Human Rights Violation Report 2020

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1. Overview

Human Rights Abuses Committed by the Ethiopian Army and the so called “Oromia Special Forces” in Different Parts of Oromia and Ethiopia

OMRHO e.V. presents the state of Human Rights violations in Ethiopia since the incumbent group came to power. To enable the reader to comprehend the extent of brutality committed on the people by the Ethiopian Government, OMRHO e.V. tries to show the diverse methods of inhumanity exercised on the people. The atrocity encompasses extra-judicial killings, mass detentions, torture, arrest of members and supporters of Oromo political parties, without court warrants and etc.

This Report claims by no means a complete coverage of Human Rights abuses in the Empire as:

- people are detained in military camps and in hidden places as opposed to official prisons,
- arrests and detentions are arbitrary and without court warrants,
- the relatives of the imprisoned get no information where the victims are.
- Those who who ask whereabouts of prisoner face dangers of arbitrary arrests, abuses etc.
- Lack of access and capacity to cover comprehensively.

For the sake of technical ease, OMRHO e.V. structures the report so as to make the atrocity as well the spatial distribution comprehensible.
2. Assasination of Oromo Pop Star, Hachalu Hundessa

Shot dead on 29 June, 2020

3. Over 160 killed in Ethiopia protests after Pop Star shot dead in capital, Addis

At least 166 people have died during violent demonstrations that roiled Ethiopia in the days following the murder of popular singer Hachalu Hundessa, police said on Saturday. Pop star and activist Hachalu, a member of the Oromo ethnic group, Ethiopia's largest, was shot dead by unknown attackers in Addis Ababa on Monday night, fuelling ethnic tensions threatening the country's democratic transition.

According to Girma Gelam, deputy police commissioner of Oromia region, in a statement on the state affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate, in the aftermath of Hachalu's death, 145 civilians and
11 security forces have lost their lives in the unrest in the region, where as another 10 are known to have died in the capital Addis Ababa. In addition, Mr. Girma said that a further 167 had "sustained serious injuries" and that 1,084 people had been arrested.

Hachalu's music gave voice to Oromos' widespread sense of economic and political marginalisation during years of anti-government protests that swept Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to power in 2018. For more information visit: https://www.trtworld.com/africa/over-160-killed-in-ethiopia-protests-after-pop-star-shot-dead-37882

### 4. Narration on Pop Star Singer, Hachalu Hundessa

The 34-year-old, Hachalu had emerged as a powerful political voice of the Oromo nation and had made many enemies during his musical career.

Two suspects were arrested after he was shot dead while driving in the capital, Addis Ababa on Monday evening. However, police have not yet revealed a motive for the killing and no charges have been brought against the suspects. The BBC Afaan Oromoo's Bekele Atoma has narrated about the singer as follow:

A former political prisoner who grew up looking after cattle, Hachalu rose to become one of Ethiopia's biggest music stars, mesmerising fans with his songs about romance and political freedom - topics that he easily blended into his lyrics.

Hachalu's father, who used to work in the electricity department in the city of Ambo, aspired for his son to become a doctor, but he showed little interest in medicine.
However, from an infant, Hachalu showed a passion for music and singing, with the encouragement of his mother, while he looked after cows on the family's farmland on the outskirts of Ambo in the Oromia region, the heartland of Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, the Oromo.

**Pop Star, Hachalu was jailed for five years**

One of the eight children, Hachalu was born in 1986 in Ambo - a city about 100km (60 miles) west of the capital, Addis Ababa. He was at the forefront in campaign for the right of selfdetermination of nations and nationalities, which is clearly stated in the Ethiopian constitution. However, violating its own constitution, the Ethiopian government began to persecute, opposition parties and individuals including Hachalu who demand their constitutional rights. At the age of 17 in 2003 Hachalu was imprisoned and spent five years in Ambo Prison. During his stay in jail, he developed his political knowledge about Ethiopian history and his music skills writing about nine songs, and released his first album “Sanyii Mootii (Race of the King) in 2009, a year after walking free.

