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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

22 May 2007

### 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Report Human Rights Situations in Ethiopia

#### Introduction

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) in this 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Report assesses the general human rights situation in the country. The human rights violations contained in this report have not so far been documented in any of EHRCO's preceding reports issued until April 2007. EHRCO investigated the violations on the basis of the complaints made by the victims, their relatives and friends, and are verified by the testimony of witnesses and other evidences.

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

Nature of human rights violation	Magnitude of the violations
Extra judicial killings	9 (see part of the details on pages 20 and 21 )
Gunshot wounds	19 (some of the cases detailed on pages 20 and 21)
Beating and torture	11 (8 of whom beaten in prison)
Illegal detention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Detained and released</li> <li>▪ Still under detention</li> </ul>	43 34 9
Illegal surveillance, threat and intimidation	3
Displacement	80
Disappearances	5
Damage to property: estimates	Over 114,000 Birr
Denial of Justice	2200

## PART ONE

### A. Killings

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Ethiopia has adopted, stipulates that, “every one has the right to life, liberty of person.” Article 6(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Ethiopia is a party, declares that every one has an inalienable right to life. Article 15 of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Constitution, too, reaffirms everyone's' right to life. However, in violation of these provisions, the following persons have been killed.

- 1. Tesfaye Taddese:** He was a resident of Addis Ababa, Gullelie Sub-City. On January 16, he left his home at 8:00 a.m. While he was entertaining with his friends, he was called by two policemen and beaten him. As a result, two of his teeth were pulled out. Then, they shot him to death with two bullets. EHRCO learned that suspects have been detained, and further investigation is going on.
- 2. Belachew Endale Bitew:** He was 24, and used to live in Kebele 04, Arbaminch town, Gamo-Gofa Zone, South Nation, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State (SNNPRS). On 5 January 2007, around 11: 00a.m., he was killed by a gunshot fired by a member of Arba-minch police. The suspect has been arrested, and the case is now being investigated.
- 3. Yelul Tsehay:** She was a resident of Gonder town, Amhara Regional State. On January 7, 2007, while she was aboard on a passenger's car to attend a local church anniversary, she was hit by a bullet and died during the exchange of gunfire between members of a rebel group called Ethiopian Patriot's Front and Government militiamen at a place called *Jegol*.
- 4. Kasegn Andargie:** He was a resident of Gonder town. On January 7, 2007, while he was aboard onto a passenger's car to take part in a local church anniversary, he was wounded on the buttocks by a grenade thrown at a place named *Masero Denb*. He died before he was able to get medical attention
- 5. Gemechu Bencha Bula:** He was 16, and resided in Gue town, Haru Woreda, West Wollega Zone of the Oromia Regional State. He was a grade nine student at the Gue Secondary School. On 3 January 2007, he was shot on the chest by gunfire shot by the government security forces that accused him of advancing the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) causes. He died while he was taken to the nearby Hospital. His burial ceremony took place on the next day at his birthplace, '*Menet Necho*' Kebele.

- 6. Lelisa Waqgar Buli:** He was 17, and a grade 10 student at the Gue Secondary School. On January 3, 2007, he was shot on the knee of his right leg by the government security forces, and died while he was being taken to the hospital due to excessive bleeding. An autopsy was performed on his body, and he was buried with his cousin (the deceased on number 5 above) at '*Menet Necho*' Kebele.

## B. Gunshot Wounds

In violation of article 16 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia which provides: "Everyone has the right to protection against bodily harm," and Article 14 of the Constitution which reaffirms that this right is inviolable and inalienable, the following persons have been wounded by gunshots and mine explosions, or otherwise beaten and sustained various physical injuries.

- 1. Emahoy Yeworkwuha Birru:** She is a resident in Kebele 16, Gondar town, Amhara Regional State. On January 5, 2007, while she was going to attend the local church anniversary, she was wounded on her left leg by a bullet during the exchange of gunfire between the armed Patriot's Front members and government militiamen at a place called *Jegol*.
- 2. Eshete Beyene:** He lives in Jensuma locality, Gonder environs of the Amhara Regional State. On 5, January 2007, while he was aboard on an Isuzu car to attend the local church anniversary, he was wounded on his thigh and leg by a gunshot at a place named *Jegol*.
- 3. Wro Dessie Goshu:** She resides in a place called *Masero Denb*, Gonder environs, Amhara Regional State. On 5, January 2007, she was shot on her right leg and wounded while she was aboard on an Isuzu car at a place called *Jegol*.
- 4. Melkamu Molla:** He is 12, and resides with his parents at a locality called *Masero Denb*, Gonder environs, Amhara Regional State. He was wounded by a bullet on his left leg while he was aboard onto an Isuzu car (with his mother listed on No. 3 above) at a place called *Jegol*.
- 5. Melat Tilahun:** She lives in Addis Ababa, and is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at the Micro Link private college. On November 2, 2006, at 11:00 a.m., she was shot on her right leg by a bullet fired by a member of the government security force. She was taken to the St. Paulo's Hospital for treatment, and was in coma till late midnight due to high bleeding induced by the severe injury. The culprit has not been put under control till this report has been compiled.

