

June 1995

PRESS RELEASE

Sources of Information :-

1. Clandestine Ethiopian Human Rights Organisation A, Addis Ababa, Bulletins 15-17, January to March 1995.
2. Oromo Electronic Network.
3. Oromo Liberation Front Press Release, 23.2.95.
4. Reuter, Addis Ababa, 28.2.95.
5. Amnesty International Report. Ethiopia. Accountability past and present: Human rights in transition. April 1995.

"Journalists and strangers don't travel out in the rural areas officially, many more atrocities are committed by the EPRDF, but it goes unreported and unabated" (1).

ADDIS ABABA AND SHOWA

Killings

Two cloth vendors were killed by EPRDF police in the Merkato area, 20.2.95. There were clashes when the police refused to release the bodies for burial (1).

When EPRDF police opened fire on "rioting" Moslems at the Amwar Grand Mosque on 21.2.95, they killed at least nine. There are conflicting reports of which group of Moslems were in conflict, and by whom they were sponsored. It is believed by some (1,3), that the clash was deliberately fomented by the TPLF to divide and weaken the Moslem community and to encourage fear of Islamic fundamentalism. Prominent Moslems were among those killed, including Haji Siraji Musa, abducted from his home the same evening and later found dead in hospital, indicating some preplanning by government forces (1,3). 56 elders were detained (3). Amnesty International state "It is not yet clear how many of the dead were killed by police" (5).

Mitiku Mamo, aged 19, Faltino village, Debre Zeit, was killed by EPRDF soldiers after being interrogated on 1.2.95 (1).

Disappearances

The trial of 280 members of the OLF at Zeway, approx. 160 Km south of the capital, is acknowledged by the EPRDF and began 17.1.95. Originally there were 320 prisoners there. 40 are missing (1).

Kasahun Warati, district 18, kebele 7, Addis Ababa and Samson Kasaye, district 18, kebele 2, disappeared in February 1995 (1).

Workneh Uwisa, ex-army captain, district 17, Addis Ababa, was taken from his home on 10.2.95. He had previously been imprisoned for 8 months in 1993 (1).

Tesfaye Tiye, policeman, Addis Ababa, was taken to the 5th police station and disappeared. He was possibly taken to Woliso (presumed February 1995) (1).

Three farmers of Faltino village, Debre Zeit were kidnapped and disappeared on March 5th 1995 (1). Their names are :-

Abayi Wayecha

Bekele Robe and
Megersa Kabanecha

Imprisonments etc

Bekele W/Michael, arrested following the Ambo demonstration in September 1994, was transferred with 54 others to Waliso, SW Showa. After the efforts of some American visitors he was released. He was re-arrested when he went back to Ambo (1).

Ibrahim Mangasha, Wonji Gefersa town, Showa, was taken without warrant on 17.1.95 to Nazareth (Adama), kebele 19 (1).

It was reported in February (1) that the following persons were wounded by EPRDF personnel and were under close guard by security police at Yekatit 12 hospital :-

Kibretu Shuma Torban, bullet wounds to both legs

Kibretu's son, bullet wounds to one leg

Tesfaye Shuma Torban, beaten.

They were attacked in their compound and in their car.

The following, from Dawo Kachama village, 80 Km west of Addis Ababa, were beaten and detained by EPRDF soldiers on 10.2.95 (1), :-

Soriso Ango

Endala Mankir

Sarbessa Danda'aa

Ms Ware Temesgen

Olkaba Gaddissa

In the same raid, three houses belonging to Messrs Bojia and Bayissa were burned down for "refusal to accept EPRDF rule". Bayissa is in his 80's and has been harassed for sometime.

The following were detained without warrant in Guder town, W.Showa, on 14-19.2.95 (1), :-

Oli Mitiku, merchant

Getu Fufaye, previously gaoled at Ambo

Tamiru Wadajio, laboratory technician

Ashabir Oncho, teacher, expelled from his job

Sori Sinore, arrested in Finchaa

Birhanu Abdissa, arrested in Ambo

Wako Chemedo, General Manager of Akaki Ethio-Fiber Factory, and Kassahun Tolla, from the firm's commerce department, were dismissed without pension or compensation in November 1994. Both are Oromo (1).

The Rift Valley Lakes Region Coalition Committee was set up on March 6th 1995 and will continue until the May election results are known. It is one of a number of such coalition committees, comprised of TPLF, OPDO, and ANDM (Amhara National Democratic Movement) members, under the leadership of a former Worker's Party of Ethiopia member, Hussein Tube Rattie. Its purpose is to target and deal with educated and influential Oromo. In the Rift Valley alone 55 Oromo "are to be acted upon accordingly". Three Oromo were arrested the day after the coalition's inception, ie 7.3.95. Ayele Koroso is a prominent Oromo elder and businessman of Shashamane. This is his seventh arrest by the EPRDF. Bushura Tullu and Gamachu Shambi, arrested on 7.3.95, had been dismissed previously

from their civil service posts with the Shashamane municipality and have previously been held at Shashamane, Dodola, Kofale, Agarfa and Hurso. (1).