**Pop Star, Hachalu refused to go into Exile**

The album turned him into a music star, and a political symbol of the Oromo people's aspirations. However, he played down his political role, saying: "I am not a politician, I am an artist. Singing about what my people are going through doesn't make me a politician."

Many other musicians and activists fled into exile fearing persecution under the rule of then-Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and his successor Hailemariam Desalegn but Hachalu remained in Ethiopia and encouraged the youth to stand up for their rights.

One of his songs was about how he fell in love with a girl who was proud of her identity and was willing to die for it. His second album Waa'ee Keenya (Our Plight) was released in 2013 while he was on a tour in the USA. It became the best-selling African album on Amazon at the time. Two years later, he released a powerful single, Maalan Jira? (What existence is mine?), referring to the
eviction of Oromos from Addis Ababa and its surrounding areas, after the government decided to expand the boundaries of the city. For Hachalu, the 2015 displacements showed that history was repeating itself. He shared the view of Oromo historians that what is currently known as Addis Ababa was once the home of the Tulama clans of the Oromo, and they were forced out by Emperor Menelik II. Hachalu's songs became the anthem of the protest movement which emerged in 2015 to demand an end to the displacement of Oromos. At a time of heightened protests at the end of 2017, Hachalu released another song. "Do not wait for help to come from outside, a dream that doesn't come true. Rise make your horse ready and fight, you are the one close to the palace," he sang, often to cheers from his fans.

**Pop Star, Hachalu was fearless**

The protests snowballed into a campaign for greater political freedom, culminating with Abiy Ahmed becoming the post of prime minister in 2018 with a promise to release all political prisoners, unban opposition groups and hold democratic elections. Two months after Mr Abiy took office, Hachalu was invited by the government to perform at a concert held in honour of Eritrea's President Isaias Afeworki, who was visiting Ethiopia for the first time since the end of a border war between the two neighbouring states. Hachalu proved to be as independent and fearless as ever, singing about the need to achieve justice for people who had been killed in conflict in eastern Ethiopia between the Oromo and Somali ethnic groups, and questioning how a concert could be held when families were grieving.

Government officials later criticised him for singing "inappropriate" songs for the occasion, but it increased his popularity. Although he sang only in Afaan Oromoo, his songs - especially those which called for greater political freedom in Ethiopia - saw him build a fan base across all ethnic groups. Hachalu was married and has two daughters and was living in Addis Ababa until his death on Monday night, June 2020. For more information visit: [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53238206](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53238206)
5. Extra-Judicial Killing, Cases

Case, September 2020

West wellega, Gimbi

September 2020 in the mid night, around about 7:00 O’clock Ethiopian local time, Ethiopian military forces have killed this young boy named Waqjira Bakare and thrown his body on street under garbage.

Reason: he was born Oromo

Case, October 2020

East wellega zone, Nekemte town

Genocide against the Oromo people in Ethiopia continued, as the Ethiopian army are ordered by Colonel Abyi Ahmad Ali- the brutal dictator (the malicious enemy of humanity), murdered five qeerroo (Oromo youths) in Oromia Regional State, in Nekemte city on 23.10.2020 to terrorized Oromos. Names of the five Oromo youths assassinated by the government security forces known as Oromia Special Forces on Frida the 23rd of October 2020 in their home in Nekemte are:
1. Yisiyaq Zalaalem 2. Henok 3. Raagu'eel Hayiluu 4. Seefuu Kadir and the 5th was Abbittii. According to the information reached OMRHO e.V these young Oromo were killed only because of their belonging to Oromo and being proud of Oromo (Sabbontoota in Oromo language). Killing of unarmed Oromo youths and throwing their bodies into forest is the day today activities of Ethiopian Security forces since Abyi Ahmed came to power.

Who killed them?! According to our sources, it was Commander Girma Abdissa, a Chief of Oromia Special Force, Nekemte Regiment was the one who ordered Abiy’s barbaric army to murder these unarmed Oromo youths. The pictures of the assassinated youths are shown below.

As the government military forces told the local community NOT to use car or other means to transport the dead bodies, their bodies were transported using Horse.