6. **Mesfin Fekade:** He is 18, and resides in Asela town, Arsi Zone of the Oromia Regional State. On February 2, 2007, at about midnight, some young men fought each other in a house they rented. Getting informed, the Kebele armed men came up, resolved the conflicts and forced them to go to the police station. But Mesfin resisted going to the station. One of the armed men fired at him and wounded on his left thigh. Mesfin suffered bone fracture, and now is being treated at the Assela Hospital. The suspect has been arrested.
7. **Mekonnen Getaneh:** He is 39, and lives in Asela town, Arsi Zone of the Oromia Regional State. During the incidence of bullet fired at Mesfin Fekade (No. 6 above), he was wounded below his knee. He was treated at the Assela hospital and discharged on 6 February 2007. Until the compilation of this report, he was being treated in the Hospital as an outpatient.

### C. Beating and Torture

In violation of article 16 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia which stipulates: "Everyone has the right to protection against bodily harm," and Article 14 of the Constitution which reaffirms that this right is "inviolable and inalienable," the following persons have been beaten and tortured.

1. **Retta Assefa:** He is 32, and is a lawyer in Abilo Egu Kebele, Sekele Woreda, East Wollega Zone of the Oromia State. At 8:00 p.m., while he was walking with a girl in Nekempt town where he went for personal reasons, he was hijacked by plainclothes government security forces. They forced him to enter into their car with invisible plate number, and drove him to their office. They took away his I.D. Card and wallet. As the victim reported to EHRCO, he has been beaten and tortured by security forces, who are reported to have claimed that "He must die for he is a member of OLF". Reta told EHRCO that the security forces later released him after having made him change his bloodstained clothes. On December 29, 2007, he was admitted and treated at the Nekempt hospital. Until the compilation of this report, he was being medicated as an outpatient.

On January 2, 2007 and January 5, 2007, Reta reported the case to the Nekempt police station and Oromia justice bureau respectively, but to no avail. The response he got was that the matter was beyond their jurisdiction. Until the compilation of this report, he was being medicated as an outpatient, and the offenders haven't been brought to justice.

- 2. Girma Worku Tilahun:** He lives in Awi Zone, East Gojam Zone of the Amhara State. In 1999, in the wake of the Ethio-Eritrean border conflict, he was asked to go to the war, but was involuntary. Subsequently, the police arrested him for alleged links with the enemy camps. He told EHRCO that he was released due to the support he gained after undergoing public appraisal.

He also told EHRCO that during the 2005 national elections, he was an ardent supporter and member of Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). Since then, he was under police surveillance. On December 8, 2006, while he was with a friend at a place called *Anjibra*, plainclothes security forces arrested him without a court warrant, and drove him in a pick-up car to Bir -Sheleko Military Camp, where he suffered beatings.

- 3. Oumer Sahile:** During the May 2005 national election, he was an observer in Kebele 56, Addis Ababa, representing a non-governmental organization. Consequently, he has been threatened and intimidated by plainclothes security forces for alleged accusation of “tarnishing names of Government security forces”.

The victim reported to EHRCO that on December 27, 2007, while he was in a passenger’s car on the Addis-Debre-Zeit road, plainclothes security forces came in by a DX-vehicle, and had him pull out of the car. Then, they beat him asking “Which region did you become an OLF member? We know that you have links with the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) , just confess!”. Then after torturing the victim, they threw him out in the roadside.

## **D. Illegal Detentions**

In violation of article 17(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia that provides, “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,” and article 19(3) of the Constitution, which stipulates, “Persons arrested have the right to be brought before a court within 48 hours of their arrest”, the following persons have been detained with out substantive reasons and court warrant for days or even months without appearing before court.

- 1. Ahmed Ebrahim Nigussie:** He is 42, and makes a living as a trader in Gimbi town, West Wollega zone of the Oromia Regional State. On July 12, 2006, while he was going home with his spouse, he was arrested by four zonal police members. He was detained for four days in the zonal police station, and then taken to the Dedessa Military Camp. The Family, however, were informed about the whereabouts of the victim only on December 13, 2007,

some five months later. As the victim's family reported to EHRCO, until the compilation of this report, the detainee has not been brought to court.

2. **Tilahun Ayalew:** He is 49, and chairman of teacher's association in the Awi Zone and its environs, Amhara Regional State. He is also chairman of the anti-HIV/AIDS club in the area. On December 14, 2007, while he was going home from school, he was arrested by government security forces and detained in the Dangila prison. The Ethiopian Teachers' Association told EHRCO that the victim was beaten during his stay in prison. On December 19, 2007, he was taken to Bahir-Dar prison, and seven days later, he was brought to the Addis Ababa Central Crime Investigation Department. On January 25, 2007, he appeared before court. After many adjournments, the court closed the file stating that the detainee had no case against him to defend. However, Tilahun was still under detention as the Court did not pass clear decision on the imprisonment condition of the defendant. On March 22, 2007, Tilahun was released from prison as his family members applied for a writ of habeas corpus.
3. **Tadesse Zenebe:** He resides in Lafto Sub-City of the metropolis. He serves as a guard at the Addis Tyre Factory. During the 2005 national election, he acted as an observer representing Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). On December 15, 2006, he disappeared as he left home, and two weeks later, he came home escorted by members of the federal police. As the family reported to EHRCO, the police made house search, but it was in vain. On January 15, 2007, he appeared before a court of law. The case was adjourned over again and again. On March 9, 2007, the court closed the file, stating that the detainee had no case to defend. Nevertheless, until the compilation of this report, the victim was under detention.
4. **Engineer Abayu Ali:** He is a 60-year old self-employee residing in Yeka Sub city, Addis Ababa. On February 4, 2007, at about 10:00 a.m., he was arrested by plainclothes and military uniform-attired security forces, and taken to the Central Crime Investigation Department.