EASTERN OROMIA

Killings

More than 40 civilians were killed at Michata, Daro Labu, W.Hararge. Most were shot at point blank range by TPLF soldiers using AK-47's on 15.12.94. Five were named in the March press release. Nine others are named below (1).

Aliyi Amayu, kebele 32, 50 Kg wheat also confiscated.
Sheik Mohamed Awal, kebele 38, 300 Birr confiscated.
Mohamed Haji Rukuta, kebele 38, 500 Birr confiscated.
Ali Siraji, teenager of Matchara town.
Abdalla Haji Aliyi, kebele 30, 7,000 Birr confiscated.
Abdalla Sheik Ali, kebele 30, 200 Birr confiscated.
Ibrahim Mume, kebele 29.
Hussen Amayu, kebele 30.
Adam Umar, kebele 30.

22 people "were brought from another area" and shot dead in Gara Mulata, E.Hararge in October or November, 1994, (1). It is not known if these were the 22 reported missing after the Gaara-Gaafaa incident reported in the January press release, when 5 were killed (Jan. and March press releases).

EPRDF trucks have been reported to have killed people in Baroda town, W.Hararge, January 1995 (1).

The following seven people were among nine killed by EPRDF soldiers in Kiyyo village, Hararge, on 5.2.95. The soldiers were returning from a "raid campaign" (1) :-

Abubaker Haji Muktar, farmer
Keder Ahmed Mumade Sani, student
Abdi Jafar Ibrahim, student
Abdulaziz Abdurahiman, student taken from prison and shot
Hassen Ahmed Abdurahiman, student
Ahmed Abide, farmer
Mohamed Amin, farmer.

The following 17 innocent civilian villagers were murdered by TPLF/EPRDF soldiers in a village between Surree and Kiyyo, Dadar area, on 10.2.95. 120 people were wounded, some of them burned in their homes, and were denied medical treatment. A relative, living in Toronto, Canada, gave the information to the Oromo Electronic Network (2). Those killed were :-

Abdulaziz, 20yrs	Jafar Damu, 35yrs
Adam Abdullah, 30yrs	Mohamed Adama, 15yrs
Ahmed Abdi, 19yrs	Mohamed Ahmed, 20yrs
Ali Adam, 17yrs	Mumadu Ama, 32yrs
Badru Ahmed, 14yrs	Nura Walambo, 70yrs
Mrs Fatuma Abdi, 65yrs	Yusuf Mohamed, 12yrs
Hije Yusuf Ahmed, 90yrs	Yusuf Ahmed, 12yrs
Ibrahim Adam, 80yrs	Mrs Zaynaba Adam, 8mths pregnant.

Iman Abdullah, 7yrs

Also in Kiiyyo, in the previous six weeks, 7 were killed and 35 wounded when TPLF militia opened fire on worshippers at Kiiyyo mosque. Medical care was deliberately denied the wounded and the informant, another Toronto resident, assumed that further deaths had ensued (2). The 7 killed instantly included the following :-

Omar Abdi, 24yrs, from Dibaalaa village
Jiraataa Yuyyaa, 19yrs, from Gooluu
Bakar A. Madoobee, 18yrs, Kiiyyo
Abdi Abdurahman, 27yrs, Yaatuu
Suutee Waday, 31yrs, Gooluu
Mohamed Ja'afar, 25yrs, Ganda Bareentoo.

Around the same time, Fatuma Moume Sharif of the Kiiyyo area, whose brother is reputed to command a nearby OLF unit, was raped by 18 TPLF militia men and beaten to death (2).

Disappearances

The following four women from Dire Dawa were kidnapped and disappeared on 8.10.94 (1), :-

Maria Sheik Aliyi	Saniya Mohamed Ali
Fatuma Mohamed	Zemzem Ahmed Dima.

The following have been disappeared from the Qobbo area, Hararge, in January 1995 (1), :-

Ramadan Ahmid Idris, taken "towards Harar"
Ahmid Tayib
Wazir

Mourners of Badru Ahmed, killed in the Dadar area, 10.2.95 (see above), were rounded up at the victim's house by TPLF militia. Badru's sister, Fatuma Ahmed Moumad, pregnant with twins, was raped by 20 of the TPLF. Badru's parents, Ahmed Moumad Sani and his wife Amina, and Badru's brothers, Abbas Ahmed, 13yrs, Abdi Ahmed, 15yrs, Zakaria Ahmed, 16yrs, and Abibakar Ahmed, 17yrs, were taken away and disappeared (2).

Mohamed Adam was taken from his home in Konel village, Dire Dawa, Hararge on 23.2.95, present whereabouts unknown (1).

Demis Tafesse was taken from the Ministry of Education office, Deder town, Hararge on 23.2.95. He is known to have been beaten for several nights in detention in Deder before being taken to an unknown place in Harawacha (1).

Imprisonments

When over 40 people were killed in Daro Labu area, mostly on 15.12.94, "many more were detained without court order" (1).

Mohamed Ahmid Idris, brother of Ramadan (see Disappearances, above) has been detained in Dadar, near Qobbo, Hararge, January 1995 (1). The EPRDF army are searching for their father and have also taken two vehicles of theirs.

Sado Shuka, a merchant from N.Hararge, was imprisoned at Nazareth on 28.1.95 without warrant. He was travelling by train from Dire Dawa to Addis Ababa. It is claimed that he was publicly beaten and questioned about OLF positions. He is not allowed visitors (1).

Seven youngsters have been held in Harar town, Hararge, for 9 months to two years (1).
They are :-

Azhar Yusuf	Bahar Abdi
Abdul Jawad Abdurahim	Abdulakim Mohamed
Ahmed Abubakar	Zaki Abdusalam.
Ayman Abdush	

WESTERN OROMIA

Killings

Four farmers were killed and one wounded in Gida, Horro Guduru district, Wollega, in November, 1994 (1). They were :-

Darartu
Adunya
Dasaleny Siyum
Taye

Gado - wounded and taken by EPRDF soldiers to unknown destination.

Abate Jote, Walo Yesus village, near Gimbi, Wollega, was shot dead in front of his house by EPRDF soldiers on 21.1.95. He had refused to open his door to soldiers the previous evening (1).

Kanansisa Mekonen, district 2, kebele 2, Nekemte, Wollega, was shot dead by a Tigrean, Asmelash Gebre Sillassie, a health bureau worker, on 10.3.95. "The public was intimidated during the killing." Most Tigrean civilians living among Oromo are armed by the TPLF (1).

Source 1. has received "credible reports" that many Oromo are being killed daily in the rural areas of Sigimo and Gatira, Illubabor (March 1995).

Disappearances

Gado - see Killings, above.

Mamo Namara, teacher of kebele 1, Gimbi, Wollega, was taken from his house at 1.00am, 3.3.95, present whereabouts unknown (1). He had survived being shot by EPRDF soldiers in 1993.

Raya Aba Chabsa and
Duula Aba Suubi from Jimma were kidnapped by EPRDF soldiers on 5.3.95 (1).

Haji Misbahudin Sheik Shamsu, district 3, kebele 6, Jimma, was taken when attending his mother's funeral (1).

Tesfaye Binagde, Nekemte, Wollega, was kidnapped and disappeared on 9.3.95 (1).

Many Oromo are reported to have been detained illegally at Gatira, Illubabor. Fourteen, including the nine named below, were taken from there on the evening of 14.3.95, by EPRDF soldiers, to an unknown destination. It is suspected that they have been killed (1).

Haji Jamal Aba Jama, 50+yrs	Haji Dawud A/Koyas, 45+yrs
Haji Aba Milki, 50+yrs	Kadir Siraji, 30+yrs
Haji Jamal Musa, 40+yrs	Idris Aba Koyas, 50+yrs
Dalil Kadir, 30+yrs	Haji Jamal Mohamed, 45+yrs.
Haji Abdala Musa, 40+yrs	

Abera Abdissa Oljira of Jimma town, previously expelled from Awassa Textile factory, S.Oromia, was abducted on 19.3.95. He had previously been arrested without charge on 28.2.95 but later set free. His present whereabouts are unknown (1).

Imprisonments

Diriba Kuma, high school administrator head, Horro Guduru district, Wollega, was taken to Nekemte and imprisoned one year ago (1.).

At the end of January, 1995, the number detained in Shambu, Wollega reached 800. Under army control, the prison is not accessible to the public and their particulars are unknown. None of them have been charged. They are known to include businessmen, elders, teachers, students, farmers and civil servants. Some of the detainees are women.

The following and another two unnamed persons were arrested without charge in early January, 1995, in Dembi Dollo, Wollega (1).

Qalemuwa Mengistu (female), released after six weeks

Hundesu Kura (also held for four weeks in 1994 - see Jan 95 press release)

Haji Abdurahiman

Meseret (Shombe) Negasa

Shibeshi Alemu, farmer of Nunu Qumba village, Arjo district, Wollega, was arrested without warrant on 20.1.95 (1).

The following, from Horro Guduru, Wollega, were arrested without warrant and detained on 3.2.95 (1), :-

Marga Tarfa, teacher

Abdissa Nigusse, teacher

Fanta Tefera, merchant

Zerihun Yadata, farmer

Rabissa Damboba, farmer

Tolera Gonde, farmer

Girma Bekele, 13 yr old boy.