Case, October 2020
Following the death of five young university students on 23 October 2020 in Nekemte town, East wellega zone, a university lecture named Fikadu Tolera was shot dead on October 25, 2020 in Shashamane town by Ethiopian military forces. Mr. Fikdau Tolera was shot dead because of posting the above-mentioned killings in Nekemte on a social media. Mr. Fekadu was a lecture in Mada Walabu University of Oromia. See his picture below.

Case, October 2020

Nekemte town, East wellega zone

A young boy named Daniel Ebissa died after his tongue was cut by the Ethiopian security forces in the local police detention center in Nekemte town of East wellega zone, Oromia.
Case, October 2020

East Hararge, Awadayii

On 24, October a young man named Fahmii Abdii Jamaal was shot dead by local military forces. Abdii Jamaal was born and grown in Awadayii city and was working as businessperson in the city and driving his own business car until he was killed. He was shot dead in the mid-night around 8:00 O’clock local Ethiopian time. He was shoted in his car while on business journey, he was married and has kids in the city.

It is well known that Ethiopian government is running out of mind as a mad dog and its existence depends on the death of Oromo and others who are against their ideology.

#StopKillingOromo#StopGenocideAgainstOromo#JusticeforOromoStudents
Case, November 2020

Kellem wellega zone, Dale wabara woreda, Qaqee town

A young boy named Ayana was taken from his relative’s home and shot dead and thrown on the street by the Ethiopian security forces on 1 November, 2020. His guilty was ONLY being born as Oromo and proud of being Oromo.

Case, November 2020

Jimma zone, Limmu Kossa, Caffee Ilfata village

A young boy named Ahmed Abduramann Abbaa Bulgu was badly beaten by Ethiopian security and military forces on 04 Nov.2020 and then they take him and killed on 05th Nov. 2020 and thrown
his body in forest and warned local community not to take his body, then his body was even eaten by wild animals in the night. Ahmed Abduramann Abbaa Bulgu was a sociable person and well-known businessman in his local community.

Case, November 2020

A young boy named Gamachu Mukta was shot by Ethiopian military forces in Awaday, Hararge, Oromia and passed away after being treated for three days in a local hospital.

Ethiopian government starts fighting and killing his peoples, because the people do not trust the government and the government is saying “if you do not trust me, you are a member of Oromo Liberation Front, and you must be killed.”
Case, November 2020

Below indicates the funereal ceremony of those who were killed by Ethiopian security forces in Horo Guduru wellega, in Saqalla town. Sometimes, it is confusing as the government uses different names for his killer military groups, either as Ethiopian military forces or Oormia Special Forces, both are barking dogs of the puppet prosperity party of Ethiopia. Three youths were taken to local prison detention in Saqala town of Horo Guduru wellega zone on 17.11.2020 and their dead bodies were found thrown on the field after two days. The names of the three victims are:

1. Kitila Gudeta, Sekele high school teacher
2. Gadissa Alemayehu
3. Mosissa Gebeyehu

Case, November 2020

West shewa zone, Ambo town
Mr. Galana Imana was kidnapped from his home by the so called Oromia Special Police Forces from his house in Ambo, on the 21st of November 2020, his whereabouts was unknown until the 23rd where he was found dead and his body was dumped into the nearby Debis River.

#Ethiopia#Oromia

Mr. Galana Imana was a member and supporter of OLF in centreal shewa, Ambo Ethiopia. Though the prosperity party asked him to work with the ruling party, Mr. Galana Imana denied and continued condemning the violations of human rights in his local community until his last breath. Mr. Galana Imana was married and has two children. See his pictures below.

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Case, November 2020
Kellem wellega zone, Anfilo, Shebel town
On Sunday 15th November, 2020 Ethiopian military forces have stopped seven innocent people who were walking to worship Sunday Church Service and killed them all. These victimeers were:

1. Shone Raga---25 years old
2. Jorge Barkessa---25 years old
3. Isayas Israel----15 years old
4. Obsi Adinoo----15 years old
5. Zekiwo Oliqa-----20 years old
6. Ramataa Maadad----30 years old
7. Name and family name unidentified----19 years old

Case, November, 25 2020

Hararge, Awaday town
On 25, November 2020 Ethiopian military forces have opened gun fire on civilians and killed two persons immediately and wounded three persons. Those who lost their life are:
   1. Hayu Yuya
   2. Musabe Nasradin

Case, November 2020
Jimma zone, jimma town, Oromia
Gaalib Aba Sambi - brother of exiled activist Yaya Beshir, shot by military on Nov 19th, died in the hospital on Nov 22nd, 2020. Imagine, killing just because his brother was activist who oppose the Ethiopian government.

6. Narration of Galib Aba Sambi
On November 19, 2020, three masked men dressed as military forces invaded Sambi’s apartment with no warrant and arrested him with no charges, leaving his wife and children confused and scared.

A couple of hours later an unknown person called to inform Sambi’s wife that her husband was found in the bush near the town of Jimma. The person said that he was nearby when he heard gunshot and bravely ran to the area where the shots were fired and found Sambi suffering from three gunshot wounds. He quickly rushed Sambi to Jimma Hospital, where doctors worked tirelessly to keep him alive. Unfortunately, on the evening of November 22, 2020, Sambi succumbed to his wounds and passed away. His murder is a loss not only to his family but also to his whole community and nation.

Galib Aba Sambi was a husband, father of four children and teacher. He was a teacher in the small town of Seqa located in the Jimma zone and described as a peaceful ordinary teacher who loved his job and his people. When he was not with his family, he dedicated his extra time to help educate his community.

Unfortunately, Sambi is not being remembered for his community work or love for his family but rather for his connection to a prominent Oromo activist, his brother Yaya Beshir. Yaya Beshir lives and studies in Stockholm, Sweden, at Malmo University, studying global political studies. Beshir is well-known for his controversial social media live broadcasts and unapologetically updating the Oromo community on what is happening in Ethiopia. Beshir never held back and forth that his brother suffered the fate of being murdered by a corrupt regime. His only crime was being the relative of an out-spoken social media activist. As described in Beshir’s obituary for his beloved brother,

“Galib was sinfully murdered by the authorities just because he was my brother. As a diaspora-based critic of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s regime, I have received a number of threatening
messages from PM Abiy Ahmed’s security over the last few months. However, I would have never thought they would attack my innocent family members back home to revenge me, because my family members are neutral of any side of politics.”

Case, December 2020
West Wellega, Najo Wereda, Mexii Maramii village
On December 14/2020 in the mid night at about 7:00 O’clock including two brothers, in total eight youths were taken out from their families’ house and shot dead at one place by Ethiopian military forces. The names of those youths who were killed are:

1. Diriba Tarfassa
2. Yigazu Karayu
3. Balina Karayu
4. Gutu Kumara
5. Balina Waqikene
6. Ebaa Mossisa and, we are unable to get name of other two vicitmers.

It is obvious that Ethiopian government has blocked internet and network connections in west wellega zone and kellem wellega zone of Oromia and continues conducting Genocide against the Oromo people. See the pictures of the dead bodies of innocent Oromo young men.
7. Torture and death Survival

Case, November 2020

West shewa zone, Dire woreda, Inciini town

According to the source reached OMRHO e.V. Female student of 10th grade Badhante Toyii was shot by the Prosperity Party of Ethiopian security man named named Guluma Ebissa On 5th November, 2020 at about 4:30 O’clock night local Ethiopian time. She was taken to Ambo referral hospital for treatment. Her situation is between live and death.
Case, December 2020
In East Harerege zone, Meta wereda detention and arresting of Oromo community is going on on by the so-called prosperity party, under Ethiopian military operations.
Mr. Abdulhaviz Nasru Hassan was kidnapped from his living house in East Harerege zone, Meta wereda and taken to Military camp for detention. Mr. Abdulhaviz Nasru Hassan is physically and psychologically tortured and still under critical situation, even we are not sure if he will survive or will go forever.

