Empire strikes back: catastrophic consequences

There seems to be a pattern to all this. It is very worrying.
Teshale Abera, former President of Oromia Region Supreme Court, November 2020.

Despite severe restrictions on the flow of information from Ethiopia OSG continues to record a relentless rise in the death toll as the government stifles all aspirations for self-determination for the peoples of Ethiopia.

Particularly large numbers have been killed in Western Oromia, especially in Wallega, where another 92 killings of Oromo have been added to the 350 recorded previously since October 2018. Of these 92, 54 died before mid-2019 and 38 in 2020. An additional 60 Amhara settlers died by government hands in Guliso on 1 November. Government forces have been responsible for at least 442 civilian deaths in Western Oromia, 340 in 2020 alone.

The names of another 42 killed within days of Hachalu Hundessa’s assassination on 29 June are recorded (all except 6 in Central Oromia) and added to the 42 already named as being killed in Report 53.

OSG has now documented 505 killings in 2019, including 100 Qimant in Amhara Region and 150 Sidama in SNNPR. Up to publication, OSG has recorded 777 killings in 2020, including 58 Walaita in SNNPR and 60 Amhara in Oromia Region. Those civilians killed in the war in Tigray have not been included in this total or in this report.

A most worrying development is the increase in reports of detainees being taken from police custody and summarily executed. At least ten of the killings by security forces recorded in this report occurred in custody or when detainees were removed from custody by soldiers.

Another significant development is the arrest of Oromo who are prominent in development, finance, the Oromo Relief Association and the Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa. No longer are government forces restricting arrests to political activists and journalists. Just as in 1992/3, any prominent Oromo in any sphere is at risk of arrest or killing.

In this report, another 208 killings by government forces are recorded, making the total, despite poor access to information, of over 1,342 killings of civilians by Ethiopian government forces since October 2018.
In a terrifying throwback to imperial grandeur and ambition, and demonstrating a complete failure to learn from history, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the imperial old guard which refuses to let go of its designs on all the assets of the Ethiopian empire, have brought Ethiopia to the brink of ruin.

Stifling the democratic aims of the peoples of Ethiopia whose claims for self-determination were satisfied to some extent with the distribution of powers along federal lines, the one party state which has been forced on the peoples of Ethiopia has violently suppressed opposition in Walaita, Sidama, Qimant, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromo and other areas and has prosecuted a genocidal war against Tigray Region. The Ethiopian government has precipitated and fostered inter-ethnic violence all over Ethiopia (see letter from Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa p.20) while seeking to establish a unitary state by force. It has terrorised and killed its own citizens merely to vilify the OLF and other Oromo organisations and institutions.

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Abbreviations

HRLHA Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa
OLA Oromo Liberation Army, now distanced from OLF
OLF Oromo Liberation Front
OSG Oromia Support Group
OMN, ONN Oromia Media Network and Oromia News Network
SNNPR Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region
TPLF Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front

Editorial note
Every entry in this report was accurate at the time it was reported to OSG. Individuals who are reported as detained may however have been released or killed by the date of publication (6 January 2021).
FINFINNEE/ADDIS ABABA AND CENTRAL OROMIA

Killings

On 23 June, Ebrahim Amin, of Salawa kebele, Dawe Hawa district, Wollo zone, was killed by government soldiers ‘being suspected OLF supporter’ (Gadado 30 July).

Killings at protests after the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June

The following were killed on 30 June in addition to those reported in Report 53:

Shashemane, W Arsi (Gadado 30 July):

Teshale Arja
Ambo, W Showa (Gadado 3 December):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tshale Arja</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Shashemane</td>
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Gadado’s December report confirmed the names of 14 victims reported in Report 53 (p.5) and included additional information that Burte Dhinsa, Alemesh Eshetu and Gadise Lechisa were young women.

The report confirmed nine killings on 30 June in Adama, one of those killed in Shiraro (p.5, Report 53), added the name of Teshale Arja to those killed in Shashemane and informed OSG that one of two killed in Qore on 30 June (Arabe Sh/Abdulqadir, p.5, Report 53) was a young woman.

The report confirmed the killings of eleven in Dodola, S Arsi, on 1 July (p.5, Report 53), recording Warqitesh Fariqo as a young woman and dating the killing of Musxafa Shira and Gamachis Inki as 17 and not 1 July.

The following were killed on 1 July (Gadado 3 December):

Ambo, W Showa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moti Badhasa</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Ambo, W Showa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadhi Gutu*</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dodola, S Arsi:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bariso Kasu</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalid Siraj</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammedsani Shamsi</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hasan Gishu</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdisa Jemal</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasin Amano</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finfinnee/Addis Ababa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musa Umar*</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Killed in Dodola the following day, 2 July:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Badhasa Waliyi</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muktar Gemedi</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dodola, S Arsi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 5 July, Degaga Bedhane, aged 17, was taken from his home in Jaldlu district, W Showa, during night time by soldiers and killed, being ‘suspected OLF supporter.’ *

* (Gadado 30 July)
Melkamu Dula (right) was detained in Waliso prison, SW Showa, during protests on 30 June/1 July. The court ordered his release on bail but police refused to release him. He was killed during the night of 17 September (Gadado 25 September).

Ligaba Erena, aged 60, of Bochesa Silasie kebele, Wara Jarso district, Selale, N Showa, was killed when he attended Qare Goha police station on 22 September. His wife and child had been taken there the previous day by Oromia Special Forces after failing to find Ligaba at home (Gadado 25 September).

Lema Boki, aged 24, and Girma Desse, farmers in Meta Robi district, W Showa, were killed by government soldiers on 30 September and their bodies (see left) thrown in the bush (Gadado 2 October).

Three were killed while in police custody in central Oromia, within two days - 20 and 21 November. On the same dates, three were killed in Horo Guduru, E Wallega (see p.17), and two were killed in Hararge (see p.11).

Asefa Kushi was taken at night by soldiers from police custody in Fiche, N Showa, and shot dead on 20 November. His body was left on a riverbank.

Getu Jiregna was taken by soldiers that same night from police custody in Amaya, SW Showa, and killed before being left at a roadside.

Fanja Waya was shot dead while in police custody in Shalla, Arsi, on 21 November. He was reported to have been shot by the Shalla District Administrator himself (Gadado 22 November.)

Detention and Rape

Gadado 2 December reported the continued detention of Alemayehu Diro (right) since he was arrested mid-year, at the same time as many top OLF and OFC officials.

His arrest is significant because he has no connection with political parties. Trained in economics and anthropology, he worked in development in the civil society sector for nearly 20 years, in HUNDEE, the Forum for Oromo Studies and, for the last five years, as General Manager of the Network of Civil Society Organisations in Oromia. He helped establish the Oromia International Bank, Oromia Insurance Company and Gutu Oromiya Business SC and has been a consultant for many local and international NGOs. Alemayehu is 47 with six children. His detention is consistent only with a government intent on weakening Oromo society in general.

Gadado 25 September reported that Jima Abdula (3rd year Hawasa University student, left) was detained in Shashemane, Arsi, while travelling to Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 24 June. He had not appeared in court for three months by the time of the report.
Mrs Obse Taye (right) was detained in underground cells in Ada Berga district, W Showa, on 29 June, the day of the killing of Hachalu Hundessa (Gadado 2 October). Her place of detention was unknown when initially reported by Gadado on 30 July.

Chaltu Takele (OLF Central Committee member and mother of nine, see left) was detained again on 4 July. She was in prison for eight years under the EPRDF and has been detained at least once previously by the current regime of Abiy Ahmed. She was released a few days after the arrest in July (Gadado 30 July and 5 January 2021).

Lomitu Dereje was five months pregnant and had been referred from Horo Guduru, E Wallega, to Ambo Hospital, W Showa, for medical treatment for her heart problem. She was taken to the Ambo Mayor’s Office compound on 20 July at 19.30 local time, when she was raped by soldiers. This caused her to immediately miscarry her pregnancy and Lomitu was reported to be ‘between life and death’ in hospital when reported by Gadado on 30 July.

Gadado 30 July also reported that Jeregna Wakwaya (OLF member working at the Burayu OLF Office) was arrested and taken to an unknown place on 22 July.

On 23 September Gadado wrote of the continued detention of OLF leaders despite court orders for their release and payment of 300,000 Birr bail. The leaders, including Abdi Regassa, were reportedly being held in Burayu-Sansuus Police Station and there were concerns for their safety from Covid.

Dhaqaba Wariyo (above right) from Shashemane, Arsi, was detained near the end of July but had not been charged or appeared in court for two months when reported by Gadado on 25 September. He has since been released (Gadado 5 January 2021).

Belama Gutema, Ambo, W Showa, was severely beaten when he was detained on 14 September. He was in pain and had been denied medical treatment in detention, up to the report by Gadado on 25 September.

In Dire Inchini district, W Showa, pregnant mother of two, Tizita Abdisa (right, with her children) was badly beaten and detained on 17 September when she was being interrogated about the location of her husband. She had not been allowed visits by her children up to the report (Gadado 25 September).
Mrs Akafete Foraja, Bosat district, E Showa, was detained in Wolanchiti Police Station for the second time on 25 September, ‘being suspected OLF supporter’ (*Gadado* 3 December). She is shown left, attending the funeral of her brother, Warqu Foraja, shot dead when government soldiers attacked the Wolanchiti OLF office when it opened on 15 February (p.3, OSG Report 52).

Lenjisa Alemayehu (right), Qaliti district, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa, was abducted by security forces on 29 September in Galan district on his way to work (*Gadado* 2 October). His place of detention was not known at the time of reporting. On the same day, security forces went to the home of his brother, Yadessa Alemayehu, and seized property including his laptop.

On approximately 29 September, artist and human rights activist Jafar Yusuf (left) was detained for the second time in two months, in Bole district, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa (*Gadado* 2 October).

OLF member Bira Tufa Elemo (right) was taken from his home in Garji, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa, by security forces on 29 September (*Gadado* 2 October).

Lidiya Abera (left) and her brother were taken by security forces from the Burayu district of Finfinnee/Addis Ababa in September and held in unofficial detention at Sidist Kilo in the capital. Their father, Abera, still at the family home in Anfilo district, SW Wallega, had been detained and tortured on many occasions before he was killed by soldiers in Anfilo one year ago (*Gadado* 3 December).

The 22 *ONN* staff and guests who were arrested at the Kaku Mame restaurant, Arada, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 5 September (OSG Report 53, p.9) were ordered to be released on bail but remained in detention. *Gadado* reported 23 September that nine were transferred from Arada Police Station to hospital because they had contracted Covid-19 in prison.

*Gadado* wrote on 25 September naming some of the detainees being held since protests at the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June, who had been granted bail by the courts but had nonetheless remained in detention. Those in Ambo, W Showa, whose court orders granting bail were ignored by police included:

- Lelisa Urgessa
- Tesema Ambisa
- Ifa Taresa
- Getachew Zewude
- Samuel Kumsa
- Dr. Dinras Nura
- Getachew Barsisa
- Dr. Dinras Nura
- Gada Fita
- Milkesa Gada
- Fayera Qananisa

Among those detained in Gulale, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa for at least two months after the protests are ten who have been removed to an unknown place, provoking fears for their
Every October is the traditional Oromo thanksgiving ceremony, Irreecha. In 2019, a ceremony took place in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa as well as and one day before the traditional ceremony at Bishoftu (Debre Zeit), E Showa. Irreecha ceremonies are attended by millions but despite being larger than ever before, those in 2018 and 2019 went without incident. They are organised by traditional leaders, the Aba Gadas, and Qeerroo/Qarree members. The Irreecha ceremony in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa was scheduled in 2020 for 4 October and in Bishoftu 5 October.

The government prevented the ceremony this year. Roads entering the capital from the west were blocked on 1 October and at least 111 buses containing thousands from East and West Wallega, after travelling for many miles, were stopped and made to turn around by government security forces.

On the same day, more than 2000 Oromo from Wallega were arrested in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa after being made to show their ID cards. Buses are shown, right, being held up in Sire (Gadado 2 October).

On 12 October, OLF chairman Dawud Ibsa was interviewed by Kello Media Network about the arrest of five journalists working for Oromia News Network (ONN) and Voice of Independent Oromia earlier that day from his home in Finfinnee.

Oromo community leaders and elders gathered at the chairman’s home to issue a press release concerning the proposal for a transitional government for Oromia by the OLF and OFC (Oromo Federalists Congress). This had been promulgated a few days before in response to the legitimacy of the federal government having run beyond its electoral mandate. Federal police terrorised those in the compound when they made the arrests, despite having no warrant to enter the building.

On the same day, the Director of the Oromo Relief Association, Dachasa Nagatu, was arrested from his home in Sabata district of the capital and held for at least two days.

The vice-chair of the board of the Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa (HRLHA), Dr Diriba Wakjira (right), was taken from his home in the Kasa Inchis area of Finfinnee/Addis Ababa at 9.00 pm on 4 November and held at the 6th Police Station. His office at the Ililly International Hotel, where he is Deputy Manager, was also searched that evening (HRLHA 23 November).

He appeared at First Instance Court, Kirkos Division, on 6 November when his release on bail was ordered. He was transferred then to an unknown place. His wife and HRLHA’s staff have been unable to locate him in the city’s prisons and there are fears for his safety. Father of two, Dr. Diriba is a former Lecturer and Research Director at Debre Tabor University.
According to an OLF press release on 20 December, security forces arrested ten ‘OLF personalities including leaders, members and journalists’ (five are shown below). Their homes were searched, computers and mobile devices confiscated:

Mohammed Ragasa (Firaa’ol Jalata), OLF Central Committee Member and Spokesperson
Murata Saba (Malka Danu), OLF Central Committee Member
Ms Ayantuu Bulcha, Sagalee Bilisummaa Oromoo, (SBO), Radio Free Oromia Journalist
Ibsa Gadisa, SBO Journalist
Dr Gada Oljira, Office Administrator of OLF Chairman.
Yerosan Hayu, OLF Organisational Affairs, Finfinnee area
Tumsa (Asafa Fikadu), OLF Organisational Affairs
Gurmu Ayana, OLF cadre.
Gesisa Kusa, OLF Organisational Affairs, Mandi area.
Ms Ayantuu Bulcha, SBO Journalist
Ms Leensa Abdalla, leading OLF member
Asefa (father’s name not known)

The whereabouts of these detainees are unknown so far.

On the same day of these arrests, the Ethiopian Electoral Board decided that the OLF was an organisation which was competent to take part in the 2021 national elections.

The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee listed over 500 detainees at the beginning of December. These included the following held in Central Oromia:

In Finfinnee:
Abdi Girma and
Sabona Asfaw in Akaki, Kaliti
Kayo Milki in Nifas Silk Lafto
Oftana Mesfin Ofiga’a, Bole
Turfat Dhufera, Finfinnee Special Zone

In Burayu, 3rd District, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa:
Abdi Diriba
Abraham Bayisa
Alamayo Caala
Alamayo Diro
Asagid Mohammed
Ashenafi Abera
Ayana Solomon
Barasa Zarihun
Biqila Nagaa
Caala Girma
Dame Guyasa
Desalenye Sambato
Diro Tolasa
Eba Bekuma
Fiqadu Tasfaye
Fiqiru Sadi
Gadisa Mosisa
Galana Dagafa
Gamachis Takala
Gamachu Aboma
Girma Hindalu
Goshu Dagafa
Hacaaluu Baqala
Hindalu Gutata
Izaq Samu’el
Jafar Hussein
Jato Mekonnen
Kasahun Tolasa
Lamesa Dhinsa
Lami Caala
Mebratu Taye
Meti Milko
Muxafaa Mohammed
Obsa Hailu Arado  Tayera Idosa  Tolina Gamachu
Obsi Xuruna   Tamache Banti   Wabi Idosa
Solomon Alamayo  Temesgen Getachu   Yasin Ibrahim
Sanyi Dosha  Tolera Namara

In Ada’a-barga, W Showa:
Ababe Fayisa  Dajanee Fiqadu   Magarsa Diro
Abera Baqala  Daraje Mulatu   Mosisa Nuguse
Abazu Kababa  Dhaba Alamu  Nagsa Abara
Ababe Dabale  Dio Dasita  Obse Taye
Adamu Kuma  Diriba Alemu   Ragasa Jailer
Adne Tulu  Fiqadu Aboye   Rata Admasu
Alamitu Baqala  Getachu  Sanyi Getana
Alamu Zagaye  Gizachu  Senesa Abara
Ashetu Nanesa  Guluma  Tashoma Kabada
Atsadu Kafiyalew  Hordofa Garama  Tashoma Qanani
Bayisa Hunde  Ijara Ababa   Tolera Bayu
Baqala Dame  Irko Kabada  Urgesa Dabale
Baqala Magarsa  Kababa Habte  Zawdu Gadiisa
Bayisa Maridu  Katama Mekonnen
Dabala Olana  Lelisa Ababa

In Ejere, W Showa:
Balaxa  Dhugomsa Ayansa  Tashoma Jabeesa
Boja Warquufi  Galata Lami  Warqu Kafani
Dajane Badhadhafi  Lami Dinqu
Daraje Damanu  Sabona Lami

In Ambo, W Showa:
Abushe Haile  Caltu Mataka  Marsi Biranu
Baqala Fayisa  Dhugasa Fixe  Obse Mataka
Bona Baqala  Enyuma Kuma  Rabuma Getacho
Bona Didha  Ibsa Mosisa  Samu’el Kumsa
Bontu Lami  Matiyas Galatafi  Tola Alemu

In Ginci, W Showa:
Alemayu Si’es  Gadisa Abara  Jorji Ababa
Beeki Caala  Gamachu Bacca  Kumsa Marga
Boruf Gidi  Garmame Warqu  Nimona Lamesa
Caala Bayisa  Haqabas/Kabada  Obsuman Uma
Fayyo  Iftiyom  Sisay Saxxo
Fiqiru Gude  Jawe Bayisa  Waquma Asafa

In Meta Robi, W Showa:
Diriba Baayee  Katama Nadhasa  Tujuba Amana

In Babicha, W Showa - Baqala Lachisa and Kumsa Shuguti
In Bako, W Showa - Temesgen Asmara

In Goro, SW Showa:
Biqila Lalisa  Hussein Ayala  Mohammed Abdalla
Dereje Nagasu  Ibrahim Damasa  Mudin Arabo
Fira’ol Hirpasa  Idris Amdisa  Marga Fufati
Galata Tashoma  Jamiel Amdisa  Shamsu Daksisa
Galatu Ajama  Kadiro Galana  Takala Damasa
Hirphasa Rafu  Lelisa Magarsa  Zeyinu Mohammed
Hirphasa Hailu  Mamud Abdurahman
In E Showa, Dereje Begi and Gobana Sida in Bishoftu
Ginbar Nagar in Adama, and Waqineh Roba in Maqi

In Batu, W Arsi (3* reported as Batu Jido Kombolcha):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abiti Dule*</td>
<td>Dale Tushuru</td>
<td>Midhaso Abiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdalla Gamado</td>
<td>Dereje Hailemariam</td>
<td>Muktar Hajo</td>
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<td>Desata Qaweti</td>
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<td>H/Xaha Galaso</td>
<td>Tadassa Ilu</td>
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<td>Birhanu Wari</td>
<td>Jamal Dhabile</td>
<td>Tamiru Rorisa</td>
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<td>Birhanu Gadisa</td>
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<td>Mengistu Tashite*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caala Wado</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Also in W Arsi, Dhaqabo Wariyo was detained in Shashemane

**AMHARA REGION**

**Detainees**

The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee reported at the beginning of December that the following Oromo were being held in prison in Metekel, Gojam, Amhara Region:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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Mokonnin Asafa
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Muluualem Baqala
Nagaa Abdiisaa
Namoo Ol'aanaa
Nigatu Tarafa
Qana'aa Haayiluu
Raggaaadaa Bogonjee
Raggasa Haayilee
Simaachawu Kabbadaa
Sooressaa Dhibbisaa
Takala Ayana
Takala Dinagdee
Takala Yaadataa
Tamiru Yaadataa
Tagibaaruu Addamee
Tamaarii Galataa
Tamasgeen Amsaaluu
Tamasgeen Bayyanaa
Tamasgeen Kabbadee
Tashaalaa Qananii
Tashaalee Dheeressaa
Tolasaa Nuguser
Waaqjiraa Gurmuu
Warquu Inbiiyaalew
Zakkaree Adabaa
Zalalem Lamuu
Zamanuu Gurmeessaa
Zarihuun Alamirrawu

EASTERN OROMIA

Killings

Ahmed Nur, from 02 Kebele, Haromaya, E Hararge, was killed ‘on the open gate’ in daylight by military forces on 16 June (Gadado 30 July).

Previously unrecorded killings during protests shortly after the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa were detailed by Gadado on 3 December.

The following were shot dead in Chiro, W Hararge, on 1 July:

Mohammed Abdi Aliyi
Ibsa Mohammed Aliyi
Ana Mohammed
Mebrate Abera

Shot dead in Dinsho, Bale, on 3 July:

Muzaym Shemsi
Suiffyan Nuro

Father of 7, Mohammed Abdella, was killed by soldiers on his farm in Mi’esso district, W Hararge, and

Abdella Suleyman Abdella was killed by soldiers in Asebot town, Mi’esso district, on 22 July ‘being suspected OLF supporters’ (Gadado 30 July).

Gadado reported on 22 November that eight had been shot dead in Oromia during the preceding two days. Two were shot dead in Showa (p.4) and three in E Wallega (p.17) on 20 November and one in Arsi (p.4) on 21 November.

On 21 November, Kedir Abdullahi, was killed and thrown on the roadside in Kobo, E Hararge, and

Maftu Yusuf was killed in front of his home in Dire Teyara (airport area), Dire Dawa, E Hararge.
Detainees

The following 68 were among 79 detained in Gursum district police station, E Hararge, at protests following the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June (Gadado 25 September):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hasan Bakar</td>
<td>Shukur Muktar</td>
<td>Toido Muktar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalid Abdi</td>
<td>Bahr Abdurham</td>
<td>Fati Mohammed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muadin Husen</td>
<td>Yasin Musa</td>
<td>Woli Abdurhaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tajir Shafi</td>
<td>Abdi Ahmed</td>
<td>Taju Ziyad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megersa Abdulsemed</td>
<td>Ugaz Mohammed</td>
<td>Shire Mohammed</td>
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<td>Adnan Ahmed</td>
<td>Nasir Mohammed</td>
<td>Nur Mohammed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammed Fesel</td>
<td>Abshir Abdi</td>
<td>Farha Mohammed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sharif Mohammed</td>
<td>Bahiridir Ramadan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasir Adem</td>
<td>Mujedin Adem</td>
<td>Usmael Mohammed</td>
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<td>Ahmednasir Abdi</td>
<td>Eliyas Shemsu</td>
<td>Kadir Abdula</td>
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<td>Mooylud Abdulkarem</td>
<td>Eliyas Nure</td>
<td>Amin Nuriye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abuku Mohad</td>
<td>Arab Mohammed</td>
<td>Ramadan Yusuf</td>
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<td>Ramadan Abubakar</td>
<td>Ramadan Abdi</td>
<td>Mohammed Ebrahim</td>
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<td>Feysel Yusuf</td>
<td>Yusufe Zuber</td>
<td>Fami Sherif</td>
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<td>Abdunasir</td>
<td>Hasen Amir</td>
<td>Aman Tahir</td>
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<td>Ebrahim</td>
<td>Nure Ahmed</td>
<td>Jemal Adem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebile Tofiq</td>
<td>Hayu Taha</td>
<td>Yusuf Husen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Fozi Hiylu</td>
<td>Kedir Mohammed</td>
<td>Adam Abdi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Riyadhé Šule</td>
<td>Sultan Mohammed</td>
<td>Shakib Abdurhaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Samir Ahmed</td>
<td>Yaya Habtamu</td>
<td>Abdi Zubar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdulkarim Bakar</td>
<td>Abduselam</td>
<td>Muyadin Abdulsumad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdisha Bayan</td>
<td>Feysel Musa</td>
<td>Eliyas Abdulsumad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umar Bakar</td>
<td>Anos Yusuf</td>
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The organisation named 33 of those detained at the same time in Dire Dawa, E Hararge:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Aneso Ahmed Ebrahim</td>
<td>Balisa Mohammed Jibril</td>
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<td>Mohaamed Abdurahman Mume</td>
<td>Nadhi Jemal Mume</td>
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<td>Ararso Ahmed Abrahim</td>
<td>Badhaso Daso Tahir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahar Mumad Yuye</td>
<td>Raju Hamid Jemal</td>
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<td>Farahan Mohaammed Ume</td>
<td>Chala Yaya Mumad</td>
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<td>Gammada Abbas Mame</td>
<td>Ahmed Mohammed Abdurahman</td>
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<td>Hasad Bakar Sabur</td>
<td>Barento Abdi Umar</td>
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<td>Kadir Abdullahi Hasan</td>
<td>Nabiya Jemal Dawud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuji Mohaammed Abrost</td>
<td>Ms Ayantu Tayib Taha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arjun Abdurahman Bakar</td>
<td>Usniya Abdulqadir Kadiri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdi Jemal Abdurahman</td>
<td>Ms Fakiya Bakar Abdulahi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdi Sufi Usman</td>
<td>Qabula Abduule Alisho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sufii Usman Bakar</td>
<td>Mohammed Ahmad Adam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hasan Mohaammed Abdurahman</td>
<td>Dine Uso Sali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marawin Ahmed Mume</td>
<td>Damis Hailu G/mikael</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinaras Mohaammed Ibirosh</td>
<td>Ibsa Abraham Mumado</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee named over 500 detainees at the beginning of December, including the following in Eastern Oromia, almost all in Bale. They included four who were held in unspecified places in Bale:

A/Wahaab H/Daawud  
Dr Adam Rahmatok

Birhaanuu Alammayyoo  
Umar Aliyyii, local leader (Abbaa Gadaa)

Held in the provincial capital, Robe:

Abdul-Aziiz Mohammed  
Feysal Abdaa  
Musxafaali Aliyyii

Abdusalaam Umar  
Jeetii Hasan  
Rashiid Bunkii

Abdii Bunkii  
Jeylaan Umar  
Saafii Ismaa'il

Ahmuu Umar  
Kaalid Jeeylaan  
Sayiduu Hasan

Aliyyii Amsn  
Hamzaa  
Shamsaddin

Anwaar  
Mohammad H/Saanoo  
Sintaayyoo Alamu

Awwal H/Saanoo  
Mohammad Ismaa'il  
Taaju Huseen

Awwal Suleeyman  
Mohammad Kadir  
Tafarraa Tsaggaayee

Barsisaa Hamzaa  
Mokonnin Wasanuu  
Umar Saafii

Faxxanaa  
Muddiin Maamaha

Held in Gasara:

Abdulhaafiiz Abdulaziz  
Fooziyaa Amiinoo  
Mubaarak Mohammad

Abdulhakim Amar  
Fu'aad Umar  
Mudaree Tamaam

Abdurahmaan Yaasin  
Hamzia Sheikh Aliyyii  
Mudasir Jibriil

Abdusalaam Nuuree  
Huseen Warraa  
Muktara

Aabu Idiree  
Jaabir H/Abdulqaadir  
Muzayyan M/Hiseen

Aabii Xaazoo  
Jaabir Kadir  
Muzzamil Alo

Aaludin Jundii  
Jambo Aliyyi  
Sa'aad Qasim

Abdii Jamaal  
Jamaal Huseen  
Sh/Abduljaliil H/Ismaa'il

Ahmad Kibrat  
Jamaal Shaftaa  
Taaju Jaamal

Akaalu  
Jibriil Mohammad  
Waziiri Mohammad

Anawaar  
Kadiir Abubakar  
Xaahir Abba Badirru

Awwal Umar  
Kadir Sheikh Jamal  
Yuunaa Abdurroo

Feysal Idirree  
Mahadii Muzayyan

Held in Dalo Mana:

Abdulwahaab Jiloo  
Gadaa Jiloo  
Muzammil A/Kariim

Adam Amaan  
H/Xaahir Mohammed  

Held in Agarfa:

Abdi Juneeydiin  
Mahmad Surur Hasan  
Saadiqoo Haaaji

Abdurahmaan H/warji  
Mamad Adam  
Tammiru Urgessa

Feysal Mamaa  
Nuure Ahmed

Maammush Qaasim  
Rooza Mahammad

Held in Goba:

Ahmed Haajii  
Fiqadu Ayyala  
Mohammad Abbitti

Alamaayyoo Birhaanee  
Galata gamaaad  
Mohammad Jeylaan

Alamayyoo Dibaaba  
Haadam H/Awwal  
Mudaasir H/Suleeymaan

Aliyyi Jabboo  
Hasan Maamaha  
Mudaasir Sh/Mahmud

Amaan Ganaamoo  
Ibraahim Tilmo  
Mudaasir Muhammad

Anwaar A/Baasix  
Ibraahim Xaahaa  
Muhaammad Jeylaan

Awal Abduuroo  
Ibrahim xahaa  
Naasir

Bilaal Jundii  
Jabraahin Amaan  
Saadam Mohammad

Birhaanuu Shurrube  
Kenna Shashara  
Siraj Ahmad

Efireem Laggasaa  
Mammoo Geetu

Yuunaa Abdurroo  

Tajuu Duureessa
Zubeer H/ Bariisoo
Held in Goro:
Ballaxxa Raggasaa  Huseen Jamaal  Miftaah Xayyib
Hayluu Mokonnin  Ibraahim Yuusuf

Held in Qarree:
Foziyaa Adam  Rahimaa Nueree  Xaayibaa Ibraahim
Haalima Adam  Safinaa Awwal  Zabiibaa Amaan
Misra Abbaatii  Samiiraa Bushuraa  Zamzam Jaarsoo

Held in Dinsho:
Abdulmannaan Kadiir  Awwal Abdulsamad.
Abduu Kaliil  Siraaj Amaan
Masqaloo Badhasaa was held in Matu and the following three were detained in Hararge,
Eliyas Aliyi Sa’ido in Bookee, W Hararge
Oromsii Elemoo in Hadare Biyo, E Harargee, and
Michuu Seenaa, at an unspecific place in Hararge.

