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EHRCO

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ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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

The Human Rights Situation in Ethiopia 31st Regular Report

July 2008

Introduction

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) in this 31st regular report assesses the general human rights situation prevailing in the country. The violations of human rights contained in this report include those not covered in any of EHRCO's preceding reports issued until the end of June 2008, and are compiled based on complaints received from victims, evidence gathered through onsite investigations and testimonies of eyewitnesses.

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PART ONE

Human rights violations committed in different parts of the country

A. Extra judicial Killings

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Ethiopia has endorsed, stipulates 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. Article 14 of the Constitution provides that the right to life is fundamental and inalienable.

However, in transgression of these provisions of constitutional and international human rights instruments, the following persons have been killed.

1. Fekadu Basazin: He was a resident of Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema sub city. He was a father of three and made a living as a driver. He left home at about 11:00 a.m. on April 21, 2008 and never returned the day through. At 4:00 A.M., his family received a call informing them that Fekadu was in Ras Desta Hospital after receiving severe beatings by police officers. When the family arrived at the hospital, they found him lying unconscious. Fekadu passed away at about 2:00 P.M. the same day as a result of the injury he sustained from the beating. Family members of the deceased reported to EHRCO that the body was laid to rest at the *Kechene-Medahnealem* cemetery on April 23, 2008. Eyewitnesses have also confirmed that late Fekadu was beaten by police officers and died in the hospital.

2. Ketemaw Ali Sileshi: 36, he a resident of Dessie town, North Wollo zone of the Amhara region. He used to be a member the All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) and later he became a member of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). During the 2005 elections, he campaigned for his party. Following that, he was detained for six months in various detention centers accused of attempting to change the constitutional order through riot and the use of force. Later, he was released from prison after he was granted bail by the regional Supreme Court. On April 28, 2008, while he was returning home after attending his evening classes in the *Etege Menen* School he was severely beaten by unidentified men and thrown into a ditch. He died on 6 May 2008 in a hospital where he was receiving treatment for his injuries. Police did not have a known suspect by the time this report was being compiled.

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 a person is inviolable and inalienable. Nevertheless, in violation of these Constitutional provisions, the following persons have been beaten and tortured.

1. Honorable Ato Gutu Mulisa: He lives in Kirkos sub city, in Addis Ababa. He is a member of the FDRE House of Peoples’ Representatives. On March 9, 2008, at 2:00 P.M., while he was campaigning for the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) for the 2008 local and by-elections in West Shoa zone, Elfeta wereda, Bekke town of the Oromia region, some 40 kebele militiamen under the command of the militia section head arrested and assaulted him with truncheons. Gutu reported to EHRCO that his mobile phone, election campaign papers and 2000 birr cash were also taken away by the militiamen. Moreover, he was denied access to public transportation and

was forced to travel on foot about 40 K.M before he arrived in Ginchi town at around 2:00 A.M.

2. Terefe Tolessa: 21, he lives in West Shoa Zone, Elfeta woreda, Ginchi Kebele Farmers' Association (KFA) of the Oromia region. He is an 11-grader and a member of the Oromo People Congress (OPC). On February 3, 2008, while he was in Bekke town to process his registration for candidacy in the local and by-elections, he was arrested by police and militiamen and was beaten on his leg and back. His party's candidacy papers were taken away and he was detained for five days at the Bekke town police station without being taken to court. Moreover, he told EHRCO that on February 14, 2008, while he was in his home, he was arrested again by a police officer and three kebele militiamen. He was released on February 23, 2008 without being taken to court. On March 7, 2008, while he was going to school in Ginchi town, he was arrested without an arrest warrant and detained for one day. For the fourth time, on March 9, 2008, while he was in election campaigning in Bekke town, he was arrested by the woreda security forces and released five days later without being taken to court. Terefe was prohibited from entering the premises of his school by the time this report was being compiled.

3. Amdemariam Asefa: He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema sub city. He runs a private business. On April 21, 2008, at 11:00 P.M., while he was leaving a bar where he and his friend Fekadu Basazin were having drinks, they were stopped by police officers. Then, one of the police officers repeatedly kicked Fekadu on the face until he fell to the ground. Amdemariam reported to EHRCO that when he was trying to rescue Fekadu, the policemen also beat him on his head. Then, the policemen first took Fekadu to the 4th police station. However, since he was still unconscious as a result of the beating, they took him to the Ras Desta Hospital and left him on a stretcher without giving adequate information required by physicians. Fekadu died in the hospital (See Part A No.1 above) on April 22, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. Amdemariam also told EHRCO that he still feels severe pains on his leg, shoulders and head due to the injuries he sustained.

4. Gelaye Taddelle: He is a resident of Arbaminch town, Gamo Gofa zone of the South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). On February 9, 2008, at around 3:00 A.M. police officers and militiamen broke into his house, got him off his bed, beat him and took him to a place called 'Kofele' where he was severely beaten. He sustained fractures on his right leg. When he got unconscious, they took him to a police station. Then, the police station commander allowed Gelaye's mother to take him to Arbaminch hospital where he received treatment. Although Gelaye's mother lodged a complaint to pertinent bodies to bring to justice the police members and the kebele

militiamen for what they did to her son, no measure has been taken by the time this report was being compiled.

