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## Human Rights Abuses in Ethiopia

The Oromia Support Group is a non-political organisation which attempts to raise awareness of human rights abuses in Ethiopia. OSG lobbies western governments 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 2,412 extra-judicial killings and 669 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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## **ADDIS ABABA AND CENTRAL OROMIA REGION**

### **Killings**

**Asrat Guta**, a teenager from Nazareth town (Adama), was shot dead on his door step by government militia on 26 April.

**Ayele Tulu**, was killed by EPRDF troops in an open market in Arb-Gebeya village in Ada'a district, W. Showa. The killing was reported in September 1998.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

### **Disappearances**

**Girma Fayissa**, an employee in the Business Education Department of Addis Ababa University, disappeared on 8 May while walking in the city.

**Dr. Gamachis Mamo**, was taken from his work place in the Black Lion Hospital, Addis Ababa, by 'special security' forces on 8 August. An **un-named lady** was taken in the same incident. Since the abduction, their location is unknown.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

### **Imprisonments, torture, etc.**

**Dr Taye Woldesemayat**, leader of the Ethiopian Teachers Association, has been detained since June 1996 when he was charged with armed conspiracy. On 28 July, a judge ordered that he remain in hand-chains for 24 hours per day until his court appearance on 15 September 1998.

Dr Taye has also been placed in darkness and has no confidential access to his lawyer. He is reported to be in a highly agitated mental state because of prison conditions and verbal abuse from the guards.

Amnesty International Urgent Action, AFR 25/24/98, London 19.8.98.

**Alemayehu Edossa Ayana**, was arrested on 20 June at Garjii in the capital. He remains in the Special Investigation Branch at Maikelawi in Addis Ababa.

**Fayisa Bersissa Senbeto**, an employee in the Welala road construction project, was taken by army personnel to Adama/Nazareth police station on 25 May. He remains in prison in Nazareth.

**Mr Bermesso Wakine**, an employee of Harar hospital remains in detention without trial in Kalliti, (10 km south of Addis Ababa).

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

**Woyzero Menbere Abebe**, was arrested together with her husband, **Qaleab Tesfahun**, by TPLF security forces on 18 September 1997. The TPLF searched their house, looted some of their property and accused them of hiding mercury. Although Mrs Abebe said she did not know what mercury was, she was beaten. She was pregnant, and miscarried following the beating. Those who beat her are reported to have been punished with one month's detention.

*Ethiopian Register*, 5, 9, p. 15, Avon, Minnesota, September 1998.

**Zerihun Wadajo**, an Oromo folk singer, was arrested in July, and released after three weeks. He is reported to have been arrested because he sang at the celebration marking the graduation of Oromo students from Addis Ababa University. From 1977 to 1979, he was detained by the Dergue, because of his nationalist songs, and was detained in the notorious Didessa camp from 1992-1993, by the present administration.

**Gudata Ragasa**, House No. 539, Kebele 15, Woreda 08, was reported to have been mentally and physically tortured during detention following his arrest on 10 June from his home. He was later released.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

## **EASTERN OROMIA REGION**

### **Killings and torture**

**Abaya Bati**, died recently while being tortured in Dire Dawa, E. Hararge.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

**Mohamed Ahmed Hassan**, 56 yr old father of 14 from Harar town, E. Hararge, and his wife, **Amina Jama**, 52, were detained in early August 1993. Mohamed was a popular businessman and a town elder. The couple owned and ran a successful vegetable business and their own transport. They were taken from their house at midnight by TPLF soldiers. Their eldest son was also wanted, but was not present. They were detained in 'Hamareysa detention centre'. Later, Amina Jama said that she was told they were arrested because they supported the OLF, an accusation denied by her and those who know her.

She was released after 15 days, having heard her husband being tortured 'every night and early every morning'. An elderly man, who had been in detention with her husband, told her five months later that Mohamed Ahmed Hassan had been killed by his torturers. A funeral ceremony was arranged.

At the ceremony, Amina Jama was again taken by soldiers, because she was loudly complaining that government forces had killed her husband. She was accused of holding an OLF meeting instead of a funeral ceremony. She was taken back to Hamareysa and tortured for two months. During her detention, she was again allowed no visitors and a neighbour informed OSG that they were scared to help because 'Even neighbours were afraid of being seen by TPLF soldiers if they try to help'.

She was released, seriously ill from torture, after signing a document stating that she would report to security officials every five days, stay within Harar city limits, keep quiet about her detention and torture, and that she would be killed if suspected of supporting the OLF again.

She was taken by neighbours, including OSG's correspondent, to hospital for the next week. While being treated, Amina's remaining property, a large amount of money, was looted from her home by soldiers, before the eyes of her children. She then fled to Kenya.

Correspondence from victims neighbour, now a refugee in Kenya, 12 October 1998.

## Disappearances

**Kalid Mohamed**, a judge and President of the Court in the towns of Girawa and Qarsa, was transferred to Hararge Region High Court. He was dismissed on 30 June 1998, detained and later released on bail. He has disappeared since being detained again on 8 July.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

**Ame Beker**, is reported by his son (see below) to have disappeared following demonstrations in Watar, E. Hararge, in 1992. He was the chairman of the General Assembly of his Kebele. Upon the collapse of the Transitional Government in July 1992, he was arrested and disappeared after being tortured.

Correspondence from son, exiled in Nairobi, 26 September 1998.

**Abdurahiman Arne Yusuf** was detained in Hurso camp from 12 July 1993 until 18 March 1994 ('detention number' ICRC NR ETA 010844). He was taken from his home in Micheta Town in western Hararge on 21 July 1996, one month after his detention document was issued.

**Ibrahim Bushura**, **Abdulazaz Madal** and **Ms Nejat Abdella** were also taken on the same day as Mr Yusuf. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

## Imprisonment, torture, etc.

**Kalid Ahmed Awad**, 27 yr old from Watar, E. Hararge, married with one child, and owner of a retail shop and a haulage vehicle, was a supporter of the OLF during 1992-1992, when they legally represented the Oromo in the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. He raised funds and became local treasurer for the organisation. He also led the Oromo cultural band promoting the Oromo language from town to town.

He wrote from exile in Kenya that, after the OLF left the transitional government in 1992, he was detained and mistreated in Harar and, later, Hurso camp, from where he was released in February 1993. He was again detained from August to October 1997.



**Kalid Ahmed Awad**

He writes: *On May 6, 1998, when the government announced that all youth had to show their loyalty against Eritrea, one of my younger brothers was . . . arrested and kept in the town military camp . . . for 2 days. [He escaped on the third day.]*

The following morning, Kalid went to Dire Dawa on business, but *the government militia thinking that I was the one who helped him escape, looted all the property and arrested my wife. When I heard about my wife, I stayed there for 3 days and then left for Nazareth town.*

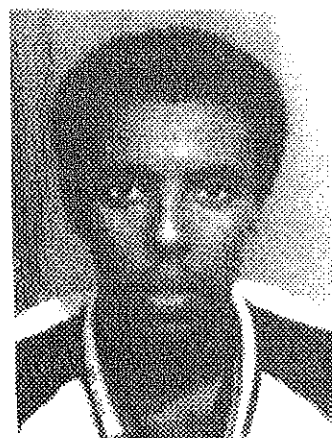
*I made a phone call to my Aunt who informed me that all my property was confiscated and that my wife had been arrested and raped. The whereabouts of my brother was not known and I was a top wanted man.*

He fled to Kenya, from where he wrote on 11 September.

## **Imprisonment, torture, forced conscription to army**

**Abdulkarim Ame Beker**, 25 yr old from Watar, E. Hararge, used to help his parents in their family retail business. The family were known supporters and fund raisers for the OLF. Family members, including Abdulkarim, were detained in 1992, after the OLF left the transitional government and the organisation was declared illegal. He was released, but his father, Kebele Chairman **Ame Beker**, disappeared from detention following torture.

Abdulkarim was again detained in June 1994 and writes of being mistreated in an underground system of cells at Misrakiz, on a hill in a suburb of Harar city, the Central Military Command Post for Eastern Zone (Bale, Hararge and Ogaden). The military camp was used for officer training during the Dergue administration. It is a secret detention centre well known to OSG (see for example OSG Press Release 21, January – February 1998, p. 3). He remained in detention for ten months.



**Abdulkarim Ame Beker**

In November 1997, he reports that he was again detained and tortured, in Sebatagna detention centre in Dire Dawa. He was released on 10 March 1998 and resumed working for the family business. He writes that, on 22 July:

*EPRDF military men came and asked me to lead the residents/villagers and local youth who were selected for the defence against Eritrea. I told them that the car they wanted me to take people in was not working properly. They slapped me and forced me to take them. . . . I loaded them and was accompanied by two army men and over thirty youths. . . .*

He then described how his car broke down on the approach to Qarsa town. Thirteen of the youths escaped, running off. One was shot and wounded by one of the armed guards. Those who remained helped him push the car to Qarsa.

The following day, security men from Watar came to his aunt's house in Dire Dawa, looking for him. After 16 days in hiding, he escaped to Kenya.

His sister, **Muluka Ame**, lives in exile in Djibouti and fears *refoulement* back to Ethiopia (see Press Release 21, January – February 1998, p. 14). He wrote that she had been repeatedly raped by government soldiers during her earlier detention.

Letter from victim, Nairobi, Kenya, 26 September 1998.

## **WESTERN OROMIA REGION**

### **Killing**

**Giraw Ayana**, is reported to have been beaten to death in Dembi Dollo, Wallega, by Bahiru W/Aregayi, a notorious government official (see **Teshome Kaba**, Imprisonment, Torture, etc., below).

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

### **Disappearance**

**Delessa Adamu Nyaro**, disappeared after he was taken from his relatives' house and detained on 5 August in Gimbi-Mana Sibru police station. He had previously been detained in Gimbi for one year in 1997.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

### **Imprisonment, torture, etc.**

The following were recently detained with over 40 other farmers from Chamo Dabus, Meti and Gozii villages in Mana Sibru district, Western Wallega. They were first detained in the military camp near Mendi town and denied family visits.

**Hussein Adam**, farmer  
**Mekonin Ararsa**, clinic worker  
**Mohamed Atomssa**  
**Tadasse Dabala**, farmer  
**Mesfin Etana**, merchant  
**Ebisa Qalbbessa**, farmer  
**Dinibasha Sibru**  
**Mariam Taiga**, farmer

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

The following were detained in Ayira Guliso, W. Wallega, on 28 July. They were later released on bail by the Oromia Supreme Court:

**Tesfaye Deressa**, an administrator at Ayira mission hospital, arrested 11 times in four years (see OSG Press Release 23, June - July 1998, p. 7)  
**Meseret Alamu**, trader (hotel owner)  
**Ambaye Ayana**  
**Yohanis Bekele**  
**Kibitu Disasa**, (owner Oda Hotel), with a family of five  
**Rev. Abara Dumessa**, teacher, with a family of six

**Galata Gudata**, coffee merchant

**Teferi Ejeta**

**Ambaye Jote**, and his son, **Daraje Ambaye Jote**

**Destu Negassa**, teacher at Dagaga elementary school

**Bejuma Rekitu**

**Zerihun Abera**, was kidnapped from Ayira on 8 June and detained at Gimbi detention centre.

**Mesfin Lula Ayana**, **Asafa Ayana Gulite**, and **Habitu Fikadu Negassa**, were all taken from their homes in Watyo Nubarihe village by government forces in May. They are now being detained in Shambu civil detention centre.

**Teshome Kaba**, from Dembi Dollo in Wallega province, was detained and tortured for ten days in August because of his fight in court to reclaim 25,000 Birr (US \$4,000) which was taken by government troops from his home in 1996.

He was detained in the military camp in Dembi Dollo. He wrote the following statement:

'I was beaten by more than five people at once at the beginning. All the EPRDF fighters were armed with Kalashnikovs, grenades, sticks and pistols. Some held their pistols at me, some hit me all over my body. After some time, I fell to the ground. They continued to beat me on the floor and I became unconscious.

They took me to the army camp, where I found myself in a dark room. I was there for two days and three nights. I had no food or water and no clothing to sleep in or on.

I stayed there on the ground, urinating on myself. I found I could not control my urine.

On the third day, I was taken out of that room and taken to the office of Mr Bahiru W/Aregayi. They made me sit up and he asked me some questions which I did not answer.

They took me to another room, where they tied my hands together with my legs (this is known as 'number 8' torture) and put some old cloth in my mouth.

They pulled all my clothes off and started beating me, with sticks and electric rods, and whipping me with insulated electric wire until my legs and back were bleeding over the floor mat.

They took the old cloth out of my mouth and told me to sign that the money [*the looted 25,000 Birr – see introductory paragraph*] was the property of the OLF. But I have a witness paper that I have taken the money as a loan from the bank.

They left me bleeding in the room. They returned that night and told me it was a mistake to take my case to court and accuse the EPRDF army of taking the money. They beat me again.

I stayed in that room for a few nights. Then they changed me to another dark room, where my family brought me clothes, a mat and something to eat.

The beating continued many times. After ten days I was again beaten with sticks, electric rods and wires, while my hands were tied.

When I became unconscious, they took me in a car and drove me about 250 km to Gimbi.

When I found myself [*became conscious*] in Gimbi, I had been thrown from the car in the dark. I spent the rest of the night under the roof of a nearby house.

In the morning, I asked the local police to take me to the regional administrator that day, 21 August. The man saw me and promised to investigate the matter. He gave me a group of police to take me back home to investigate the case. When the police went to Dembi Dollo and asked the army and the man who did all this to me, he laughed at them and said that he did not even know me. I lost my 25,000 Birr. I was beaten to hell and my eyes could not see well.

I could not control my urine. I could not sleep at night. I kept forgetting everything.

The man, Mr Bahiru, has been doing the same to many people in the past. He blinded a man named Abraham by beating him. He beat Mr **Gizaw Ayana** to death. He has beaten women, children and old people, taking their money.

He doesn't accept any order coming from offices in central Oromia. He acts as a state himself. Everybody fears him. In July 1998 he arrested over 100 people in the locality, up to three from the same family. Some are old. Here are 13 of those he arrested.

**Lelisa Kabada**

**Dame Yadassa**

**Mamush Hordofa**

**Wakgari Bodjo**

**Teka Ayele**

**Dafisa Ayele**

**Yadassa (Uka) Bakale Terfa**

**Bayissa Itafa**

**Darje Solomon**

**Diribsa**

**Lelise Hundessa Kura**

**Dagaga Hundessa Kura**

**Hundessa Kura**, pharmacy owner, Kebele 01, Dembi Dollo.'

Three High Court judges from Gambela, Illubabor, were arrested by government soldiers on 15 May and held for 3 months after granting bail to two political prisoners.

**Tilahun Bayeh**, **Teferi Mengistu** and **Tesema Shuku** were told the decision was illegal and were forced to tear up the documents which would have permitted the prisoners to be released.

Clandestine Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

## **SOUTHERN OROMIA REGION**

### **Imprisonments**

OSG received a letter with confirmatory documents from a businessman from Moyale, Borana, who was shot by government soldiers and left for dead. His extensive assets were seized while he was under treatment for wounds sustained. In 1994, he was detained for three months. Because of harassment he translocated his business and was working again at the time of the shooting. When hospitalised and later, when at home, he was warned to keep quiet about the incident.

In May, his wife was interrogated, and in June, she was detained for one week, because he had fled by then to Kenya and she was unable to obey the order to produce him. In August, his remaining property was confiscated. In addition to significant disability, caused by the shooting, he suffers from severe psychological disturbance.

He is a UNHCR mandate refugee in Nairobi, but is threatened with being transferred to the refugee camp at Kakuma, near to the Ethiopian border, where, as a known OLF supporter, he will be not be safe.

Letter from victim, Nairobi, Kenya, 12 October 1998.



In early September the following brothers were arrested and detained in Goba military camp, Bale. They were all arrested within a nine day period, reportedly because of suspicion of supporting the OLF.

**Nuru Mohamed Nuru**, a merchant from Robe in Bale,  
**Dr Hassan Mohamed Nuru**, head of the Zonal Health Department,  
**Zekeriyya Mohamed Nuru**, merchant.

Correspondence from acquaintance of victims, Addis Ababa, 28.9.98.

## SINGERS RELEASED

**Shabe Sheko**, and **Boharsitu Obsa**, Oromo singers with the *Bilisummaa* band, were recently released from prison; Shabe Sheko from Goba, Bale, and Boharsitu Obsa from Dire Dawa, E. Hararge. They were both detained while visiting their hometowns in February 1996. [**Ebbisa Ad-dunya**, another member of the band, was shot dead by government soldiers in August 1996; see OSG Press Release September 1996.]

Clandestine Human Rights Group A, Addis Ababa, September 1998.

## DJIBOUTI: Beating by security forces

**Abdi Youssof Abdallah**, a student from Addis Ababa, was shot and wounded by government soldiers in 1992, hospitalised and later placed in Hurso detention camp for 9 months. After being visited by the ICRC, he was released for medical treatment and escaped to Djibouti. Despite registration as a political refugee by UNHCR, he has been harassed and threatened by Djibouti security personnel at his home, late at night. He has been beaten and injured, according to friends among the Oromo community in Djibouti, and has gone into hiding.

Correspondence from acquaintance of victim, Djibouti, 30 August 1998.

## PRESS

The International Press Institute (IPI) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) visited Ethiopia from 12-18 October, to investigate the detention of journalists. Peter Goff (IPI) and Cailin Mackenzie (IFJ) held meetings with members of the public and private media, foreign diplomats, the Minister of Information and Culture, the Minister of Justice and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

Research conducted in conjunction with the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association (EFJA), found that 16 journalists are currently in prison, 26 are living in exile and 31 have pending criminal cases.

## Imprisoned journalists

<b>Samson Seyoum</b> of <i>Tequami</i>	- 2 years
<b>Sisay Negusie</b> of <i>Agere</i>	- 2 years
<b>Garoma Bekele</b> of <i>Urjii</i>	- 1 year

<b>Solomon Namara of Urji</b>	- 1 year
<b>Tesfaye Deressa of Urjii</b>	- 1 year
<b>Waqshum Bacha of Urjii</b>	- 1 year
<b>Alemu Tolossa of Urjii</b>	- 1 year
<b>Tamrat Gameda of Seyfe Nebelbal</b>	- 1 year
<b>Tesfa Tegegn of Beza</b>	- 9 months
<b>Feseha Alemu of Tarik</b>	- 8 months
<b>Alemayehu Sharew of Tarik</b>	- 6 months
<b>Wondwosen Asfaw of Atkurot</b>	- 7 months
<b>Tamrat Serbesa of Wonchif</b>	- 18 months
<b>Admasu Tesfaye of Wonchif</b>	- 18 months
<b>Atikelt Assefa of Chekolet</b>	- 1 year
<b>Samson Seyoum of Goh</b>	- 1 week.

International Press Institute, Vienna, and International Federation of Journalists, Brussels. 21 October 1998.

**Solomon Namarra**, according to OSG sources, is being held with arms and legs bound behind his back 24 hours per day and is unable to feed himself.

### ***Refoulement from Germany***

Oromo refugees, who have the misfortune to be incarcerated in refugee camps in the federal district of Bavaria (Bayern), have spoken and written to OSG repeatedly during this year, complaining about the conditions of detention and of forced repatriations to Ethiopia (see OSG Press Release 24, August/September 1998, p. 10).

The refugees in Bavaria have been sent back to face grave risk of detention without trial, torture, and possible disappearance or extra-judicial killing.

Such *refoulement* contravenes German immigration law – no other German federal state has repatriated Oromo asylum seekers. The *refoulement* also contravenes Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the United Nations 1984 Convention Against Torture (Article 3), the 1966 United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 7), and the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to Status of Refugees (Article 33).

Many of those who are under threat of *refoulement* are at risk of human rights abuses because of their roles in the Oromo student movement in Europe, or because of their support to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) in Ethiopia, while the OLF were legally representing the Oromo people in the government of Ethiopia from 1991 to 1992, before it was labelled as a 'terrorist' organisation.

The Union of Oromo Students in Europe, better known as TBOA – Tokkumma Bartoota Oromoo Awurooppaa, is based in Germany. It is a political organisation that is founded and functions according to the political programmes and political ideals of the OLF.

According to a recent TBOA statement, two of their members, **Dr. Mezgebu Ifa** and **Guteta Kabeta** returned to Ethiopia in 1992, after completing their studies in Russia. Both have remained in detention, as political prisoners, since then.

Despite their detention; despite the reports of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the U.S. State Department; despite the publication by the Ethiopian government that Oromo intellectuals and businessmen should be targeted in order to eliminate Oromo nationalism (*Hizbaawi Adera*, Vol. 4, No. 7, Dec.96-Feb.97); despite Oromo prisoners of conscience facing charges of

conspiracy and the possibility of the death penalty; and despite notification from the German Foreign Ministry itself, that OLF and TBOA supporters are at risk of abuses in Ethiopia; during 1998, Bavarian authorities have forcibly repatriated genuine Oromo asylum seekers, imprisoned Oromo for resisting deportation, and have forced others to flee the country illegally (see OSG Press Release 24, August – September 1998).

This year, Germany has also forcibly repatriated Sudanese (see *Sudan Democratic Gazette*, 99, London, August 1998) and Tamil asylum seekers (the young Tamil immediately 'disappeared', according to the International Committee Against Disappearances Bulletin No. 8, London, July - August 1998).

The African refugee crisis; the right wing reaction of European and other 'democracies' to make asylum application increasingly difficult; and the friendly relationship between Ethiopia, Europe and the USA have caused great difficulties for Oromo refugees everywhere. However, not one Oromo has been forcibly repatriated from the USA or Europe, except from the German state of Bavaria.

**Solomon Abdissa** was a mechanical engineer and student in Russia. He was expelled and sought asylum in Nürnberg. He was joined by his Russian wife and their son, but again despite high profile TBOA activity, his asylum application was refused. His appeals to Augsburg immigration authorities are not being heeded and he has realistic fear of *refoulement* (see Press Release 24).

Solomon was told his appeal against refusal of asylum was unsuccessful on 16 October. His identity card was torn up and he was forced to sign an application form for an Ethiopian passport. He could be deported at any time.

Letter from Solomon Abdissa, 18 October 1998.

His wife and son were deported back to Russia on 12 August. Her rights as a Russian citizen have been stripped; their infant son is subject to racist attack and she has been threatened to desist in her efforts to persuade the authorities to allow Solomon back to Russia.

Solomon Abdissa's wife lost her decent job while the family was in Germany. After she was forced to return to Russia, she has lost her rights to medical insurance and kindergarten facilities for their son. Her passport has been stolen. She has received a threatening phone call and been told to keep quiet about her problems. She writes, *There is nowhere to turn for help, even if I am killed. Well, who am I in my country? For ten days now, I have not gone out from home, after the phone call from the unknown person, and have not slept at night.*

The Department of Internal Affairs has refused to supply a document stating that her husband was refused a residence permit in 1993.

*I struggled for two years in Russia without a result, and nearly four years in Germany – and nothing.*

A journalist told her he would lose his job if he reported her story and advised her to keep quiet, if she did not want to 'lose her head'.

*We have been in Russia for two months and my child is not able to go out. Here, discrimination is very strong. They call him dirty, blackie, nigger. People are savage. There is no justice anywhere. . . . I fear it can only get worse.*

*. . . With the judicial organisations, as soon as they know my husband is black, they demean me – put me down. I don't know what to do. I don't know where to turn. I've reached absolute despair. . . . When can we live as a family again?*

Letter from the wife of Solomon Abdissa (name withheld by OSG), 1 October 1998.

Ex-pilot **Tesfaye Chibsa Ragassa** was studying in Russia before being expelled. With his Russian wife, he sought but was refused asylum in Bavaria. He was beaten and detained by immigration police after resisting deportation in May (Press Release 24). Reported to have fractured bones in one hand, he was successfully deported in mid-September. His wife is in hospital in Germany.

**Getachew Tujuba Wayessa**, also an ex-pilot, studied international law in Russia and was TBOA chairman there. Despite high profile involvement with TBOA both in Russia and Germany and threats received from the Ethiopian embassy in Russia, his asylum application and subsequent appeals have been refused. He, and his wife, were told they must leave Germany without delay, on 22 September.

Correspondence from Getachew Tujuba Wayessa, Nürnberg, Germany, 22 September 1998.

**Tolchaa Wegii Satto** is a famous OLF personality. He was detained by the previous, military dictatorship in Ethiopia together with Tigrean rebels who are now in power. He is well known to central committee members of the ruling party, the TPLF, as an Oromo nationalist. He represented the OLF, during the transition period, in Jeldu district of W. Showa province.

His detention and torture, should he return to Ethiopia, would be guaranteed. However, he wrote in August that he has been refused asylum by Nürnberg authorities, after three years in Germany.

He wrote, *Now, they are ready to deport me to Ethiopia. . . . Without any question, I will be abducted from the airport and become a target for Tigre-led security forces, Today, I can say that the court has unjustly decided on my life.*

Correspondence from Tolcha Wegii Satto, Nürnberg, Germany, 28 July 1998.