WESTERN OROMIA

Killings

The following were recorded by Gadado on 30 July 2020 to have been killed during the last few months of 2018 and the first six months of 2019. Their deaths have not previously been reported by OSG, although, due to variations in name spellings, this cannot be absolutely guaranteed.

Killed in Gidami district, SW Wallega:
Naasir Qana’aa
Bashaa Ittafaq
Fedhasaa Ga’eera
Gammachuu Guutaa
Ifaa Guutaa
Gamachu Guta and Ifa Guta were brothers. Their home was razed with all their property when their parents were detained in the local military camp. Their parents disappeared after being released.

Qelem kebele:
Sanbatoo Olaanaa  Yohannis Al-maadii  Solomoon Alamuu
Daani’eel Olaanaa  Tafarii Dinqaa  Tasfaa Isaa
Umar Isaa  Yooohannis Dassalenyi  Saadaam Isaa

Girayii Sonkaa kebele:
Mohammed Taliiulaa  Toomaas Dhabsuu  Eebbisaa Raagaa
Gamulaa Jigsaa  Yisaaq Fiqiruu  Naasir Guddinaa

Girayii Biishaa kebele:
Gummadaa Siraataa  Balaay Ruufii
Tasfaayee Gismoom  Margaa Ittafaq

Girayiir Horoo kebele:
Dabalaa Taariikuu  Koorii Daaqaa
Addisuu Nagaarii  Mazgabuu Geeboo
Abootee kebele:
Mulunaa Qannaa  Toomaas Dirribaa
Dabalaa Solomoon
Gadado reported on 30 July that Waqjira Tolosa of Garjo kebele, Ghimbi district, W Wallega, was killed by soldiers on 12 February because he was a suspected OLF supporter and because he denied having contact with his sister Ayanatu Tolosa who disappeared in 2007 after several episodes of detention, torture and rape. Waqjira disappeared in detention until released at the end of 2017. He was held in Senkele military camp for three months in 2019 and was killed in custody.

Gadado reported on 19 September the names of four of six killed when soldiers burnt houses and fired on their occupants in a settlement of displaced people from Eastern Oromia in Gero Dingaja, Dapho district, Buna Bedele, Illubabor, on 15 April (see OSG Report 52, p.15). Two were burnt to death in their homes and two were shot as they ran. They are named:

Aliyi Aba Amadin
Aba Gutema Abdurahman

Melkamu Gutama was taken to the local military campo from his home in Yubdo, Ghimbi district, W Wallega, on 1 June. There he was tortured and killed. Local sources describe his body being dragged ‘on the floor like a dead animal’.

Habtamu Jalata, Kabi kebele, Homa district, W Wallega, was killed by soldiers on 6 June ‘being suspected OLF supporter’ (Gadado 30 July).

Brothers Samuel Emiru and Isaq Chaala (right) were taken by soldiers from their parents’ home in Kapi kebele, Ganji district, W Wallega, on 22 June, ‘brutally beaten and finally killed, being suspected OLF supporters’ (Gadado 30 July).
On 26 June, Dhaba Debelo and Musa Umar, from Sago, Jerdega Jarte district, Horo Guduru, E Wallega, were ‘killed by military forces being suspected OLF supporters’ (Gadado 30 July).

Thomas Saqeta (aged 15, left), Tegi Gelewo kebele, Guliso district, W Wallega was ‘brutally killed by Ethiopian military forces on 27 June ‘being suspected OLF supporter’ (Gadado 30 July).

Lamessa Bekele, a lecturer at Illubabor University, was ‘killed on the open gate in daylight’ outside his home in Alge town, Illubabor, on 27 June ‘being suspected OLF supporter’ (Gadado 30 July).

Amayu Banti, Sayo Nole district, W Wallega, was shot dead by soldiers on 28 June. His relatives were refused permission to remove his body from the street for one week and were denied a burial ceremony (Gadado 30 July).

Alemayehu Abdi, a teacher in 04 kebele, Dembi Dollo town, SW Wallega, was killed by soldiers on 9 July ‘being suspected OLF supporter’. He was a respected elder among the community and regularly met other elders to solve local disputes (Gadado 30 July).

On 27 July, four innocent Oromo were killed by soldiers in Jawi Gicho kebele, Anfilo district, W Wallega. Three were students - Abdo Hailu, Amayu and Gamachu Asfaw - and the fourth, Mereba Waqjira, was a farmer. They were shot because they were suspected supporters of the OLF (Gadado 30 July).

Mesfin, a harmless young man with mental and learning difficulties (left), managed to live independently in his parents’ home in Ghimbi town, W Wallega, after their deaths from natural causes. Despite his posing no possible threat to the government, Mesfin was shot dead by soldiers on 24 September (Gadado 25 September).

Ararso Gemmechu (right) was detained in Jabo prison, Nejo town, W Wallega, in around July for being a suspected supporter of the OLF. Soldiers took him from prison and killed him on 5 October (Gadado 3 December).

Six Oromo were shot dead by government soldiers on 7 October in Qellem, SW Wallega, because they were suspected OLF supporters.
Two of four killed in Machara village, Hawa Galan district:
Obsa Bekele and
Ephraim Boshe
Two killed in Debita Bile kebele, Sedi Chanka district:
Aboma Mitiku and
Workneh Bekele (Gadado 3 December).

Respected Oromo elder, Masune Biratu Mandudo, Halaku Dogoma kebele, Yubdo district, W Wallega, was killed in public, on 8 October. Soldiers gathered the local population by force to witness the killing (Gadado 3 December).
Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa (1 November) named five young Oromo killed when troops opened fire on them in broad daylight in Nekemte, E Wallega, on 23 October:

Ragu’el Hailu
Henok
Falmata
Syfu Kedir
Yisak Zelalem

They were members of the Oromo youth movement Qeerroo. The government claimed they belonged to a fictitious group ‘Abba Torbee’ which extremist Amhara media claim to have targeted Amharas.

About 60 innocent civilians, mostly Amhara whose families were forcibly resettled from Wollo in central Oromia/Ethiopia to Gawwa Ganka in Guliso district in W Wallega in the 1985/6 Derg resettlement programme, were gathered together by armed forces on 1 November and slaughtered en masse and their homes burnt down.