5. Azalech Bochena: She is the mother of Gelaye Tadelles (No. 4 above). She told EHRCO that she was beaten when she objected and cried out as police officers were beating and taking her son.

6. Bilisuma Shuge: 18, he is an athlete living in Bole sub city, Addis Ababa. He reported to EHRCO that on March 24, 2008, while he was going home after training, he was stopped at gunpoint by police officers and beaten by four plainclothes security personnel.

7. Abebelign Worku: He is a resident of Bahr Dar Zuria woreda, near *Debre-Tsion Abune Hara* monastery in the Amhara Region. On February 24, 2008, while he was objecting to the demolition of his mother's house by the authorities, police detained him and his brother, *Mulat Worku* for three days and beat them severely. Abebelign told EHRCO that they were released on the fourth day after being warned that they would be fined 6000 birr if they were caught doing the same thing again.

C. Illegal detention

Article 17(1) of the FDRE Constitution stipulates, " 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 provides, " Persons arrested have the right to be brought before a court within 48 hours of their arrest." Nevertheless, in transgression of these constitutional provisions, the following individuals have been in detention for months without due process of law.

1. Yosef Aberra: 31, he lives in Ayira Guliso kebele, West Welega zone of the Oromia region. He is a businessman. On July 1, 2006, at 1:00 A.M. several local policemen arrested him, handcuffed him and searched his house without a search warrant alleging him of providing food and firearms to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). The next day, he was detained at the local police station before he was taken and detained for three days at the Gimbi police station. Furthermore, he, together with other inmates, was taken to the Dedessa military camp where they were detained for seven months without a day in court. During his stay in the Dedessa detention center, he was denied his rights to be visited by his family. On March 16, 2008, they were transferred to Senkelle Oromia Police Training Center, where they were given a letter stating that they can now live as normal people in the community as they went through a political rehabilitation course while being held as prisoners of war. The inmates told EHRCO that upon

release on June 18, 2008 they were given 3000 birr each to help their rehabilitation.

The following persons were also detained and released in similar conditions as that of Yosef Aberra (No. 1 above)

2. Fisseha Abera 25,
3. Abdi Aberra 16,
4. Ahmed Ibrahim 42,
5. Yilma Bayissa 40,
6. Elias Hundessa 43
7. Cheneke Tadesse 38,
8. Gelana Mekonnen 50,
9. Sheki Yasin

10. Chaka Robi: 28, He lives in Yeka sub city, Addis Ababa in a locality called Yererber. He is a daily laborer. On March 5, 2008, at about 11:00 A.M., while he was in his house, federal police officers and plainclothes security personnel put him under control and searched his house without a search warrant. They have also taken away a mobile phone, a bank passbook and his passport. Then they took him to the Central Crime Investigation Department (*Maikelawi*). His family reported to EHRCO that they were denied permission to see Chaka in person, and are only allowed to deliver food to him through guards.

11. Getu Dekeba: 25, he is a resident in *Idu* KFA, West Shoa zone of the Oromia region. On January 10, 2008, while he was walking with his friends in Debrezeit town, he was arrested, without an arrest warrant, by plainclothes security personnel and was detained at *Dukem* police station for allegedly being a member of the OLF. He was denied his right of being visited by families. A court ordered his release on a 5000 birr bail on January 15, 2008. However, he was transferred to *Maikelawi* in defiance of the court order. His family reported to EHRCO that Getu was in detention by the time this report was being compiled and that they were denied permission to visit him.

D. Threats

Kibitu Gari Ticha: 50, she lives in Bole sub city, Addis Ababa. She is a mother of two and makes a living as a businesswoman. She reported to EHRCO that her 24-year-old daughter, Mahlet Dechasa, has repeatedly been subjected to threats and intimidation by government security forces for she was a supporter of CUD during the 2005 national elections. As a result, Mahlet had to flee her house. Kibitu told EHRCO that since her daughter left the house, security forces have been threatening her saying the lives of other members of her family would be in danger if she did not tell the authorities the whereabouts of her daughter.

E. Enforced Disappearances

Amha Yirga: 30, a resident in Addis Ababa, Yeka sub city, House No.500. He had received threats and intimidation by government security forces for hiring his own car for the CUD during the 2005 elections. Moreover, following the election, he was detained at “*Bir-Sheleko*” military camp for allegedly supporting the ‘Patriots Front’. Amha was subsequently released. However, his family told EHRCO that Amha did not come back after he left home one day in December 2007 and his whereabouts remained unknown by the time this report was being compiled.

F. Unlawful dismissal from job

- 1. Kenea Waqjira Gurmessa:** He lives in West Shoa zone, Bako Tibe Woreda, Kebele 01 of the Oromia region. He served as a teacher in the woreda for 19 years. He is a member of OFDM, an opposition party in Parliament. He was fielded and registered as a candidate for a seat in the Woreda council representing his party for the April 2008 local and by-elections. Meanwhile, he received a transfer order to a school in a remote wereda by the Wereda Education Office (WEO) in a letter dated February 7, 2008. He told EHRCO that since he objected the transfer as unfair and politically motivated, his salary was seized since February. Although he submitted his complaints to pertinent government bodies to have the transfer decision reversed, it was all in vain. Kenea had no doubt that the decision was a deliberate move to push him out of the elections and his political activity. In reply to the OFDM’s complaints, the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) wrote a letter to the WEO asking that Kenea be reinstated to his former place of work provided that the transfer was made because of his candidacy in the elections. The Office defied NEBE’s letter saying that they do not receive orders from the Election administering body. As a result, Kenea remained suspended from his job by the time this report was being compiled.
- 2. Habtemariam Chemed Hirpa:** He is a resident of West Shoa Zone Bako Tibe wereda kebele 01 of the Oromia region. He served as a teacher in the Wereda for five years. He is a member of the OFDM and was fielded as a candidate for a seat in the Wereda council representing his party in the April 2008 local and by-elections. In the same condition as that of Kenea (No. 1 above), he was transferred by the WEO to a remote school, and his salary was seized since February 2008. Habtemariam told EHRCO that although he lodged complaints to pertinent government bodies in a bid to

have the WEO's decision reversed, it was all a futile endeavor. The WEO refused to reconsider its decision in spite of NEBE's request to that effect.

G. Violation of freedom of association

Some members of the Sodo *Kistane* ethnic group who live in Guraghe, zone, Butajira town and its environs of the SNNPR have formed an association under the name "*Signat Sodo Kistane Bete Guraghe self-help association*" with a view to jointly addressing their socio-economic problems in their areas. After fulfilling all the legal formalities, the Association secured an operational license by the regional justice bureau on November 7, 2007 under the registration number 339/10/2000. Subsequently, the Association notified the Butajira town provisional administration to open branch offices in various rural localities in Butajira town, 'Meskan' and Sodo woredas to launch its intervention programs. However, in its letter of reply written on January 3, 2008, the Butajira town provisional administration prohibited the Association from operating in the aforementioned woredas unless executives of the Association appeared in person and discussed with the zonal authorities the objectives of the Association. Founders of the Association reported to EHRCO that their further appeals to have the ban on the Association lifted did not bring positive results. As a result, the Association remained banned by the time this report was being compiled.

H. Undue interference in religious affairs

Over 500 laity of the *Debre-Medhanit Madhanialem* and the *Mirafe Kidusan* church in Borena zone, Moyale woreda of the Oromia region petitioned the General Diocese to help stop the interference of local authorities in their internal affairs. They also sent representatives who submit their complaints in Addis Ababa. While the representatives were in Addis, two of them named Tsadik Tofo and Sitotaw Zerabiruk were abducted in the night and taken to an unknown location where they were mistreated. The rest of the delegates were also threatened and detained. The detainees also told EHRCO that they have been threatened with further detention unless they agree to sign an agreement to hand over the church.

I. Violation of freedom of expression

On May 2, 2008, members of the Addis Ababa police force have seized the deputy editor, two other staff and a mini van driver while they were taking out the May 3, 2008 edition of "*Enku*", a privately owned magazine, which focuses on social issues and art, from the printing house to the distribution outlets. After being detained for three days, the detainees appeared at the Addis Ababa City First Instance court on May 6, 2008. On the day, although the court remanded the

detainees in custody for 14 days, police released them on bail. However, the General Manager of the publishing agency reported to EHRCO that 10,000 copies of the impounded magazine have not been released by the time this report was being compiled.

J. Administrative Injustice

1. Belay Addisu Sedi: 66, He is a resident of Addis Ababa, Yeka sub city, kebele 19. He retired from his government job in 1994. He then formally requested the Social Security Authority to get his pension benefits. However, he told EHRCO that since his employer organization, the then Public Transport Corporation (now Waliya Cross Country Bus Service Enterprise) has failed to transfer the complete documents to the Social Security Authority, Belay has been denied his seven years pension payment in the amount of 33,1000 Birr. Despite his repeated appeals, the Authority, which claimed that it hadn't received the necessary documents from the employer, refused to settle the accrued pension payment saying that the claim is barred by period of limitation. The Appeals Panel in the Authority also upheld the decision. His petition to a court was denied as the court declared that the matter was the jurisdiction of the Authority. Although article 43 (b) and (c) of Proclamation No. 345/2003 which establishes the Social Security Authority provides that if the transfer of the documents was delayed due to a fault attributable to the employer, this could be counted as a sufficient ground to interrupt the counting of the period of limitation, the Authority refused to review its decision.

2. Tekle Debissa: He is a resident of Hareto town, Jimma Geneti Wereda, East Wellega zone of the Oromia region. He is an employee of the wereda agriculture office. He applied for an internal vacancy announcement and was selected to fill the post. Subsequently, he received a letter of appointment to the new position as of June 8,2007 with a monthly salary of 1370 Birr. After starting work, his promotion was cancelled because he was told that he was not entitled to the position according to the newly issued directives of the Oromia Civil Service Commission. Tekle told EHRCO that although he submitted his complaints to pertinent regional authorities it was in vain.

The following is a list of pensioners living in Arbaminch town, Gamo Gofa zone of the SNNPR. They complained that although the government made a rise in the payment of pension to all pensioners effective July 8,2007, the North Omo Zone Social Security Office denied them the payment of the rise. In its letter of reply to EHRCO, the zonal Office said that the delay was due to administrative and financial complexities and promised to effect the payments shortly. However, the pensioners did not receive their payments by the time this report was being compiled.

Table 2: Names of the complainants

No.	Name	Pension Id/No
1	Ato Gulinta Guyo	482747
2	Ato Kunta Alenba	482347
3	Ato Meskel Guja	482177
4	Ato Mamo Ashango	482374
5	W/ro Alemitu Shibru	552973
6	Ato Bafa Chemesa	482372
7	W/ro Asnake Mesele	479056
8	W/ro Abebech Tilahun	482104
9	Ato Madeba Mekuria	

K. Unlawful dismissal from school

Nine students who were pursuing their higher education at the Jimma University were accused of inciting and taking part in campus disturbances that occurred in the University on January 4, 2008. They were formally charged and their cases were brought to court. The court acquitted them all. However, regardless of the court's ruling, executives drawn from the University Senate passed a decision to fire the students whose names are listed below as of January 17, 2008 in a letter Ref. No. JU/46/1771. The decision was made in the absence of representatives of the students union and without giving the students the chance to a hearing. Moreover, the expelled students told EHRCO that they were denied their rights of getting their academic documents from the university.

Table 3 Names of students expelled from Jimma University

No.	Student's Name	Department
1	Marx Oljira	Medicine
2	Fedissa Isa	" "
3	Birhanu Negera	Afan Oromo
4	Tolosa Temesgen	Psychology
5	Gemeda Mokonnen	Afan Oromo (Extension)
6	Itana Wektola	Geography
7	Tadele Duressa	Sociology
8	Redwan Sani	Maths
9	Bereket Waqe	

L. Enforced isolation from communal life

Local authorities and security forces in 01 Kebele, Hareto town, Jimma Genet wereda, Horo Guduru Wellega zone of the Oromia region have gathered

dwellers and made a series of public meetings on February 19, February 26, March 4 and April 1, 2008 and have labeled some residents of the kebele as members and supporters of the Oromo People Congress (OPC) and accused them of playing subversive role by inciting the people and students to riot against the government. The authorities openly told the gatherings that the “OPC members and supporters” be isolated and prohibited from using communal flour mills, getting funeral services in the area as well as be prevented from having any social relations and business transactions. Moreover, the Hareto kebele administrative office in its letter written on April 4,2008 under Ref. No.195792/01/2000 ordered village representatives to execute the decision.

Some of the individuals against whom this decision was taken told EHRCO that although they submitted their complaints about the unfair decisions to pertinent government bodies, they haven’t received any positive response; as a result they were having problems as a consequence of the sanctions. EHRCO approached local authorities and asked why this was being done. They replied that the decision was taken by the people themselves to punish individuals who have taken part in destabilizing activities and in anti development practices.

Below are the names of the individuals against whom the sanctions are imposed

1. Kenate Feyisa, 40
2. Fekadu Mekonnen, 36
3. Belay Demilew, 35
4. Asfaw Takele, 34
5. Hundra Asfaw, 32
6. Gizachew Gudeta, 25
7. Gemechu Amente, 80

M. Displacement

Members of the Sidama ethnic group now living in Oromia region, Bale zone, Harina Buluko Hangeto woreda, Hawo Kebele Farmers’ Association (KFA) had migrated from the Sidama zone and came to resettle in the stated kebele in search of farmlands since 1991. The settlers were engaged in agriculture paying the legitimate land tenure tax. On May 1, 2008, local authorities and kebele militiamen of the Harina Buluko wereda have forcibly evicted them from their areas of residence and farmlands saying that they had received orders that the Sidamas could no longer live in the area. The evictees told EHRCO that although they lodged complaints to pertinent regional authorities, they did not get positive responses. The displaced persons were temporarily sheltered in the neighboring Kumbi kebele and they were facing many problems by the time this report was being compiled.

Table 4. Names of heads of families of the displaced persons

No	Name	Age	Address	Family size
1	Janka Reke Heno	50	Hawo Kebele Farmers' Association	15
2	Bekele Yema Haro	25	"	4
3	Tsegaye Wego Alaga	25	"	3
4	Tumbe Dirra Bime	50	"	6
5	Melese Tesfaye Buta	25	"	3
6	Gabisso Yonta Daka	75	"	7
7	Gebure Gata Genge	32	"	3
8	Bekele Debassa	60	"	15
9	Legide Lale	47	"	7
10	Petros Kashe Legedo	32	"	2
11	Bogale Bokiso Gobo	60	"	4
12	Tesfaye Bota Gameda	59	"	9
13	Dingato Dikale Lenko	36	"	8
14	Bue Gamisso Korso	32	"	9
15	Shiek Abdurkadir Abdessa	24	"	5
16	Kembata Amalo Alaga	24	"	5

PART TWO

Human rights violations caused as a result of ethnic conflicts

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Ethiopia has endorsed, provides " Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Article 6(1) and 9(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Ethiopia is a party, recognize these basic rights, and stipulate in its Article 2(1) (2) that states parties have an obligation to respect and protect these rights in their respective territories. Moreover, Article 14 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) provides, "Every person has the inviolable and inalienable right to life, the security of person and liberty."

However, these fundamental human rights are being violated due to various reasons. In these regard, ethnic clashes among members of different ethnic groups that flared up in different parts of the country have evidently become one of the major causes of human rights violations. Particularly, this Ethiopian year saw a number of ethnic clashes that resulted in serious human rights violations and damages caused to public and private property.

Following is a record of human rights violations caused as a result of the clashes that occurred between members of the Borena Oromo and Konso ethnic groups in Teltelle wereda of the Oromia region and between members of the Oromo and Gumuz ethnic groups in the areas bordering the Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regions.

1. Human rights violations caused as a result of clashes between members of Konso and Borena Oromo ethnic groups

There have been clashes between members of the Konso and Borena ethnic groups living in Teltelle town and neighboring kebeles in Yabelo zone of the Oromia region since 2005 over claims to grazing and farmlands. The clashes have claimed the lives of many people and caused huge damages to property.

Since 2007, the conflict between members of the two ethnic groups has aggravated since the Borena Oromos have begun to persistently demand that members of the Konso ethnic group leave the contested areas alleging them of taking over their legitimate plots of grazing lands. As the cause of the conflict has not been addressed adequately, the clashes escalated and turned into deadly confrontations. The conflict that occurred between members of the two ethnic groups starting from March 21, 2008 caused loss of lives and damage to property. Following is the details

Table 5 Persons killed in the conflict

No	Name	Age	Details
1	Bulalo Onjo orano	35	A kebele militiaman living in <i>Chebi</i> KFA, killed with a gunshot
2	Abebe Mango	25	" "
3	Wariyo Wato	28	A farmer in <i>Dera</i> KFA, shot dead by a bullet
4	Gelebo Dingi	55	A resident in <i>Teltelle</i> town, metal worker, killed with a gunshot while he was on duty
5	Baby Guyo Godana	14	A resident in <i>Teltele</i> town, shot dead by a bullet along with his custodian (No.4 above).
6	Oldisha Oncho	35	A farmer in <i>Chebi</i> KFA, killed with a gunshot
7	Mamusha Mango	25	A student in <i>Chebi</i> KFA, killed with a gunshot
8	Beriso Wita	46	A farmer in <i>Konso/Jarso</i> KFA shot dead by a bullet on May 3, 2008.
9	Kachulu Gilano	40	" "
10	Tango Sanga	34	A farmer in <i>Konso/Jarso</i> KFA, shot dead by a bullet on May 1, 2008
11	Bekalu Balawa	30	A farmer in <i>Teltelle</i> wereda, killed with a gunshot on May 4, 2008
12	Gulte Tonga (F)	50	A farmer in <i>Teltelle</i> wereda, killed with a gunshot
13	Kayula Tonga	50	" "
14	Beyine Balawa	20	" "

15	Kassahun Kurfo	55	“	“
16	Ayana Roba (F)	23	“	“
17	Lemita Gameda	45	“	“
18	Kacha Kermana (F)	27	“	“
19	Soyata Lemita	40	“	“
20	Berissa Diassa	50	“	“
21	Gelbo Awaro	55	“	“
22	Nigussie Workineh	35	“	“
23	Demisse Tadesse	30	“	“
24	Gudisha Bersha	75	“	“
25	Shire Haile	70	“	“
26	Ferede Gameda	48	“	“
27	Guyu Tunga	75	“	“
28	Guyaa Jebena	75	“	“
29	Yala Jarso (F)	65	“	“
30	Shako Toma (F)	63	“	“
31	Kuprda Kutiya	55	“	“
32	Kureda Haleke	55	“	“
33	Shako Sile	32	A pregnant woman in Teltelle woreda, killed with a gunshot	
34	Kasech Gameda	10	A child living in Teltelle woreda, shot dead by a bullet	
35	Abebech Gameda	8	“	“
36	Gehano Gameda	6	“	“
37	Guyao Katale	30	A farmer in Teltelle woreda, killed with a gunshot	
38	Taygena Orano (F)	56	“	“
39	Shako Lemiti (F)	65	“	“
40	Guracha Gerbena	-	“	“
41	Gelgelo Lemiti	-	“	“
42	Atawbete Gegelo (F)	-	“	“
43	Melse Merkina	45	“	“
44	Gobena Keria	-		
45	Wario Sherifa Roba	28	A resident in Dera KFA, killed with a gunshot	
46	Sokata Roba		A resident in Teltelle woreda, shot dead by a bullet	

Table 6 Persons injured in the conflict

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Details
1	Lemeta Kortale	M	-	A resident in Teltelle town, wounded by a bullet
2	Deko Soka	F	-	“ “
3	Bimo Abaisa	F	-	“ “
4	Belete Workineh	M	50	A resident in Teltelle woreda, wounded by bullets on his legs
5	Shila Kebeta Damete	M	30	A resident in Dera KFA, wounded by a bullet on his left leg

6	Senbeto Bersha	M	45	A resident in Konso/Jarso KFA, wounded by a bullet
7	Sagoya Merisa	M	30	A resident in Konso/Jarso KFA , wounded by a bullet
8	Hailu Gobeya	M	45	“ ”

- **Persons displaced in the conflict**

As a result of the clashes, a huge number of people have been displaced from their homes in *Teltelle* town and its environs in Oromia regional state and fled to the neighboring towns of South region. EHRCO was able to see that about 1735 displaced people were temporarily sheltered in different KFA premises in Konso special woreda, SNNPR. 370 of the displaced were children under the age of five.

The following is a list of individuals who were working in various government offices in Yabelo and Teltelle towns. They fled their homes with their families and took refuge in Konso special woreda by the time this report was being compiled.

Table 7 Persons displaced

No.	Name	Occupation
1	Berile Beyene	Employee at the Yabelo zone council
2	Matema Mango	Teacher
3	Guyo Haleke	Teacher
4	Boru Boba	Teacher
5	Bulja	Nurse
6	Guyo Arba	Teacher
7	Mamo Firinjo	Development worker
8	Kuse Oufra	Teacher
9	Gutema Dulla	Teacher
10	Odiya Matama	An employee of women's affairs bureau
11	Zinare Shifte	An employee of information bureau
12	Gadi Huka	Guard
13	Gebino Duba	Chebi KFA secretary
14	Tesfaye Giroye	Teacher

- **Students who quit school due to the conflict**

Many students have left school as a result of the conflict. EHRCO learnt that the following are among the students who quit school because they fled their homes and took refuge in Konso special woreda with their families.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Dawit Senbete | 17. Medina Kusse |
| 2. Kanchora Dinote | 18. Maga Kuse |
| 3. Habtamu Jemal | 19. Meskerem Yimer |
| 4. Mikte Jemal | 20. Guche Gelgelo |
| 5. Padatu Giroya | 21. Kalda Dakuna |
| 6. Dikot Abagano | 22. Dika Dakuna |
| 7. Addisu Adi | 23. Milu Wato |
| 8. Feyissa Elayu | 24. Robite Gudina |
| 9. Gano Elayu | 25. Nagawa Oda |
| 10. Jemalo Ferda | 26. Kabalo Oda |
| 11. Gelahe Gelabo | 27. Genete Wiriyo |
| 12. Adanech Giroya | 28. Jone Birke |
| 13. Meles Bogale | 29. Gebeya Dinola |
| 14. Gediro Kusse | 30. Geleta Gelebo |
| 15. Berako Duba | 31. Wogene Boranto |
| 16. Eshetu Duba | 32. Guyo Rekate |

2. Human rights violations caused due to clashes between members of the Oromo and Gumuz ethnic groups

Members of the Oromo, Gumuz, Amhara and other ethnic groups live in the bordering kebeles of Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regional states. There have been clashes in the past particularly between members of the Oromo and Gumuz ethnic groups over claims to farmlands. As no durable measures were taken to do away with the root causes of the problem, the clashes turned violent and caused loss of lives and damage to property.

The conflict occurred starting on May 17,2008 in the localities called Anger Shenkora, Anger Meti, Anger Waji, Sege, Sidelecha and Anger central in Sege woreda, Kemashe zone of Benishangul Gumuz region and in places called Haro Wata (Arategna), Amistegna, Semintegna in the Sasiga woreda as well as in Arjo, Bereda, Dimtu, Fafate and Bello localities in Diga woreda, East Wellega zone Oromia region.

In its 110th Special Report, EHRCO reported that hundreds of people were killed, an unknown number of people were injured, at least 108 houses were burnt and over 27, 000 people were displaced based on information gathered through interviews conducted with local authorities, police and security officers, victims and survivors of the clashes. 46 killings and 25 bodily injuries were reported in EHRCO's 110th special report. Following are additional cases of human rights

violations occurred as a result of the clashes and documented during subsequent investigations conducted in the areas.

Table 8 Persons killed in the conflict

No.	Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Details
1	Lemma Ali	55	Farmer	Arategna	Killed with a gunshot
2	Terefe Negere	75	" "	" "	" "
3	Tesfaye Asres	55	" "	" "	" "
4	Kebede Geleta	60	" "	" "	Stabbed to death by a machete
5	Fikadu Selbana	28	" "	" "	" "
6	Selbana Geleta	45	" "	" "	Stabbed to death by a spear
7	Fikadu Olkeba	55	" "	" "	" "
8	Tsega Tura	60	" "	" "	Shot dead by a bullet
9	Kebede Dufera	50	Farmer	Arategna	Stabbed to death by a machete
10	Azmera Chekol	65	" "	" "	" "
11	Tadesse Drebissa	65	" "	" "	Shot dead by a bullet
12	Temesgen Olfada	45	" "	" "	" "
13	Samuel Temesgen	20	Student	" "	Stabbed to death by a machete
14	Bogale Waqtola	45	Farmer	" "	" "
15	Ifa Assefa	15	Student	" "	" "
16	Zelalem Seboka	16	" "	" "	" "
17	Birhanu Darge	35	Farmer	" "	" "
18	Bedri Jemal	35	Housewife	" "	" "
19	Sintayehu Mitiku	20	Student	" "	" "
20	Yohanese Mulatu	14	" "	" "	" "
21	Mossisa Tesgera	30	Farmer	" "	" "
22	Waqshuma Garmo	35	" "	" "	" "
23	Kumera Duressa	60	" "	" "	" "
24	Bulcha Daba	60	" "	" "	" "
25	Mitiku Yadeta	28	" "	" "	" "
26	Filo Bulti	40	" "	" "	" "
27	Hailu Metaferia	75	" "	" "	" "
28	Silale Wagare	25	" "	" "	" "
29	Misganu Nigussie	17	" "	" "	" "
30	Abdi Mesfin	10	Student	" "	" "
31	Tesfaye Mengesha	55	Farmer	" "	Shot dead by a bullet
32	Feyissa Wodajo	60	" "	" "	" "
33	Daba Gudina	35	" "	" "	" "
34	Darghe Shiferaw	40	" "	" "	" "
35	Olane Yadeta	42	" "	" "	" "

36	Wagari Dite	30	" "	" "	" "
37	Tesfaye Kenea	40	" "	" "	" "
38	Bacha Assefa	18	" "	" "	Stabbed to death with a spear
39	Kedir Yuya	35	" "	" "	" "
40	Amsalu Gebeyehu	38	" "	" "	" "
41	Doja Dengiya	40	" "	" "	" "
42	Itefa Temesgen	40	" "	" "	" "
43	Erena Delcha	80	" "	" "	Shot to death with an arch
44	Gemeda Bulcha	30	" "	" "	" "
45	Abdissa Tolosa	30	" "	" "	" "
46	Gudina Chale	22	" "	" "	" "
47	Belina Geleta	26	" "	" "	" "
48	Samuel Elfena	25	" "	" "	" "
49	Gemechis Jaleta	1		" "	Stabbed to death by a machete
50	Bamlaku Wetabachew	30	Farmer	" "	Killed with a gunshot
51	Nemunsa Terfasa	35	" "	" "	" "
52	Negere Doncha	42	" "	" "	Stabbed to death by a machete
53	Tamene Itana	38	" "	Amistegna	Killed with a gunshot
54	Ayana Kumsa	35	" "	" "	" "
56	Kinde Alebachew	35	" "	" "	Shot to death with an arch
57	Debella Terefe	38	" "	" "	Stabbed to death by a machete
58	Yasin Oumer	30	" "	" "	Killed with a gunshot
59	Itana Geleta	30	" "	Oda Gudina Kebele	" "
60	Tesfa Owata	50	Farmer	" "	" "
61	Tadele Geleta	40	Armed man	" "	Shot to death with an arch
62	Itana Wajira	35	" "	" "	Stabbed to death by a machete
63	Wakene Bomo	30	" "	" "	" "
	Beshana Sorina	35	Farmer	Gumuz region, Anger Shenkora (Biyo)	Stabbed to death by a spear
64	Dechasa Geleta	50	" "	" "	Killed with a gunshot
65	Temesgen Ambaye	30	" "	Shembelele Kebele (Benishangul-region)	Killed with a gunshot
66	Endale Bulto	45	" "	" "	" "
67	Guta Aga	70	" "	Diga Dimtu woreda	" "
68	Ahmed Muhe	50	" "	" "	" "

69	Adamu Etefa	20	“ ”	“ ”	“ ”
70	Con. Bedlu Aga	27	Police	-	“ ”
71	Geleta Gubo	-	-	Anger Meti (Benishangul Gumuz region)	-
72	Demisse Kejella	-	-	“ ”	-
73	Dushu Kejela	-	-	“ ”	-
74	W/ro Shashito Rafe	-	-	“ ”	-
75	Ferenji Muleta	-	-	“ ”	-
76	Merga Aji	-	-	“ ”	-
77	Yikeber Tessema	-	-	“ ”	-
78	Tenaw Melese	-	-	“ ”	-
79	Desalegn Awoke	-	-	“ ”	-
80	Tenaw Yitay	-	-	Anger Shenkora	
81	Argaw			“ ”	
82	Yitay Dessie			“ ”	
83	Nega			“ ”	
84	Abayneh Terefe			“ ”	
85	Zelalem Abay			“ ”	
86	Kinde Hundie			“ ”	
87	Azmeraw			“ ”	
88	Gizachew			“ ”	
89	Abayneh Tadesse			“ ”	
90	Deg			“ ”	
91	Dechasa Degefa			“ ”	
92	Endale Bultu			“ ”	
93	Tsegaye Degu			“ ”	
94	Mola Bezu			“ ”	
95	Fantahun Abebe			“ ”	
96	Temesgen Belay			“ ”	
97	Fantaye			“ ”	
98	Wondimu Dejene			“ ”	
99	Debtera Teyar			“ ”	

Table 9 Persons injured in the conflict

No.	Name	Age	Occupation	Address	Details
1	Samuel Tassisa	42	Farmer	<i>Arategna</i>	Wounded by a bullet on his left hand
2	Mitike Tilahun	22	Housewife	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on her neck

3	Birhanu Dessise	45	Farmer	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on his waist
4	Workinesh Fekadu	20	Student	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on her thigh
5	Tolena Abdissa	35	“ ”	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on his chest
6	Mezgebu Tesfaye	21	“ ”	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on his hand
7	Adamu Amina	45	Farmer	“ ”	Stabbed on his back with a spear
8	Demitu Waqshuma	42	Housewife	“ ”	Her hand amputated
9	Baby Dawit Jaleta	1	Minor	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on his leg
10	Mitiku Itana	46	Farmer	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on his hand
11	Ayana Degefa	28	Farmer	“ ”	Wounded by a bullet on his back
12	Getachew Ebissa	40	“ ”	“ ”	“ ”
13	Driba Amente	30	“ ”	“ ”	“ ”
14	Melaku Biratu	20	Student	“ ”	“ ”
15	Azmeraw - - -	30	Farmer	<i>Amistegna</i>	Wounded by a bullet on his hand
16	Mitiku Mengesha	60	“ ”		Wounded by a bullet on his side body
17	Adem- - -	35	“ ”		Wounded by a bullet on his leg
18	Genete Werabo	38	“ ”	Oda Gudina kebele	Wounded by a bullet on his back
19	Dereje Fekadu	30	“ ”		Wounded by a bullet on his hand
20	Zelege mengesha		“ ”	Anger Waja	-
21	Tigre Mengesha	-	-	“ ”	-
22	Bogale Mengesha	-	-	“ ”	-
23	Aga Kebede	-	-	“ ”	-
24	Alnekaw Wakeya	-	-	“ ”	-
25	Tessema Tiru	-	-	“ ”	-
26	Astew Worke	-	-	“ ”	-
27	Mengesha Bulu	-	-	“ ”	-
28	Merma Chentew	-	-	“ ”	-
29	Hundie Alemayehu	-	-	Meti kebele	-
30	Hailu Aremu	-	-	“ ”	-
31	Zelalem Mengist	-	-	“ ”	-
32	Aweoke Chale	-	-	“ ”	-
33	Gurmessa Rassa	-	-	“ ”	-

- **Houses burnt in the conflict**

Owing to the conflict, a total of 108 residential houses were burnt to the ground, of which, 26 were in *Arategna*, 35 in *Amistegna*, and 47 in *Simintegna*. The following are among residents of *Arategna (Horowata)* whose houses were burnt down.

Table 10

No.	Name
1	Fafa Gonfa
2	Samuel Tassisa
3	Endale Waqqari
4	Temesgen Olfada
5	Biratu Yadeta
6	Tiruwork Tesgaye
7	Habib Seid
8	Lemma Molla
9	Debella Abdissa
10	Mitiku Kejella
11	Mitiku Kassa
12	Keneni Gelata
13	Solomon Bayu
14	Denbel Haway
15	Bulcha Tessema
16	Gulima Selbana
17	Dula Ejeta
18	Itefa Doja
19	Marcos Oli

In addition, victims from the Oromia ethnic group told EHRCO that property belonging to members of the Oromo ethnic group was looted during the conflict. The survivors also said that the deadly clashes between members of the two ethnic groups have not been a new phenomenon. There have been incidents of clashes in the past. According to them, armed members of the Gumuz ethnic group have repeatedly been threatening to take back lands that they said were taken away from them by the Oromos.

Conclusion

The cases of human rights violations incorporated in this 31st Regular Report are documented 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. In particular, the recurrence and magnitude of human rights violations that are being perpetrated during incidents of ethnic clashes have become very alarming. 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.
- As described in the Report, human rights violations occurring as a result of ethnic conflicts are becoming very serious. Due to the recurring ethnic clashes, many people have brutally been killed, houses have been burnt down and thousands of people were displaced. EHRCO reiterates its appeal that the government should take its duty of protecting the lives and security of citizens seriously and seek a durable solution to the recurring ethnic clashes by carefully examining the root causes of the problems.
- Furthermore, EHRCO calls on the government to release detainees who were arrested without due process of law and are being held illegally.
- We also call on all concerned to see to it 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 damaged.

Finally, EHRCO calls on citizens, national and international human rights organizations, government envoys, representatives of international organizations that stand for the respect of human rights and the rule of law to put pressure on the Ethiopian Government to put in place the necessary legal and institutional mechanisms for the respect and protection of human rights and ensure their proper implementation, 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. Ato Seifedin Haron, Speaker, Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Council, P.O.Box 44, Fax (251-57) 7750842, (251-57) 7750841, Tel. (251-57) 7750109, (251-57) 7750117
- 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. Workineh Gebeyehu, Director General, 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