8. Detention of Ethiopians with foreign nationalities in Ethiopia
American citizen Kanenus Kalid was born in Shashamane, Ethiopia and is currently detained in Ethiopia. Prior to his detention, Kalid has been working for the UN for many years. Upon his arrival to Ethiopia he was robbed of $32,000. Since the suspects of the robbery are Berhanu Julla’s (Chief of Staff of the FDRE Defense Force) relatives, they accused Kalid of raping a woman and he has been imprisoned at Bishoftu city police station since September 25, 2020. His interrogators have abused him and tried to force him to sign a paper that falsely states he has received his money back. Kalid refused to sign it.

The prosecutor was not able to provide any proof regarding the rape allegations against him and closed the case under article 42 of the Penal Procedure Code of Ethiopia. When Kalid asked to be released on bail, the court refused and opened a new case against him and said he is affiliated with Jawar Mohammed, on illegally attempting to overthrow the government.

Kalid has submitted an appeal to East Shawa High Court and has court date on December 14, 2020. Kalid is facing extreme hardship as he has been denied access to his bank account and has not been able to reach the U.S. Embassy’s consulate office in Ethiopia.

It has been said that the police have informed the U.S. Embassy that Kanenus Kalid was released from jail. Yet the U.S. Embassy is not aware of Kanenus Kalid recent situation.

9. Arrest and detention of OLF members and supporters

The prosperity group has arrested Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) members and leaders again.
In the last two and half years, Dr. Abiy Ahmed’s ruling group, known as a Prosperity Party (PP), have been arresting, killing, and intimidating large number of opposition leaders, members and supporters and had been blocking their operations in the country. Particularly tens of thousands of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) leaders, members and supporters were arrested and the majority of them are still in known and unknown detentions. While the Ethiopian peoples and international communities are urging the ruling group to release political prisoners and resolve the crises peacefully the ruling group intensifies the atrocities and stick to armed force solutions to the country’s political problems.

As part of its crackdown operation, today 20 December 2020, the ruling group’s security forces have arrested 10 (ten) OLF personalities including leaders, members and journalists. The ruling group’s security forces have entered into their residence; searched their homes and private documents and confiscated their computers and mobile devices. The lists of the arrested individuals are as follows:

1) Mohamed Ragasa (Firaa'ol Jaalataa) - OLF Central Committee Member and Spokesperson of the OLF.
2) Murataa Sabaa (Malka Danu)- OLF Central Committee Member
3) Ayyaantuu Bulchaa (SBO)- Journalist (SBO).
4) Ibsaa Gaaddisaa (SBO) - Journalist (SBO).
5) Dr Gadaa Oljirraa - Office Administrator of OLF Chairman.
6) Yeroosan Hayyuu( Organisational Affairs- Finfinnee area).
7) Tumsaa (Asaffa Fikadu) - Member of Organisational Affairs.
8) Gurmuu Ayyanaa - OLF cadre.
9) Geessisa Kuusaa - Organisational Affairs- Mandii area.
10) Lidia Ali Miseensa - Women Association member.

The whereabouts of these detainees are unknown so far.
Currently Ethiopia is indulged into extreme conflict. There are escalating security crises in Oromia; the war in Tigray region and associated humanitarian crises are immense; the conflicts in Benishangul-Gumuz are serious; the Southern nations, nationalities and peoples are in chaos; the border conflict between Ethiopia and Sudan and so on had put the country in total chaos and disintegration.

Despite these looming internal crises and tensions with neighboring countries, the ruling group is preparing itself for “national election” 2021. This is not only pretension but surprising fake to imagine an election under current widespread internal conflicts and tensions in the region. In this chaotic circumstance, the prosperity party is intensively preparing itself for one party election under practically no independent opposition parties by avoiding all opposition members. This obviously will lead to absolute dictatorship. The Ethiopian peoples have been in totalitarian iron fist rule for the last 50 years. The last two and half years of current regime are the worst chaos of all. Although the ruling party undertakes these unstable situations for its ideological ambition of ‘one-language-one country’ and for winning election, it has dangerous consequences on the peace, security and co-existence of the people.

