	Address	Occupation
1	Abdi Abrash	Meiso town	Merchant
2	Ebrahim Eme	"	"
3	Eshem Hussien	"	"
4	Hassen Bonna	"	Former Mayor of the town
5	W/rt Mekeda Aliyu	"	Student
6	Yasin Mammo	Meiso town	Student
7	Gadissa Bedru	"	
8	Asha Kurmie (F)	"	
9	Kiyar Abdella (F)	"	
10	Asli Yesuf (F)	"	
11	Zeritu Ahmed (F)	"	
12	Esha Krme	"	Farmer
13	Fatuma Zahira (F)	"	
14	Fozia Ali (F)	"	
15	Ousman Abdu	Fayu Keb/Farm/ Assoc.	Farmer
16	Oumer Abiyu	"	Farmer
17	Adem Ahmed	"	Farmer
18	Aliy Liysa	Meiso town	Local elder
19	Ali Bedasso	"	"
20	Mohammad Musa	"	"
21	Mohammad Adem	Asebot town	Merchant
22	Hakile Shikur (F)	Meiso town	
23	Shemsedin Birrara	"	Farmer
24	Kedir Birrara	"	Merchant
25	Hussein Doba	"	
26	Fariyu Geresse (F)	Bordede town	Vice chairman, City Council
27	Zayida Fatuma (F)	"	
28	Ame Mimo (F)	"	Customs officer
29	Hanisa Mohammad	Meiso town	

30	Mohammad Musa	Meiso town	Kebele office
31	Filsenet Mohammad	Meiso town	Student
32	Hassen Oumare	Feyu Keb/Farm/ Ass	Chairman, Keb/Farm. / Assoc.
33	Aliyu Degu	“	Farmer
34	Hassen Ahmed	“	Farmer
35	Mohammad Amin	Meiso town	Member, Woreda cabinet
36	Siraji Tado	“	Wereda capacity building office
37	Mohammad Aliyu	Meiso town	Member, Wereda cabinet
38	Ashim Hassen	Meiso town	Mayor of Meiso town
39	Shifes Mussa	“	Member, Meiso town cabinet
40	Mohammad Sofia	“	Merchant
41	Mesfin Abera	“	Police officer
42	Sergeant Abdela Dawed	“	“
43	Private Mohammad Ismael	Meiso town	“
44	Private Jemal Ibrahim	“	“
45	Sergeant Tofik Yayu	“	“
46	Second Sergent Beyan Ibsa	“	“
47	Abdella Indris	Chiro town	Head, zone militia section
48	Ibrahim Kabila	Chiro town	Zone militia section
49	Adem Derre	Doba woreda	Head, woreda militia section
50	Kemer Abdirhaman	“	Militiaman
51	Zemedkun	“	Head, security section
52	Ousman Tuko	Fayu Keb/Farm./ Assoc.	Farmer
53	Ame Shenko	Hirna town	Student
54	Mohammad Boru	Hargete Keb/Farm/ Assoc.	Farmer
55	Karu Bishe	Fayu Keb/Farm. / Assoc.	Farmer

Moreover, an ethnic conflict had flared up between members of Borena Oromo and Konso ethnic groups in Teltelle Woreda, Yabelo zone of the Oromia region owing to claims on land ownership. As a result, several people were reportedly killed, and a substantial amount of property was damaged. An EHRCO investigator who went to the area to investigate the reported conflict and the casualties was arrested by Teltelle Woreda police while conducting the

investigation. The arresting police officers told the investigator that he could not speak with people about the conflict without permission from the wereda administration. As a result, EHRCO could not proceed with the investigation and assess the actual damage caused as a result of the conflict. The investigator was released after spending a night in the police station.

## Conclusion

Human rights violations incorporated in this 29<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, the human rights situation in the country is still a point of concern. The fact that many of the violations were perpetrated by government security forces and other agents of the state 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.
- EHRCO urges the government to protect citizens from illegal arrest and detention, assault, and other forms of human rights violations on account of their political views. It is a serious breach of the principle of the rule of law not to bring to justice security personnel who assaulted citizens including a member of parliament.
- EHRCO calls on the government to ensure the rights of persons in prisons and detention centers are respected and they are protected from assault, torture and other inhumane treatment. We also urge the government to see to it that those who are kept in detention illegally and in defiance of a court order for their release are released without further delay, and to hold to account security officials in *Maikelawi* who continued keeping suspects in custody in utter disregard to the order of courts.
- EHRCO also urges the government to launch an investigation into the killing of inmates in Motta Prison in Amhara region and bring to justice those responsible.
  
- Moreover, EHRCO calls on the government to bring to justice local officials who had caused the enforced isolation of individuals from communal life.
- Furthermore, EHRCO urges the government to ensure that commensurate compensation is paid to the family of those who were killed and to those injured, beaten, illegally detained, and had their property looted and/or destroyed.

- In addition, EHRCO calls on the government to see to it that workers that are illegally dismissed from their jobs are reinstated. In general we urge all concerned government bodies and officials to give due attention to the violations incorporated in this report and take all the necessary legal measures with a view to providing remedies to the violations and ensuring their not happening again.

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 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 Gnakal, 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. Dr. Misrak Mekonnen, House Speaker, Amhara Regional State Council, P.O.Box 312, Fax (251-1) 058 220 1950, Tel. (251-1) 0582201068, Bahr Dar, Ethiopia
- H.E. Commissioner Workineh Gebeyehu, Director, Federal Police P.O.Box 199, Fax (251-1) 153 42 53 Tel. (251-1) 551 2744, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- H.E. Ambassador Kassa Gebrehiwot, Chief Commissioner, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, P.O.Box: 1165, Fax: (251-1) 6 45 9290, Tel. (251-1) 6459228, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Abay Tekle, Chief Ombudsman, Institution of Ombudsman, P. O. Box: 2459, Fax: (251-11) 6 45 9229, Tel. (251-1) 6 635363, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia