
Human Rights Abuses in Ethiopia

PRESS RELEASE March - May 1998, No. 22

The Oromia Support Group is a non-political organisation which campaigns for the international recognition of the extent of human rights abuses and lack of freedom in Ethiopia. OSG calls upon western governments, businesses and institutions to withdraw support from the Ethiopian government until it abides by its constitution which guarantees human rights and self-determination for all peoples of Ethiopia.

OSG has now reported 2,385 extra-judicial killings and 646 disappearances of civilians suspected of supporting groups opposing the government. Most of these have been Oromo people. Scores of thousands of civilians have been imprisoned. Torture and rape of prisoners is commonplace, especially in secret detention centres, whose existence is denied by the government.

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Abbreviations

EPRDF - Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front
OLF - Oromo Liberation Front
TPLF - Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front

FORCED REPATRIATION OF OROMO REFUGEES FROM GERMANY

Scores of Oromos are under threat of forced repatriation from Germany. Along with refugees of other nationalities, some have already been deported and there are rumours of many more.

An Oromo refugee in Germany claims that since May 1997, refugees are denied any kind of visa by the German authorities and are told to obtain a passport from the Ethiopian embassy. Those who refuse to approach the Ethiopian embassy are imprisoned and returned by plane to Addis Ababa.

OSG has received two reports of Dr Demanalash Arada Bifa, a veterinarian living in Augsburg, being forcibly repatriated on 13 March, after four days in prison. Asfaw Wadajo, a physicist living in Nuremberg, was rejected asylum and was forced to leave Germany in February. His present whereabouts are unknown.

Dr Zewudu Lechisa, a veterinary doctor living in Nuremberg, nephew of Terefe Qumbi, one of the three Oromo murdered in Addis Ababa last October, was so frightened at the prospect of being forcibly returned to Ethiopia after his asylum application was rejected, that he fled with an illegal travel document to Paris. He was arrested and is believed to have been sent back to a German prison.

There is scant information about two men named Dereje and Berhanu (the latter from Munich), and at least three others who are said to have been forcibly repatriated to Ethiopia.

OSG has received letters from other refugees in Germany who have been refused asylum and are in fear of repatriation.

In Germany, asylum seekers are denied work permits and their activities are limited to small administrative districts, sometimes a small town or one small part of a city. In the federal state of Bayern, where the authorities are said to be particularly harsh on asylum seekers, a food allowance is not given. Inadequate (in quality more than quantity) food parcels are provided twice weekly, instead. Asylum seekers have great difficulty affording legal advice and representation.

One correspondent writes, *Thus, any asylum seeker who reached Germany since 15 May 1997, has to live where he/she is assigned, can't have work permission, can't move from place to place and must eat what he/she is provided but not what he/she would choose to eat, and hardly can have access to a lawyer, since he/she would not have anything to pay with.*^{1,2}

Elias Ofgha Tesso is partially disabled from torture wounds received under the previous government and has been detained by the present regime on one occasion. Believing his life to be in danger he escaped to Germany in August 1995. He has been refused asylum in Germany and has been told he must return to Ethiopia.

According to the *Addis Tribune* newspaper, Addis Ababa, 27.2.98., the German government intend repatriating 885 Ethiopian nationals. Last year 11 Ethiopians were repatriated to Ethiopia.

ADDIS ABABA AND CENTRAL OROMIA REGION

Killings

Tegenye Aklilu, Woreda 2, Kebele 09, Addis Ababa, was shot dead by a government soldier in his house on 7 November 1997. Following a domestic dispute, his Tigrean wife fetched the soldier from the nearby EPRDF camp.

¹ Correspondence from Oromo refugee, Ingolstadt, Germany, 28.3.98.

² Correspondence from victim, an Oromo refugee, Augsburg, Germany, 01.3.98.

Nigussie Abebe, was killed on 7 November 1997. His bullet-ridden body was found under a bridge near the Civil Service College in the capital. He was a civil employee of the customs office.

Hordofa, was killed on the night of 21 December 1997. He was a prominent Oromo elder in the locality of Saris, near the Ethiopian Red Cross Pharmacy in Addis Ababa.³

Disappearances

Mr X, aged 28, born in Qorke, near Ambo, W. Showa, disappeared in Addis Ababa on 18 January. The acquaintance of his, who informed OSG of his disappearance, requested that his name was not revealed, in order to protect his family. The victim was involved in OLF activities in 1991/92, when the OLF was part of the Transitional Government. Following the withdrawal of the OLF from government, *his house and those of the neighbourhood were targeted by EPRDF soldiers and security forces. [X] managed to escape and hid with relatives in different places from time to time. The TPLF/EPRDF were annoyed by his escape and brutally beat many people from the family and neighbourhoods, while murdering two of his brothers.*

Since then, many of the relatives and the neighbours were repeatedly tortured, forcing them to tell where [X] was hiding. As he could not return home, he remained hidden. In January 1998, he went to Addis Ababa to visit some relatives. On 18 January somebody who saw him approaching his relative's house informed him that someone was asking for his name in the neighbourhood. [X] himself noticed that he was being followed. He then returned to where he had come from rather than entering the house. Since this time, his whereabouts remain unknown.

One week later, on 25 January, EPRDF soldiers ended a meeting in Qorke announcing *that the people can go home as the person whom they were looking for was caught.*⁴

A remaining, independent newspaper in Addis Ababa, *Seife Nebelbal*, which publishes accounts of disappearances and killings by government forces, carried a report on 20 March of the disappearance of two teachers from Ambo, W. Showa.



Ashebir Oncho

Belay Hunduma

Both had gone to Addis Ababa for court appearances. Their whereabouts are unknown since their abduction. The families of both men are reported to be without support.

Ashebir Oncho and Belay Hunduma were abducted on 11 February by security forces in Addis Ababa. They were among 60 residents of Ambo who were detained after taking part in a protest against the killing of Mr Derara Kefani, during his funeral ceremony in September 1994. Like many others in state employment who joined the protest, they were sacked.

Both had gone to Addis Ababa for court appearances. Their whereabouts are unknown since their abduction.

³ Clandestine Human Rights Group A, Addis Ababa, January 1998.

⁴ Correspondence from acquaintance of victim, seeking asylum in Germany, 19.2.98.

Imprisonment

In addition to the 31 human rights defenders and journalists charged with armed conspiracy earlier this year another 34 have been identified by human rights defenders in Addis Ababa (communication April 1998). Due to the tight security situation in Ethiopia, the names have not yet been sent to OSG.

EASTERN OROMIA REGION

Killings

Mohamed Sheko, 40, from Kombolcha, E. Hararge, was shot in front of his house one evening in August 1996. He was a father of 9 children and a shop keeper, selling Oromo music.

Abdulkakim Daawid Adem, 28, a merchant from Kombolcha, E. Hararge, was killed on an unspecified date, allegedly because of his support for the OLF.⁵

Asbah M. Toucha, 18yr old student, Kebele 13, Dire Dawa, was killed on the street on 14 May 1992. He was a childhood friend of the correspondent.

Fahima Abdurahman, 19, Kebele 19, Dire Dawa, was killed at 11.00 am on 20 July 1992 when attending the wedding of the correspondent's brother.

Dr Ismael, 36, an employee of the government hospital, died after being given an injection at the hospital, on 16 February 1993.

Zako Abdullahi, 42, Kebele 06, also died after receiving an injection, at the French hospital in Dire Dawa, at 10.00 am on 23 May 1993. He was a cousin of the correspondent.

Yousuf Ahmed, 25, Kebele 19, street 4, Laga Hare in Dire Dawa, E. Hararge, was killed when walking at 10.00 am on 4 July 1993 in front of No.2 Police Station. He was a cousin of the correspondent.

Fuad, Kebele 06, Gandallore street, Dire Dawa, was killed at 10.00 am on 7 October 1995 in Faras Magala, the horse market.

Najib Mahmoud, 19, Kebele 13, street 5, Dire Dawa, was tortured in the textile factory before being tortured and killed in Adele military camp on 5 February 1996. He was a friend of the correspondent.

Alwahab Umar, 40, Kebele 13, Dire Dawa, was killed in front of his door at 9.00 pm on 5 February 1996.

Samade, 22, Kebele 18, Dire Dawa, was taken from prison and killed at mid-night on 10 March 1996.

Saada Sheik Bakri, 35, Kebele 06, Gandallore street, Dire Dawa, died from torture wounds on 22 May 1996. She had come from Saudia Arabia and was accused of bringing money to give to the OLF. She was imprisoned for 7 months before her death.

Iskandar Tikisha, 23, Kebele 19, Dire Dawa, was killed on the street at 10.00 am on 2 August 1996.

Fuad Ibrahim (Gurro), Kebele 19, street 5, was killed on 7 August 1992, allegedly because of his support for the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia.⁶

⁵ Correspondence from acquaintance of victims, exiled in Djibouti, 26.3.98.

⁶ Correspondence from relative and acquaintance of victims, exiled in Djibouti, 1.2.98

Imprisonment, torture, etc

Ziyad Hussien, was detained in the cotton factory in Dire Dawa for 10 months, allegedly because he and his brother were suspected of supporting the OLF. He was held in a 4 by 4 metre room with 20 others from 25 February to 23 October 1993. His brother was among relatives who were killed by government soldiers. Following his release, he was harassed by government security forces and fled to Djibouti in 1994. He wrote from Djibouti on 11.4.98.

Kedir Abbas Dawid, was taken from his home on 21 August 1992 and held in Kombolcha detention camp, E. Hararge, for 4 months. He escaped after his family paid 5000 Birr. His father was also held in detention for one month, and was later killed allegedly because of his support for the OLF. On 20 August 1993, Kedir left the country for Djibouti, from where he too wrote on 11.4.98.

Mohamed Rashid, a shop owner born in Deder, W. Hararge, was arrested on 15 January 1996 by government militiamen named L. Damese, Abdi Abdalla and Abbaa Ali. He was taken to Deder police station where he was tortured. He was imprisoned for 6 months with 70 farmers. After the family paid a bribe of 15,000 Birr, he was released on 17 July 1996.

He was re-arrested on 25.10.96 and again tortured. Three upper teeth were broken. While he was detained, government forces confiscated all of the property in his shop. He escaped when OLF fighters broke into the police station on 21.12.96 and fled to Djibouti, from where he wrote on 24.2.98.

Letter from prison in E. Hararge

The following is a translation of a letter written to OSG by one of its members. It was written on 14.8.97 and smuggled out of a prison in E. Hararge. The current location of the correspondent is unknown.

While working for the Oromia Water Development, Mines and Energy Office, I was taken from my office in Ciro town, [capital city of W. Hararge] at 4.00 pm on 23 October 1996 by armed EPRDF/TPLF soldiers.

I was taken to different places and beaten day and night with sticks and other materials. They told me I was being beaten because I raised funds for the OLF and received Oromia Support Group newsletters. I was released on 28 January 1997 on bond.

Once again on 12 June 1997, armed OPDO/TPLF soldiers, claiming they were from Misirak Izi, Tara and Galamso, came to my office at 10.00am. They told me to get up and that I was wanted. They came without any warrant. They took me to Sarawit Misirak-Iz, an army camp, and kept me in a dark prison. They beat me severely while I was there. Then I was moved to Makalakaya Sarawit army camp in Galamso in western Hararge.

WESTERN OROMIA REGION

Imprisonment

Elias Ofgha Tesso, father of two, was imprisoned for 6 years during the Dergue administration, and has partial paralysis of his hands due to torture he received then. Under the present government, he was imprisoned in 1993 for 4 days in Boji, Gimbi district, Wallega. On 14 December 1994 at 10.00 am, his house and office were surrounded and searched by EPRDF/TPLF troops looking for OLF fighters and weapons. Although nothing was found, three armed people came to the office the next morning and took Elias to jail.

He wrote on 1.3.98 from Augsburg, Germany, where he faces forced repatriation, *I was imprisoned for 8 days in a cold cell in Boji without blankets or a mattress on which to sleep. I was then*

released. On 25 January 1995, I received information from an intimate friend who advised me to leave the area to save my life. Soon after leaving, I went to Addis Ababa, where I hid for two months. Again I received information that the security forces were still looking for me. I then moved 20 km from the city and lived there for 4 months. I finally escaped to Germany in August of 1995.

Neja Seman Yasen, 27, born in Agaro, Gomma province, Illubabor, was a student when he was arrested in mid-July 1992 following the OLF withdrawal from the Transitional Government. Soldiers surrounded his house, forced their way in and arrested Neja and his father. They were detained in Agaro police station and interrogated about OLF contacts while being beaten with staves.

After a short time, they were taken to another, unknown area for interrogation, where they were told, *Unless you show us your area of operation and tell us the secret of the OLF, you will be killed not by a bullet, but sliced like bread by a knife.*

After 25 days, they were released on bail and informed not to involve themselves with any political organisation. Three months later, soldiers returned, surrounded their home and fired upon them. Hassan Umar [a presumed visitor] was killed. Neja escaped via Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa and arrived in Djibouti in 1996. He wrote to OSG on 22.2.98.

SOUTHERN OROMIA REGION

Imprisonment

Imamu Ahmed, 32, farmer and father of four, and

Sadiya Dawodi, were imprisoned at Chole, Arsi, by uniformed EPRDF soldiers on 7 November 1997 for allegedly supporting the OLF.³

OGADEN

Ogaden Human Rights Committee report:- 'An Endless Tragedy',
Porrentruy, Switzerland, April 1998.

Killings

Mohamed Mohamoud, (Quteer), was abducted by EPRDF forces from his home in Baareey at gun point on 18 July 1997. After two weeks, his tortured and burnt body was displayed in the town.

Mohamed M. Khalif, was gunned down in broad daylight by government soldiers on 8 August 1997. He was the Police Commissioner for Dhagaxbuur.

In December 1997, the Ethiopian army carried out an assault on the villages of Weerare, Laanjaleelo, Xero-bilcir, Garaan. Lix-irdood, Samo and Masaarre, killing many civilians. The army also looted 6,000 camels, and 20,000 sheep and cattle.

In January 1998, many civilians were gathered from their village and taken to EPRDF camps and executed. Among them were:-

Khalif Abdi and Hassan Food Abbi, both civilians from Dig village

Siyad Yusuf, civilian from Cusbaley

³ Clandestine Human Rights Group A, Addis Ababa, January 1998.

Abdi Dheere, a businessman from Garbo. His legs and hands were smashed before he was shot dead.

Ahmed Dahir Omar, a teashop owner from Qoolaal

Jama Mohamed Ali and Abdi Mohamed Omar, both civilians from Qabridaharre

On 8 February, Ethiopian government soldiers rounded up civilians from Dhagaxbuur and executed them. Among the dead were:

Fadumo Mohamed, a civilian from Ananu

Faduma Ali Abdi, Jama Farah, Muse Faroole and Ali Mohamed, from Bulaale

Yusuf Hirsi Olow, a member of the ONLF, was arrested in Djibouti in September 1996 and forcibly returned to Ethiopia. Each night he was taken from his prison cell at gun point, blindfolded, tied up and interrogated under torture. He was beaten with heavy sticks, electric wire, gun butts and threatened with a gun put to his head. He suffered from anal bleeding and consequently could not cater for his sanitary needs. He was denied medical treatment. He died in April 1998.

Disappearances

In February, EPRDF soldiers rounded up civilians in the Wardeer region and transferred them to Wardeer military camp. The detainees were tortured and have subsequently disappeared. Amongst the disappearances are:-

Ahmednur Sh Ali, Mohamed O. Ali, Wali Aden, Jabane Khalif Arab, Siyad Deyl, Shamis Sh. Farah, Hussein Gahnug, Abdi H. Hassan, Jama Hayd, Hassan M. Hure, Mohamoud Hure, Hussein Laba-indhood, Abdullahi Ismail, Abdi Y. Jabane, Mohamed Mohamoud, Ali Adan Osman, Adan M. Qalinle, Hassan M. Suldan, Yusuf Hirsi Sulub, Imaan M. Yusuf, Abdallahi Yusuf

Imprisonment, torture, etc.

Since 10 October 1997, Ethiopian government forces have been rounding up hundreds of civilians and detaining them in military camps.

Bashir S. Nur and his son Hilowle Bashir from Nogob region were arrested in July 1997 for allegedly supporting Al-Itihad. They were tortured and castrated.

In November 1997, the following people were detained and tortured after their property was confiscated,

From Wayla-lagu-xidh village:-

Abdi D. Abdi, Bashir Mahdi Abdi, Halimo D. Abdi, Hindis D. Abdi, Waadi D. Abdi, Abdullahi Sh. Dahir, Ruman M. Dahir, Fogad Sh. Hirsi, Ardo Mohamed, Mohamed Ahmed Sh., Fawsi Sh. Salah,

From Dig village:-

Mohamed Dahir Hassan, Mohamed Ismail, Hassan Olhaye.

In January, many women were detained, tortured and maltreated in Godey for being activists in the Ogaden Women's Democratic Association. Those remaining in prison are:-

Faduma Badal, Khayro Hussein, Saynab Hussein, and Korad Ahmed Sahal.

PRESS VIOLATIONS

The *Addis Tribune* newspaper, Addis Ababa, 20.3.98., reported that nine private press journalists were released on bail in early March. Another 14 others remain in custody in Maikelawi Special Investigation Centre. Those released include journalists and publishers of the Amharic newspapers *Woncif*, *Zegabi*, *Erotica*, each of whom had to pay 10,000 Birr bail. They had been in prison for five months. Among current detainees are journalists and publishers from *Urjii*, *Tobia*, *Tekuami*, *Ethio-Time* and *Mada Walabu* private newspapers. Four journalists from *Tobia* were due to appear in court on 3 March, but did not due to court congestion.

Amnesty International Report

Ethiopia : Journalists in Prison – Press Freedom under Attack

Amnesty International's latest special report on Ethiopia (AFR 25/10/98) updates the long running pattern of attacks by Zenawi's regime on the country's independent private press.

During the last four months of 1997 and the first quarter of 1998 over thirty journalists have been arrested for offences under the 1992 Press Law which Amnesty says has an *ill-defined scope and arbitrary application*.

The report says that the government's harassment of the private press happens at every level, from proprietors right down to street vendors.

It concludes: *The government's recently intensified attacks against the private press have put it at the forefront of repression of the press in Africa.*

Committee to Protect Journalists Report

Attacks on the Press in 1997 : Ethiopia

The New York based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) issued its annual report recently. The organisation named the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, the seventh worst enemy of the press in the world. The following is printed directly from CPJ's website <http://www.cpj.org>

'There were at least 16 journalists in jail at the end of the year. All of them were newly imprisoned during the course of 1997, sustaining Ethiopia's status as one of the world's worst offenders of press freedom. Most of the mass media are owned, funded, and controlled by the state.

In January, the government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi announced its first state-owned Internet service provider with a capacity of 5,000 clients whose rates favored large organizations, effectively shutting out most individual users and smaller nongovernmental organizations.

As the cost of printing continues to rise, Zenawi's government has attempted to bring a poorly funded but boisterous independent press in line by the use of arbitrary restrictions on the print media - detention, imprisonment, and the imposition of prohibitive fines and bail on journalists and editors is commonplace. Journalists and editors work under threat of arrest and prosecution by either a poorly trained police force or an inexperienced, partisan judiciary working in a backlogged court system. The authorities regularly use the Press Law of 1992 to detain journalists for lengthy periods and sometimes try them for allegedly publishing false information or incitement against the government.'

The report included the following information concerning journalists detained in 1997.

'Abay Hailu, Wolafen Detained: February 1997

Abay was sentenced to one year in prison on November 25. He had been in detention since February. At press time, CPJ learned that Abay had died in custody on February 13, 1998.

Sisay Negussie, Agere Imprisoned: March 1997

Sisay appeared before court on April 7, and was detained at Kerchele prison for failing to present a bail guarantor of approximately US \$600. At press time, CPJ had no further information about this case.

Samson Seyoum, Tequami and Agere Imprisoned: April 18, 1997

Samson, former editor in chief of Agere and Tequami, was sentenced to an undisclosed prison term, on charges of 'inciting war and spreading Islamic Fundamentalism', for articles he had published in Agere. Detained before the sentencing and unable to produce the bail of approximately US \$730, Samson had just completed an 18-month prison sentence which he had begun in December 1995 after his conviction on charges of libel for an article in Tequami.

Tolera Tessema, Mede Welabu Imprisoned: April 23, 1997

Tolera, deputy editor in chief of Mede Welabu, was sentenced to a year in prison. At press time, CPJ had no further information on this case.

Nega Tariku, Quiyit Imprisoned: September 3, 1997

Nega, a reporter with Quiyit magazine, was arrested, detained, and charged with publishing pornography. His whereabouts are unknown.

Sisay Agena, Ethiop Imprisoned: September 8, 1997

Sisay, publisher of Ethiop, was arrested on September 8 on as yet unknown charges, and detained. He was released on bail on September 10, but on September 16 had been taken back into custody and moved from the Region 14 Criminal Investigation Office to the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison.

Tamrat Serbessa, and Admassu Tesfaye, Wenchif Imprisoned: October 14, 1997

Tamrat, editor in chief of Wenchif, and Admassu, the paper's deputy editor, were detained at the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison. The two journalists are each charged on five counts, one of which is libel against President Negasso Gidada. This charge stemmed from a report in Wenchif that claimed the president was drunk at a gathering of Oromos.

Tesfaye Deressa, and Solomon Namera, Urjii Imprisoned: October 16, 1997

Tesfaye, editor in chief of the Urjii newspaper, and Solomon, the paper's deputy editor, were abducted from a tea room near Urjii's offices. The journalists were first detained at the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison and were later taken to a district police prison. The two were held on charges related to a report in Urjii about the recent killing of alleged Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) members in the Mekanissa area. The article contradicted the government media's version of the same story.

Tesfaye and Solomon appeared three times before a district court but were given new appointments each time because of requests by police for more time to continue their investigation. After the journalists' court appearance on December 12, police said they had concluded their investigation but were awaiting the prosecutor's decision as to bail. However, no decision had been made when Tesfaye and Solomon appeared again in court on December 19. They were scheduled for another court appearance on January 9.

Garoma Bekele, Urjii Imprisoned: October 27, 1997

Garoma, publisher of the newspaper Urjii, was detained on suspicion of being a member of the outlawed Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Garoma is being held at the Central Investigation Office Prison along with others who have been detained for their alleged connection to a series of OLF bomb attacks in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, and Harar. On October 31, Garoma appeared in court and made an appeal for release on bail, but was denied by the prosecutor. He was given a new court appointment for January 13.

Fekadu Mahtemwork Imprisoned: October 28, 1997

Fekadu, a distributor of private newspapers, was detained at the Central Criminal Investigation Bureau prison. He was given a court appointment for a week later but has not yet appeared. The charges against him are not known.

Garedew Demisse, Wenchif Imprisoned: October 31, 1997

Garedew appeared in court on charges of false information regarding a number of stories in Wenchif. The journalist was served a trial date of two weeks later. He was detained on October 28 at the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison.

Iskinder Nega, Wenchif Imprisoned: December 6, 1997

Iskinder, owner and publisher of Wenchif, was detained at the Central Criminal Investigation Office Prison, and charged with reporting false information. He was later moved to Wereda 9 Police Station.

Waqshum Bassa, and Alemu Tolessa, Urjii Imprisoned: December 23, 1997

Waqshum and Alemu were called in for questioning and detained at the Central Criminal Investigation Office. After properly registering at the Press Licensing Office of the Ministry of Information and Culture, the two had taken over publishing the Urjii newspaper. The paper's previous editors, Solomon Nemera and Tesfaye Deressa, were arrested on October 16 and are still in detention. Alemu and Waqshum were ordered to appear in court on January 9, 1998. The status of their trial is unknown.

LATE NEWS OF ARREST OF SISTER ZEUDITU DERESSA

Sister Zeuditu Deressa Sasiga, a mother of four in her forties, was detained on 2 April at the Third Police Station near the Giorgis area of Addis Ababa. She is a Senior Sister at the Chest Clinic in Black Lion Hospital and helped at the Hiot Ber (Door of Life) Clinic before it was closed by the government in 1996.

It is thought that she was summoned to the court which is hearing the 'Dergue Trials' in response to her pursuing the court case on behalf of the Hiot Ber Clinic. The clinic is demanding the return of equipment which was confiscated when it was closed.

She was asked no questions but was told that the case was political in nature and the clinic workers were suspected of helping OLF fighters. She was told to report to the Third Police Station. She went that day and has been held there since.

She suffered a severe medical illness late last year, thought to be typhus, and is said to be in a weakened state. She was detained for a period in November/December 1997, until 5,000 Birr were paid. Her sister, an asylum seeker in the UK, gave the information to OSG on 27.4.98.