The OLF would like to inform the Ethiopian peoples and the international community that Ethiopia heading to orchestrated protracted conflict, complete chaos and total state collapse. The clear indication of this danger is in the scene. Source (http://oromoliberationfront.org, 20 December, 2020)

10. Election 2021
Using COVID 19 as a pretext, the government of Dr. Abiy extended the election that was supposed to be conducted last year. Now they are saying to conduct the election in 2021: However, like his predecessors Dr. Abiy is systematically eliminating all potential candidates so that his own ruling party known as Prosperity Party will be declared as winner. Therefore, the Ethiopian government ruling party is persecuting opposition parties by imprisoning the leaders of OLF and of Oromo Federalitic Congress (OFC). Accordingly, top OLF leaders including Obbo Abdi Raggasaa, Mikael Boran, Kennesa Ayyaanaa, Lammi Beenya, Coloniel Gammachu Ayyaanaa, Yaasoo Hordofaa are kept in prison for more than a year without any crime. There are thousands of Oromo Liberation Front Members, Sympatheisers and supports who are imprisoned in countrysides and hundreds are disappeared and their whereabouts is unknown to relatives. The leaders of OFC including Bekele Garba, Jawar Mohammed, Dejene Tafaa and other are kept in prison for many months.

Offices of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and of the Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) were closed. From the experience of Ethiopian politics, such persecution is only to pave the way so that the ruling party wins.

11. Conclusion

The Human Rights situation in Ethiopia has already moved from bad to a worst stage. The positive gesture we saw from mid-2018 to the end of 2018 has withered away. For the people who demand the right, the constitution granted on paper, and it has become a night-mare.

Especially, the Oromo People are the most targeted part of the people in the Empire. Wellega and Gujii zones of Oromia are under the Military Command Post. Civil administration is already overtaken by the military. Extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests, rape, looting of property of farmers by the Army are day-to-day practices. In addition to imprisonments, mass detention is becoming dominant government activity.
Besides COVID-19, the Assassination of Oromo Pop Star, Hachalu Hundessa in June 2020 changed drastically the situation in Oromia region from good to worst, whereby all Oromo political parties, members and supporters are taken to Prison. In addition to assassination of Oromo Pop Star, Desert Locust in Ethiopia detoriates potential of food security in the country, and the PM of Ethiopia take all these occupations as an opportunity to strengthen his power and detain any person or party whom he thinks are competent enough, and or will become popular.

Finally, Ethiopian PM uses COVID-19, assassination of Oromo Pop Star and Desert Locust as BIG opportunity and starts CIVIL war within Tigray region of Ethiopia since beginning of November 2020 and still going on to MAKE his DREAM of making Ethiopia UNITARY state. Due to Ethiopian PM Madness and some Amhara Exterimist Nationalists, in December 2020 alone in Benishangul Gumuz region of Ethiopia, more than 200 people were killed within a day and 207 bodies were graved in Mass, this case has to be investigated by International Criminal Court (ICC).

OMRHO worries that the situation in Ethiopia will further worsens and becomes out of control, even might lead to disintegration of the country. To deter this worrisome situation, the role of Donor countries and Organizations having ties with Ethiopia is immense. We appeal to such Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations, to engage the Ethiopian Government to re-create dialogue platforms with all political parties and release all Oromo political prisoners without any preconditions.

Further, we kindly request the international communities should do all their best to end the ever abuse of human rights violations in Ethiopia. Therefore, OMRHO e. V. appeals to all international communities:

1. To send international investigators who will investigate all the massacres, extra judicial killings, disappearances, and all kinds of physical and mental tortures conducted in Ethiopia in general, and in Oromia in particular.
2. To bring all who conducted human rights violations to justice.
3. To put pressure on the Ethiopian government to release all political prisoners without any preconditions. So that, the Offices of OLF and OFC be opened six months before the coming election.

4. To remove all command post Soldiers from Oromia region.

5. To send international troops (of United Nations and African Union) as peacekeepers to Ethiopia.

6. To send independent international experts to observe the coming election process.