The same day, his house was cordoned off by members of security forces. The next day, his house was searched, and various private documents, two Samsung and one Motorola mobile apparatuses, and five CD's, "Tobia" magazine with the deceased Scientist Kitaw Ejigu's picture on the cover, were taken away as well as his accounts in the Abyssinia bank was made to be frozen. The family members told EHRCO that the security forces intimidated the children saying, "Bid farewell to your father, since you may not see him ever again."

On 15 March 2007, Engineer Abayu was made to appear before Court. On the grounds of repeated police demands for extra time of investigation, the case was adjourned on many occasions. On March 20, 2007, though the court ruled that the case be sealed, the defendant wasn't released from prison. As his family applied for a writ of habeas corpus to the 11<sup>th</sup> civil bench of higher court, he was set free from jail on March 30, 2007.

5. **Alemu Sahle:** He lives in Bure Woreda, West Gojjam zone of the Amhara regional state running a private business. On December 21, 2006, he was arrested by government security forces, and his whereabouts remained unknown, till he was found later in the Addis Ababa central prison in January 2007. A first instance court which tried the case ruled that the defendant be released as police didn't corroborate the charge with substantive evidences. However, as the family members reported to EHRCO, until the compilation of this report, he has been under detention.
6. **Tsehayitu G/Michael:** She is a 65-year old elderly lady, who resides in Adwa Woreda, Tigray regional state. On January 8, 2007, she was arrested from her home by government armed men and her whereabouts remained unknown until finally it was found out that she was being imprisoned in the *Endabaguna* refugee camp. Then, her family applied for a writ of habeas corpus at the Fedral First Instance Court. Police, who admitted the arrest of the defendant, told the Court that they have released the women as of 14 February 2007. However, the family reported to EHRCO that, till the compilation of this report, Tsehayitu is under detention at the Shire town police station.
7. **Kenaw Aragie:** He is a teacher at Aste Bekafa School in Gondar, Amhara Regional State. On December 24, 2007, he was arrested by the region's security forces with out a court warrant, and was taken to the Addis Ababa Central Crime Investigation Department. On 25 December 2007, he appeared before court. Owing to police's repeated demands for further investigation, the case was deferred for several times. Even though the case was adjourned on January 25, 2007, EHRCO has confirmed that Kenaw did not appear in court on this date.
8. **Anteneh Getinet Mulatu:** He was arrested by the government security forces in Addis Ababa on 29 December 2006. The Ethiopian Teachers' Association and his family reported to EHRCO that Anteneh was beaten, and denied access to medication while he was jailed at the Central Investigation Department. On January 1, 2007, he appeared before court. The case was adjourned for several times. And finally, March 12, 2007, though the court ruled that the file be closed, stating that the detainee had no case to defend,

he remained under detention. Anteneh was set free from prison 10 days later, as his family applied for a writ of habeas corpus at the municipal court.

9. **Mekicha Mengiste:** He is a teacher at Dejen secondary school, East Gojjam Zone, and the Dejen executive member of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association. After participating in the Anti HIV/AIDS conference organized by the Addis Ababa Ethiopian Teachers' Association from December 8-9, 2007, the metropolitan security forces arrested him, and his whereabouts remained unknown until he finally appeared before court on 25 December 2007. After a series of adjournments, the court closed the file on 12 March 2007, stating that he had no case to defend.

Regardless of the court ruling, police detained the defendant until March 22, 2007, on which he was released as his family applied for a writ of habeas corpus at the municipal court.

10. **Amiha Abamecha:** He is a Kebele 2 resident in Gonder town, Amhara state. On February 9, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., he was arrested by three policemen and taken to the Zonal police station. Then, he was coerced to sign a written charge and tortured until 2:00 a.m. late in the night afterwards as he refused stating that he had nothing to do with the charges. On 21 March 2007, he was brought to court. As the court stated that the case falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal prosecutor, Amiha was released on a bail of three thousand Birr.

11. **Eshete Beyene:** He resides in 04 Kebele, Gonder town of the Amhara regional state. He makes a living as a businessperson. On February 2, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., while he was running his business, the Gonder town second police station members arrested him for eight days, alleging that he had links with the "anti-peace Patriots Front." Then, he was brought to court. The court said that the case doesn't fall under its jurisdiction. Since the defendant failed to produce a bail of three thousand Birr, he was still under detention till the release of this report.

12. **Kassahun Gelagile:** He is a resident in Kebele 16, Gonder town of the Amhara regional state heading a nine-member family. On February 2, 2007, he was arrested and taken to Gonder First police station, where he was imprisoned for eight days, denied of his right to be visited by his family. Then, he was brought to court. Since the court said the matter doesn't fall under its jurisdiction, on 22 March 2007 he was released on a bail of 3000 Birr.

13. **Sisay Ayele:** He lives in Kebele 16, Gonder town, Amhara Regional State, and is the head of an eight-member family. On February 2, 2007, he was arrested

and jailed at the Gonder police station, denied his right of being visited by his parents for eight days. Later, he appeared in court, and has been released on a bail of 3000 Birr.

- 14. Tigabu Habtie:** He resides in Maksegnit Woreda, Gonder environs of the Amhara Regional State. On February 2, 2007, while he was jailed at the Gonder police station, he was beaten and tortured claiming that he had links with the “Anti-peace Patriots Front”. He was also denied his rights of being visited by his family for eight days. Later, he was brought to the local court. On March 22, 2007, as the court ruled the case doesn’t fall under its jurisdiction. Tigabu was released on a bail of 3000 Birr.
- 15. Mesfin Lemlem:** He is head of an 11 member family, and lives in Gonder town, Amhara regional state. On February 2, 2007, he was arrested and imprisoned at police station for accusation of having links with the “Anti-peace Patriots Front “. He was also denied his rights of being visited by his family for eight days. On March 22, 2007, as the court ruled the case doesn’t fall under its jurisdiction, he was released on a bail of 3000 Birr.
- 16. Moges Zewale:** He is the head of a twelve-member family, and lives in Gonder town, Amhara regional state. On February 2, 2007, he was jailed for alleged accusation of having links with the “Anti-peace Patriots Front.” He was also denied his rights of being visited by his family for eight days. On March 22, 2007, as the court ruled the case doesn’t fall under its jurisdiction, Moges was released on a bail of 3000 Birr.
- 17. Alemneh Wassie:** He heads of a 15 member family, and lives in Maksegnit locality, Gonder environs, Amhara regional state. On February 2, 2007, he was jailed for alleged accusation of having links with the “Anti-peace Patriots Front “. He was also denied his rights of being visited by his family for eight days. On March 22, 2007, as the court ruled the case doesn’t fall under its jurisdiction, Alemneh was released on a bail of 3000 Birr.
- 18. Tigabu Addisu Tessema:** He is head of a five member family and resides in Kebele 20, Azezo, in Gonder, Amhara regional state. On February 2, 2007, he was jailed at police station for accusation of having links with the “Anti-peace Patriots Front “. He was also denied his rights of being visited by his family for eight days. On March 22, 2007, as the court ruled the case doesn’t fall under its jurisdiction, Tigabu was released on a bail of 3000 Birr.

- 19. Constable Yiha Abe:** He is head of a seven- member family, and prisons' police member. On 9 February 2007, he was arrested by police. The next day, at 5:00 p.m., he was taken from the fourth police station to the security bureau, and was asked if he knew about the disappeared Captain Akalu. When he replied saying that "I know nothing about him", he was severely beaten and tortured. Seven days later, he appeared before court. As the court said the case is up to the jurisdiction of the Federal Prosecutor, Constable Yeha was released on March 22, 2007, on a bail of 3,000 Birr.
- 20. Constable Goshu Mihret:** He is a resident in Gonder town, Amhara regional state, and member of the prisons guard. On February 9, 2007, he was arrested by the police and jailed at the third police station. The next day, he was taken to the security bureau where he was severely beaten and tortured. Seven days later, he appeared in court. As the court said the case is up to the jurisdiction of the Federal Prosecutor, Constable Goshu was released on March 22, 2007, on a bail of 3,000 Birr.
- 21. Lt. Abebe Beza:** He is a resident of Gonder town, Amhara regional state, and was a member of the prisons guard. On February 2, 2007, he was put under police custody. Then, after a seven day of imprisonment, he was brought to court. On March 22, 2007, he was released on a bail of 3,000 Birr.
- 22. Lt. Birhane Melese:** He lives in Gonder town, Amhara regional state, and was a member of the prison guard. He was imprisoned and released under similar conditions as Lieutenant Abebe under No. 21 above.
- 23. Constable Mare Bayilegn:** He lives in Gonder town, Amhara regional state, and was a member of the prison guard. He was imprisoned and released under similar conditions as Lieutenant Abebe under No. 21 above.
- 24. Corporal Deferew Aze:** He is a resident of Gonder town, Amhara regional state, was a member of the prison guard. He was imprisoned and released under similar conditions as Lieutenant Abebe under No. 21 above.
- 25. Constable Bayush Mesfin:** She is a resident of Gonder town, Amhara regional state, and was a member of the prison guard. He was imprisoned and released under similar conditions as Lieutenant Abebe under No. 21 above.
- 26. Captain Tedila Guangul:** He lives in Gonder town, Amhara regional state, and was a member of the prison guard. He was imprisoned and released under similar conditions as Lieutenant Abebe under No. 21 above.

**27. Afendi Ebrahim:** He is 17, and an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Dire-Dawa secondary school. On December 2, 2007, at around 4:00 p.m., while he was in class, he was arrested by three police members without a court warrant, and jailed at the police department for allegedly advancing the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) causes.

After a seven day of adjournments, on 18 January, 2007, he was released on a bail of 2000 Birr. He further reported to EHRCO that during his stay in prison, he had been intimidated and beaten.

**28. Taddese Hunegnaw:** He is a 36-year man, who ekes out a living as a driver in Gonder town, Amhara regional state. He was arrested for unstated reason and imprisoned at the Addis Ababa Central Crime Investigation Department. He was taken to the Lideta first instance bench. As police demanded an extra investigation time, the case was adjourned until 25 January 2007. EHRCO proved that Taddese was released from prison without being charged.

**29. Saba Mekonnen:** She is a 50-year lady. On 24 January 2007, at about 1:00 p.m., she was arrested By Government security forces at a locality called *Gurd Shola* in Addis Ababa without a court warrant. She was jailed in the Addis Ababa Central Crime Investigation Department. The next day (25 January 2007), she was brought before court. After the adjournment of the case for three times, she was released from prison on March 2, 2007.

**30. Menbere Tsegaye:** She is 40, jailed and released on the same time, place and condition as that Saba, case in No 29 above.

**31. Hirut Kifle:** She is 36, jailed on the same time, place and condition as that of the case in No 29. She was released on 6, March 2007.

**32. Fantaye Beyene:** She was arrested on January 18, 2007 without a court warrant, and imprisoned in the Addis Ababa central crime investigation department. On January 25, 2007, she was arraigned. After the case was adjourned for three times, she was released from prison on February 16, 2007.

**33. Ismael Blata:** He is 35, makes a living as a trader in Shashmene Woreda, Oromia regional state. During the May 2005 national election, he was fielded as a candidate representing the Oromo National Congress. On January 21, 2007, at around 9:00 a.m., two armed policemen cordoned off his house, and left at 7:00 p.m. The next day, at around 12:00 a.m., Ismael, escorted by the Federal policemen, came home and the house was searched. Getting only a leaf of paper, the police took him back and imprisoned him at the Kebele 05 police station. His family inquired about his whereabouts and the police told

them that he had been taken to Addis Ababa after two days of detention there.

His whereabouts, however, remained unknown for several days. On January 27, 2007, Ismael was finally found being imprisoned at the Addis Ababa central crime investigation department. Though the Arada First instance court, which heard the case ruled out that the file be closed, police continued detaining Ismael. The family applied for a writ of habeas corpus on January 29, 2007. Irrespective of the court's ruling, till the compilation of this report, Ismael is under detention.

**34. Shewangizaw Lemma:** He is an 87 years elderly farmer, and resides in Huruta Kebele, Arsi Zone of the Oromia regional state. The Farmer's association social court ruled that Shewangizaw shares the grazing land with another person, which he used to utilize it paying land tax since 2000. Objecting the decision, the elderly man made an appeal to the Belode Hetossa woreda court. The court ruled in favor of the appellant. Not abided by the court's ruling, the farmer's association had him imprisoned for a month, and his grazing land unlawfully been apportioned.

**35. Teferi Mekonnen Demissew:** He is 42, and work as a driver in Harar town, Harari regional state. On December 21, 2007, during a meeting organized in the area to deliberate on issues related to the Islamic extremists in Somalia, and the danger posed by the then incumbent Union of Islamic Courts against Ethiopia, Teferi made opposing remarks, saying that Ethiopian national sovereignty has not been violated, and thus intended war in Somali is unjustified.

Right after the conclusion of the meeting, while Teferri was going home, he was arrested by two policemen without a court warrant. After being interrogated by the police, he was brought to the Kebele social court, and was sentenced to a two month imprisonment. However, by the order of the Kebele's administration, he was released shortly before serving his full jail terms.

**36. Tadele Endalu:** He is a grade 10 student at the Gue secondary school in Haru Woreda, West Wollega Zone of the Oromia regional state. On February 2, 2007, he was arrested for allegedly being a member of Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). After staying under police custody for five days, he was brought to the West Wollega higher court with other seven students. After several days of adjournments, Tadele, along with other students, was released by the court's ruling on February 1, 2007.

37. **Daniel Legesse:** He is 16, and a grade nine student at the Gue secondary school. He was jailed and released on the same date and condition as that of Tadele under No. 36 above.
38. **Damitew Tamiru:** He is 17, and a grade 10 student at the Gue secondary school. He was imprisoned and released on the same date and condition as that Tadele under No. 36 above.
39. **Legesse Tamiru:** He is 19, and a grade nine student at the Gue secondary school. He was jailed and released on the same date and condition as that of Tadele under No. 36 above.
40. **Mohamed Kedir:** He is 16, and a grade ten student at the Gue secondary school. He was imprisoned and released on the same date and condition as that of Tadele under No. 36 above.
41. **Senbeto Fars:** He is 21, and a grade ten student at the Gue secondary school. He was jailed and released on the same date and condition as that of Tadele under No. 36 above.
42. **Tariku Etefa:** He is 17, and a grade nine student at the Gue secondary school. He was imprisoned and released on the same date and condition as that of Tadele under No. 36 above.
43. **Tarekegn Amalo:** He is 16, and a grade nine student at the Gue secondary school. He was jailed and released on the same date and condition as that of Tadele under No. 36 above.
44. **Demelash Abera:** He is married, and resides in Awassa town, South Nation, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS). During the May 2005 national election, he was a committee member of the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP-Medhin) Awassa Branch. On March 17, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., he was arrested by six policemen, and imprisoned in Addis Ababa until April 5, 2007. He was then set free with out a bail.