Within hours, the government and Amhara-dominated national media blamed the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) for the incident. This version was quoted and echoed unchallenged by BBC, Al Jazeera, and even Amnesty International. Spokesmen for OLA and OLF strenuously denied any involvement. They pointed out inconsistencies in the government version of events and called for an independent inquiry. Information gathered personally by Teshale Abera, Gadado and Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa (2 November) can only be consistent with the killings being committed by a group which was backed and employed by the government Prosperity Party. Either this group or a similar one was employed previously to commit atrocities for which the government blamed the OLF, OFC or the Qeerroo/Qarree movement (such as in Shashemane on 29/30 June).

Inconsistencies with the government version of events include:
Large-scale movements of government troops were noted by local people during the day before the killings.
The heavily armed local Command Post was evacuated immediately before the atrocity. The general said he expected security forces to arrive to replace the evacuating troops. Within hours of the evacuation, the civilians were told to gather together.
The incident happened on the same day that Qeerroo announced the beginning of a fifth round of civil unrest throughout Oromia and on the very day when the TPLF told the European Union that it will not negotiate alone but with all opposition forces including the OLF.

OLA and OLF have been operating in W Wallega throughout the time that settlers were moved there without conflict.

It appears that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is willing to sacrifice Amhara lives merely to vilify the parties which represent Oromo interests and their call for equality.

On 22 November, Gadado reported eight extra-judicial killings in Oromia by government troops during the preceding two days. Two were killed in Showa on 20 November (p.4), one in Arsi on 21 November (p.4) and two in Hararge on 21 November (p.11).

Three were killed in Horo Guduru, E Wallega, on 20 November. The three men were taken from police custody in Sekela police station during the night. They were killed and their bodies thrown at the roadside:

Berhanu Gabayo
Gadisa Alemayehu
Kitila Gudeta (teacher)
Arbitrary arrest and detention

Previously unrecorded by OSG is the disappearance in detention of Teshome Guta, Lecturer in the Language Department, Wallega University, on 24 June (Gadado 30 July). He was suspected of supporting the OLF.

The family of detained OLF official Lammi Benya was reported by Gadado on 23 September to have been subject to persecution. His elderly father Benya Burika was taken from his home in Wayu, Tuka subdistrict, Wallega, on 15 September and held in Tuka Police Station. All of Lammi’s brothers and sisters have disappeared from the family home.

An Oromo Ethiopian Orthodox Church priest, Chala (right) was arrested when teaching from a bible written in Afaan Oromo in church in Lema kebele, Limu district, E Wallega, at 19.00, 15 September (Gadado 25 September).

Gadado reported 25 September that over 700 men and women in Yabu district, Jimma zone, who were arrested in protests after the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June, were still being held in detention three months later despite court orders to release them on bail. The detainees include teacher Tadele Merga (left).

In early December, the Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee released the names of over 500 detainees in Oromia, including the following in Western Oromia.

Detained in Ebantu, E Wallega:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abara Dajane</th>
<th>Dabala Aga</th>
<th>Haftamu Hirpha</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdana Gamu</td>
<td>Damiso Badhasa</td>
<td>Jira Jarso</td>
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<td>Abdisa Ababa</td>
<td>Daraje Gobana</td>
<td>Kefale Qixata</td>
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<td>Alamayo Marga</td>
<td>Daraje Hunde</td>
<td>Lamesa Itticha</td>
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<td>Alemu Mekonnen</td>
<td>Diriba Mekonnen</td>
<td>Lamesa Ganati</td>
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<td>Asafa Alamayo</td>
<td>Elias Galata</td>
<td>Migsane Mekonnen</td>
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<td>Asafa Warqina</td>
<td>Fayera Warqina</td>
<td>Nagasa Lamesa</td>
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<td>Asaba Dhufera</td>
<td>Fida Oljira</td>
<td>Nagara Dhufera</td>
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<td>Ayala Gamachis</td>
<td>Fiqadu Ayana</td>
<td>Qalbesa Getacho</td>
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<td>Gonfa Baqala</td>
<td>Shifara Yadata</td>
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<td>Biratu Ababa</td>
<td>Gulti Abetu</td>
<td>Temesgen Sori</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caali Mashasha</td>
<td>Guta Ganati</td>
<td>Tuli Gabisa</td>
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Haro Limu, E Wallega:

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<td>Jamal Suse</td>
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<td>Fayisa Hailu</td>
<td>Jamara Tadesse</td>
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<td>Ayala Akuma</td>
<td>Fayisa Neguse</td>
<td>Mudin Adam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dabalo Dasale</td>
<td>Fiqadu Hailu</td>
<td>Sadiq</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dasu Beyene</td>
<td>Galata Amsalu</td>
<td>Sanyi Tadesse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawit Fiqadu</td>
<td>Hirpha Likasa</td>
<td>Temesgen Qana’a</td>
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Gudaya Bila E Wallega:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asanbit Eliyas</th>
<th>Diriba Gobana</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dereje Wadajo</td>
<td>Tariku Edata</td>
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Beating, detention and disappearance of parents of OLA leader:
Home burnt down

OSG in Australia received a report immediately before Report 54 went to press on 6 January 2021 that the parents of Marro Dirriba, the commander of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) were attacked and severely beaten at their house in Horo Guduru, E Wallega, on 26 December while their home and property were destroyed by fire. Commander Marro’s 70 year-old father and 65 year-old mother had not been in touch with him since he left home 17 years ago to join OLA. Neighbours and friends have been trying to locate the couple in detention, to take food for them, but were unable to locate them up to the time of the report. They are shown right with their destroyed property.
BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ REGION

Arbitrary arrest and detention

_Gadado_ 25 September reported that the Aba Gada (Oromo traditional Gada system leader) in Metekel in the Oromia zone of Benishangul-Gumuz Region, 65 year-old Debelo Sheka (left), had been illegally held for two months by the regional government.

Asefa Regassa (teacher, top right) and Bidiqa Muse (bottom right) were arrested by Ethiopian military forces in Metekel on 5 October ‘because they are Oromo’ (Gadado 3 December).

SOUTHERN OROMIA

Killings

It was reported in OSG Report 53 (p.26) that Tefo Umar, in Wadera, E Guji, was killed but the date was not specified. He _was killed on 17 July_ (Gadado 3 December).

On 22 September, _Tariku Kefeyalew_, of Hidha Korma kebele, Surro district, Guji zone, was _killed by soldiers and decapitated_. His _head was then hung on public display_ to terrorise the local population (Gadado 2 October). Photographs were sent to OSG but not reproduced.

Arbitrary arrest and detention

Teacher _Dabaso Oda_, Tille Mado village, Moyale district, Borana zone, was detained in the open, as shown right, on 15 September (Gadado 25 September).

The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee released the names of over 500 detainees in Oromia Region in early December. Only six of those detained in Southern Oromia were named: Aisha Jamal, Jara Jabir. Jalata Lammi and Lalisisu Adola were detained in Guji, Beeka Bude was detained in Shakiso, Guji zone, and Jarso Malicha Arero was held in Hidi Lola, Borana zone.

Human Rights League letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

In an open letter to the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, on 1 November, _Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa_ wrote of the government’s use of secret detention centres, _incommunicado_ detention in military camps, widespread torture, denial of court orders for release and the government’s lack of legal mandate to continue in power. The letter continued:

‘At this moment, the security situation in Ethiopia is highly problematic. The government is not in a position to control the prevalence of repeated attacks against ethnic minorities in Beishangul-Gumuz Region, Southern Region [SNNPR] and elsewhere. Sporadic inter-ethnic
conflict that has been arising between Afar and Issa Somalis on the one hand, and Wollo Oromos and Amharas on the other, is very threatening. *HRLHA* has received credible data of hundreds of killings and property destruction because of these armed attacks and inter-ethnic clashes in the foregoing regions in the past few months alone.

The so called, ‘Oromia Special Force (OSF)’ has been widely perpetrating human rights atrocities throughout the Regional State. *HRLHA* has recorded more than **250 extrajudicial killings of civilians perpetrated by OSF since 30 June 2020* [Gadado 3 December claimed that 219 were killed between 30 June and 4 October and named 88 in this report]. Dozens of killings have been registered in the last 10 days alone in different towns of Oromia region such as Nekemte, Sabata, Shashemane and Awaday. The most shocking incident of all was the heinous killings of five unarmed youths [Qeerroos] namely Ragu’el Hailu, Henok, Falmata, Syfu Kedir and Yisak Zelalm in the Nekemte town of Western Oromia on 23 October 2020 [see p.??]. These youths were brutally murdered by OSF using live ammunition in broad daylight.

**Teshale Abera ‘Investigate atrocities: stop blaming the victims’**

Teshale Abera, former President of Oromia Region Supreme Court, has maintained contact with many well-informed sources in Ethiopia since he fled to the UK in 2005. He wrote of his anxiety and frustration shortly after the government-sponsored massacre of Amhara settlers in Guliso district, Wallega, on 1 November, which was, predictably, blamed on the OLF. He wrote:

‘. . . About 60 people are reported to have been killed in West Wallega at a place called Gulliso. As William Davison [Journalist] said, the government quickly blamed the OLA and TPLF. Given the current state of things and the record of Abiy's government on its ability to properly investigate and its willingness to tell the truth it is difficult to believe what this government is saying.

The Amhara news outlets such as *ESAT* support the view promoted by the government on this, as they always did, particularly since the consolidation of power by Abiy. The OLF issued a press release asking for an independent investigation into this and similar accusations. Oromo media reports and news also indicate the OLF were not responsible. People from the surrounding area are reported to have witnessed government military movement in that area right before the incident; and that the victims were asked to assemble by armed men before being executed.

The story of the government doesn't seem to hold. . .

More than 200 people were reported to have been killed around the end of 2018, at the border area between Gumuz and Oromia, when more than 240,000 people were evicted because of a reported military raid under by the Command Post. The government then blamed the OLF both for the eviction of people and the killings. The residents reported otherwise.

The OLF sought independent investigation. None took place. Most of the victims were children and women. We have evidence, including pictures showing bodies of victims. A Mayor of Nejo [W Wallega] was burned alive when his house was lit on fire. The residents claimed that the government was to blame. The OLF, despite being blamed for orchestrating it, asked for an independent investigation. No independent investigation took place.
In early 2019, several Oromia Banks in West Wollega (two zones) were reported to have been robbed. Again, the government blamed the OLF. The OLF asked for an independent investigation and yet it didn't happen.

In early 2020 a group of five people including foreign citizens were killed around the Nejo area. The government blamed the OLF. The OLF asked for an independent investigation. Nothing has happened thus far.

In September 2018 four high officials from Benishangul Gumuz were killed while travelling across Oromia at a place called Ayira Gulliso. The government blamed the OLF. The OLF asked for an independent investigation. It didn't happen.

In 2020 students in Dembi Dollo University, allegedly from Amhara ethnic group were allegedly kidnapped, again by the OLF. Oromo media and residents around the university have persistently denied this and have claimed that it was fabricated news that never happened. The OLA leader Mr Marro repeatedly denied and stated that there is no way his army would target civilians. The OLF asked for an independent investigation. No investigation at all took place.

There were however widespread reports that it didn't even happen, that the news was a hoax used to downplay the killings of Oromo university students in Amhara Region. Oromo students in Amhara Universities have been continuously targeted in 2020. Some were thrown out through windows and killed, many have been beaten to death. The students blamed armed government forces conducting the operation. No independent investigation took place. No-one was brought to justice.

Hachalu Hundessa was assassinated in the capital in June 2020. The government quickly blamed the OLF and TPLF. The OLF, together with other opposition groups asked for an independent investigation. Nothing happened thus far.

There are continuous and perpetual massacres taking place in different parts of Oromia zone. Evictions of about a million Oromo took place in Bale and Harar area. Widespread killings are reported to have been taking place in Arsi, Bale, Hararge and Guji Borana. There is no meaningful remedial action taking place by the government.

Oromos who settled in Jimma because of the eviction in Harar and Bale are reported to have been evicted again. Nothing took place to remedy this.

There seems to be a pattern in all this. It is worrying.'