## **E. Disappearances**

1. **Lt. Alemayehu Wondimu:** He is 42, resides in Kebele 09, Nazreth town, Adama woreda, East Shoa Zone, Oromia regional state . He is a businessman. He served as deputy chairman of the zonal Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). The police arrested him on November 1, 2005 for allegedly fomenting public riots in the aftermath of the May 2005 national election. Then, he was jailed at the Zeway detention center and released on

bail on December 13, 2005. Since the date of his release from prison, he was under the surveillance of police and security forces. He was then disappeared as of 10 December 2007. As his parents reported to EHRCO, the whereabouts of Lieutenant Alemayehu remained unknown until the compilation of this report.

2. **Gashaw Teferra Belete:** He is 36, lives in Kebele 01, Nazreth town, Adama woreda, East Shoa Zone of the Oromia regional state. He is a businessman. He is a member of Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). He is a close friend of Lieutenant Alemayehu, and disappeared on a similar condition as the former.
3. **Wolde Dana Anebo:** He is a resident in Kebele 02, Boditi town, Wolayita Zone, SNNPRS. On December 26, 2007, he was arrested by four police members from the Aretu Suke primary and secondary school where he used to teach. Since then, his whereabouts has remained unknown. His house has also been searched by the police without a court warrant. EHRCO proved that until the compilation of this report, his whereabouts is not known.
4. **Tinsae Moges:** He is 20. He is a resident of Gullele sub-city, Addis Ababa city administration. His family reported to EHRCO that as of late November 2006, he has been disappeared.
5. **Yohannes Woldu:** He is 27, and a resident of Bole sub-city, Addis Ababa city administration. He was an election observer representing Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) during the 2005 national election. For this, he has been threatened and intimidated by plainclothes security members and Kebele administration executive members. His parents reported to EHRCO that Yohannes has disappeared as of 10 January 2007, and his whereabouts remained unknown till the compilation of this report.

## **F. Threats and Intimidations**

1. **Fantahun Birhanu:** He resides in Gullele sub-city, Addis Ababa . He reported to EHRCO that since January 24, 2006, he has been under the surveillance of plainclothes security members. The security forces have also intimidated him through telephone saying, "We gained information that you are the coordinator of the youth wing of CUD." He told EHRCO that his security status is critical.
2. **Mulugeta Assefa Woldie:** He is 25, driver, and lives in Addis Ketema sub-city, Addis Ababa city administration. He acted as election observer representing CUD during the May 2005 national election in Kebele 01 of the

sub-city. On November 6, 2006, he was arrested by the police from his home, and imprisoned in Kerchele, Dedessa, and Ziway detention centers, and on 18 January 2007, he was released. On March 25, 2007, he was again arrested and put under police custody for one and half an hour. On 4 April 2007, at about 5:00 a.m., five plainclothes and two armed policemen searched his family's house without a court warrant. Infuriated for not finding Mulugeta in the house, the security men beat his 60 years old elderly father. The family reported to EHRCO that for security reason, Mulegta was forced to leave his home and resided in another place.

3. **Estifanos Danshiso:** He is a businessman and resided in Bole sub-city, Addis Ababa city administration. On January 13, 2006, Estifanos and his allies were sentenced to a six-year imprisonment being accused of corruption in connection with a roadwork machinery delivery deal with the Angacha woreda administration council, Kenbeta Zone, SNNPRS.

Estifanos was released on parole by the Kembata Zone higher court's ruling on January 22, 2007. He is now peacefully leading his private business in Addis. However, it is reported to EHRCO that he is still under surveillance by the Hadiya zone police, wanting to jail him again, claiming that he hasn't served his full prison terms.

## **G. Denial of Justice**

1. **Assefa Hailu:** During the May 2005 national election, he was fielded as a candidate for regional council in Anbasel Woreda, South Wollo Administration, Amhara regional state, representing Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). He won the election, and he is now serving the people he represents. As a regional council representative, being denied of his constitutional right of immunity from prosecution, he was charged for an "abuse of trust" that he allegedly committed in his former office some 10 years back. Assefa reported to EHRCO that though he lodged his complaints to the South Wollo higher court, to which his case was being tried, he was arraigned seven times, and justice is not yet prevailed for him.
2. Some 2,199 Wolayita nationals engaged in farming and semi-pastoral activities residing in Anka Duguna and Anka Damot Kebele, Wolayita Zone, SNNPRS, reported that, with out their full consents, they have been forced to be administered under the newly established Duguna Fengo woreda as of February 5, 2007.

The residents complained to EHRCO that the regional Government should seriously consider the prevailing social, political and economic factors before

deciding to make them fall them under a newly structured woreda administration contrary to their rights to self-determination.

The problems which the inhabitants faced are:

- as the new Woreda is located at a far of distance of 35 k.m. from their kebeles, they encounter an acute transportation problem. It takes them 6:00 hours on foot to reach the newly established woreda, which has been only a 1:30 hour journey on foot in their former woreda.
- as the road is much of hillsides and forestry, there is high risk of rape and abduction committed against children and women .
- there is a difficulty in search of medical care due to the far distant of the newly established administration.
- there is shortage of potable water in the newly established woreda.
- the residents' security is at high risk, as looters ambushed in the area, and often attacked them.

## **PART TWO: Ethnic-induced human rights violations**

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Ethiopia has adopted, stipulates that, "every one 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 reaffirms these rights, and obliges states to respect and protect these rights within their respective territories. Similarly, Article 14 of the FDRE Constitution 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 on various grounds. Ethnic spawned conflicts often surfaced in some regional state have significantly contributed to such human rights violations. The Guji and Burji ethnic groups, which share common borders with the Oromia Regional State and SNNPRS, have long lived in harmony and peaceful co-existence. However, since recently, as their quest for land claim has not been resolved, they have often come into conflicts resulting in severe human and property damages.

It is also recalled that in its 98th Special Report, EHRCO has called upon the Government to give due attention to the magnitude of the problems and seek a durable solution. However, it is quite piteous to see the problems unsettled, and inevitably, the conflict goes on unabated.

The following show the human casualties and property damages incurred during conflicts between the two ethnic groups in Haro Bule locality, Galaba Kebele, Arero woreda, Borena zone of the Oromia regional state, on February 27, 2007, from 2:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.

### **A. Killing**

**Table 2:** Owing to the aforementioned inter-ethnic conflict, the following people have been killed.

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
1	Gobena Anole	30	pastorialist
2	Duba Godana Nenko	25	pastorialist

### **B. Gunshot Wounds**

Individuals whose name listed below have sustained heavy and light injuries due to the conflict:

1. Gararo Bati Feche
2. Gayo Bati Feche
3. Sora Doda
4. Jarso Gefersa
5. Dulo Warito
6. Gelgelo Gudana
7. Konchera Huka
8. Wariyu Kontobo

### **Ethic conflict sparked in Sokoru Woreda, Jimma Zone, Oromia region**

Article 39(1)(2) of the FRDRE Constitution stipulates that Every Nation, Nationality and People in Ethiopia has the right to self-determination, and to develop and promote its own culture, language, among others. Accordingly, Yem nationals who reside in Sokuru town and neighboring Kebeles in its environs, Jimma Zone of the Oromia regional state, have requested to be administered by the Yem special woreda of the South Nation, Nationalities, and People’s Regional State (SNNPRS) as of 1993.

In reply to the request, a study committee drawn from the Oromia Regional State and SNNPRS had been organized, and based to the findings of the committee a

referendum was held on November 27, 2007 in which the majority voted in favor of administration of the woreda under SNNPRS. However, the result of the referendum has not yet been implemented. Because of this, ethnic conflicts have often flared up, resulting in deaths, human casualties, property damages and security problems.

On November 3, 2006, at 6:00 p.m., over 100 armed security forces entered the Yem nationals Sokoru woreda, Kebele 01 administration, and detained the people they found, and said, "You will fall under our administration as of today." When families of the detainees who heard the news, brought dinner for them at 9:00 a.m., there were prevented by the armed men. This time, conflict broke out between the residing Yem nationals and the armed members of Oromo nationals. The clash raged through the night causing physical injuries and property damages. The conflict has subsided and was brought under control the next day, as members of the Federal police and army reached the area.

EHRCO has investigated and verified the following human casualties and property damages.

### **A. Killing**

**Zinabu Abafogi Aba Wari:** He was a resident of Wengesho kebele, on November 4, 2006, he was shot to death by a bullet fired by unidentified armed man.

### **B. Gunshot wounds**

- 1. Tesfaye Shege:** He is a resident in Sokoru Woreda, Kebele 01. He is a guard. He was wounded by a bullet on the leg.
- 2. Ageritu Wondimu:** She is the Sokoru Woreda, Kebele 01 resident, and is a preparatory student at a secondary school. She suffered bullet wound on the leg, and is now under medical care at the Woliso Hospital.
- 3. Alemnesh Belaineh:** She is the Sokoru Woreda, Kebele 01 resident. She was wounded by a bullet on the leg, and received medications at the Woliso Hospital.
- 4. Asnakech Weranko:** She is a resident in Sokoru woreda, Kebele 01. She was wounded by a bullet and received medical care at the Woliso Hospital.

### C. Property damages

Various houses, fences, doors, windows and corrugated iron sheets in Sokoru woreda , Kebele 01 (Yero Sokoru) have been dismantled during the conflict. The fences and corrugated iron sheets of the '*Kale Hiwot*' Church has also been dismantled, and its religious books have also been damaged. Moreover, the following damages have occurred on residential units in Longish Kebele.

**Table: 3**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name of person whose property damaged</b>	<b>Types of damages incurred</b>
1	Aba Moga Aba Milki	3 cottages, 1 corrugated iron sheet houses burnt
2	Jebele Aba Mecha	2 cottages burnt
3	Taju Aba Mecha	1 cottage burnt
4	Temam Aba Gojjam	2 cottages burnt
5	Yehada Delbi Aba Mecha	1 cottage burnt
6	Aba Jebel Aba Godu	2 cottage burnt
7	Gezahegn Aba Gojjam	1 cottage, 1 corrugated-sheet house burnt
8	Aba Gojjam Aba	1 cottage burnt
9	Abebe W/Yohannes	1 cottage, 1 corrugated-sheet house stoned and dismantled
10	Aba Sera Aba Nega	1 cottage burnt
11	Kedir Aba Gojjam	1 cottage burnt
12	Bizuayehu Abanega	2 cottages burnt
13	Bekir Asanbi	1 cottage burnt
14	Mohamed Sanbi	" "
15	Emam Aba Gojjam	" "
16	Bediru Abagidi	" "
17	Seifu Lemma	" "
18	Kelifa Waji	2 cottages burnt

### **Ethnic Conflict Surfaced in Tumticha Kebele, Dilla Zuria Woreda, Gedio Zone, SNNPRS**

Human casualties and property damages have occurred owing to the ethnic induced conflict between Hademona and Gorsa nationalities in SNNPRS on December 13, 2006. Because of this, a person was killed, over 100,000 Birr estimated property damaged, and four people were forced to leave their residential areas.

## Cause of the Conflict

A man named **Eshetu Shone**, a member of Gorso ethnic group, used to live in Tunticha kebele. On November 10, 2007, while he was on farming, he was brutally killed by members of Hademo ethnic group. He was killed by a machete. Police have put under control the suspects. After three days, at 4:30 p.m., conflict flared up between members of the two ethnic groups at a market place in Tunticha Kebele.

Members of Gorso ethnic group, wanting to avenge their cruelly assassinated ethnic member, dismantled residential units that belong to Hademo ethnic groups, and damaged their household properties. For security reason, some Gorso ethnic nationals as well have also fled the area to neighboring kebeles.

### Displaced Gorsa ethnic members

1. Fikru Eshetu
2. Dereje Eshetu
3. Worku Gobena
4. Tekalign Haile

**Table 4: Hademo ethnic members, whose properties damaged**

No	Name	Types of property damaged	Estimates of damaged property ( in Birr)
1	Shibru Meldie	TV sets, tape-recorders, radio, sofa, and other household utensils	40,000
2	Siyoum Shone	House door and window	25,000
3	Tilahun Shibru	" "	10,000
4	Zewdie Shone	Tape-recorder, radio, bed and other household utensils	5,000
5	Alemu Abse	" "	5,000
6	Bekele Werasa	" "	5,000
7	Abinet Mamo	" "	5,000
8	Genesee Shibru	" "	5,000
Total			100,000

## Conclusion

Human rights violations documented in this 27<sup>th</sup> regular report are based on firsthand information on the ground, complaints lodged by the victims, evidences and witnesses. These are stark indicators that the human rights situation in the country is still at a worrying stage. And given the fact that most of the human rights violations are perpetrated by government security forces and ethnic-induced conflicts, it makes the situation even more appalling. Thus, EHRCO calls upon the government to respect and protect the life, security and liberty of individuals, as enshrined in the country's constitution. In particular, we request the government to:

- give due attention to the problems, and bring security officials who violate human rights to justice;
- absolutely refrain from detaining and torturing citizens for their political stands and affiliations;
- render commensurate indemnities to citizens, who are victims of extra-judicial killings, gunshot wounds, illegal detentions, and whose properties are illegally confiscated;
- reinstate individuals unlawfully laid off from their jobs, and to have them resume their education students illegally fired from their schools, and to take rectifying measures for all reported illegal practices and misadministration; and
- give due attention to the gravity of the problem of ethnic-triggered human rights violations and seek a durable solution to curb same.

In addition, EHRCO urges citizens, national and international organizations, representatives of Government and international organizations that stand for the respect and protection of human rights, establishment of a democratic system and prevalence of the rule of law in Ethiopia, to put pressure on the Ethiopian Government to put in place legal and institutional frameworks and ensure the actual implementation of human rights in the country, through writing using the following addresses.

- H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga, Speaker, House of Peoples' Representatives, FDRE  
P. O. Box: 80001, Fax: (251-1)1 55 0900, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Degife Bula, Speaker, House of Federation, FDRE  
P. O. Box: 80001, Fax: (251-1)1 55 0722, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Girma Woldegiorgis, President, FDRE

P. O. Box: 1031, Fax: (251-1)1 55 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister, FDRE  
P. O. Box: 1031, Fax: (251-1)1 55 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Siraj Feregesa , Minister of Federal Affairs, FDRE.  
P.O.Box: 1370, Fax: (251-1)15 52 0000, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Assefa Kesito, Minister of Justice, FDRE  
P. O. Box: 1370, Fax: (251-1)15 52 0874, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Dr. Mohammed Yasin, Speaker, Oromia National Regional State Council,  
P. O. Box: 101769, Fax: (251-1)5 513642, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Fikru Gnakal , Speaker, Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s Regional State Council,  
P. O. Box: 18, Fax: (251-1)046 220 1950, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Dr. Misrak Mekonnen, Speaker, Amhara National Regional State Council  
P. O. Box: 312, Fax (251-58) 220 1068, Bahir- Dar, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Commissioner Workineh Gebeyehu, FDRE Police Commissioner  
P. O. Box: 199, Fax (251-1) 153 4253, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- H.E. Ambassador Kassa G/Hiwot, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission, FDRE  
P. O. Box: 1165, Fax: (251-1)6 45 9290, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- H.E. Ato Abay Tekle, Ombudsman, FDRE.  
P. O. Box: 2459, Fax: (251-1)6 45 9229, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.