The following, from the Nekemte area of Wollega, were arrested by the EPRDF, without warrant, in February 1995 (1.)

Shibeshi Ejjeta, Dich village

Faris Kama, Dhanqu village

Surra Daga, teacher, Qumba village, Arjo district.

In the Aira district of Wollega, over 20 people were illegally detained in February 1995 (1). Only the following three are named :-

Zerihun Tadasse

Solomon

Daniel Tafesse.

SOUTHERN OROMIA

Killings

Kamal Abba Mustafa, 35 yr old merchant, Bale region, was tortured using burning nylon and plastic, and shot dead in September 1994 (1).

Hussen Shura, 38 yr old farmer from Gassera, Bale region, was killed and thrown outside the town, to imitate a failed escape attempt. Initially the authorities forbade his burial. September 1994 (1).

Udo Jidola Ona, aged 13, was taken from Jidola village, Borana, in January 1995 to Bilate military camp and shot dead. His body was eaten by hyenas (1).

Roba Ganala and two unnamed relatives in Higate village, Shakiso district, Borana, were killed in January 1995. (1).

Jarso Adula Boro and
Boru Dule, Hidi Hasasu village, Hagare Mariam district, Borana, were killed by EPRDF soldiers in January 1995 (1).

Shaka Basaye and two other men in Bodaru Danfila village, Hagare Mariam district, Borana, were killed while looking after their cattle in January 1995 (1).

Tekalign Kassaye from Yaabelo district was killed in Kola village, Hagare Mariam district, Borana in January 1995 (1).

Elama Danbala, Hagare Mariam town,
Boku Odula, Finchaha village, Hagare Mariam district,
Goyo Hanke,
Ganale Dodi and

Lemma Oda from Yaabelo Bireso Gule village, Hagare Mariam district, Borana were killed by EPRDF soldiers in January 1995 (1).

Mohamed Amayu, Hagare Mariam town, survived being shot by the EPRDF and was taken by the EPRDF to Yirga Chafe in January 1995. His body has not been found (1).

Mrs Godana Odare, an elderly lady, was killed by an army truck (registration no 04-1026), on 28.1.95, at Hagare Mariam town (1).

Beriso Daka, in the same town, was also killed deliberately by a military vehicle (1).

Imprisonments

Said Taha, teacher at Bidire, Bale region, was arrested without charge and taken to Goba prison in December 1994 (1).

Four people, including Barnabas Theophilos, a worker for Norwegian Church Aid, and a Mohamed, were arrested without charge and detained in Dallo Mana, Bale, on 19.12.94. The father of Barnabas has travelled to Bale Roobe to file the case at the Regional Attorney's office and to Addis Ababa to file it with the Oromia office of the General Attorney. The General Attorney's office requested the Bale office to bring Barnabas to court. This has been ignored.

85 people were illegally detained in the Bidire area, Mada Walabu district, Bale, in February 1995, including two prominent elders, Ali Kote and Malim Sulleiman. Most of those arrested had been held previously in Agarfa and Hurso detention camps in 1992-3 (1).

PRISONERS IN OROMIA

The March issue of source 1. reports on government figures of those imprisoned. Presently over 10,000 are being held. This figure does not include those held in Addis Ababa, Zeway or Showa Robit (N.Showa), nor those held in army camps, offices or other illegal detention centres. The EPRDF government only admits to 500 held in excess of one year without being convicted of an offence. At an EPRDF government workshop held 10-12.3.95 in Addis Ababa, poor prison conditions were discussed. Prisoners are suffering from overcrowding, contagious diseases and lack of food, medicine and clothing.

Defence councils, the Oromia Attorney General, Oromia public prosecutors, the Oromia Police Commissioner and the Oromia prison administration complain that the most serious problem is the detaining of people by separate organs of local and federal states. The TPLF-EPRDF army, local administrations, the police and local security are all detaining prisoners. (1).

HARASSMENT OF INDEPENDENT PRESS

Bekele Mekonnen, manager of Urji newspaper, and Tesfaye Deressa, editor, were detained in Addis Ababa on December 19-20, 1994. They were released after 31 days, upon payment of 30,000 Birr each. Later, Garoma Bekele, Deputy Editor of Urji newspaper, was imprisoned for 30 days before paying 10,000 Birr. He had not been tried (1). In one year, the Urji newspaper has paid out 140,000 Birr (25,000 US \$) in fines/bail (1).

Israel Saboqa, publisher and editor of Seife Nebelbal newspaper, after being detained two months at the 4th police station, Addis Ababa, was released on 6.2.95 on payment of 30,000 Birr. The police station normally houses common criminals, not journalists. Mr Saboqa was re-arrested on 10.3.95 and imprisoned for two weeks. The newspaper was closed down (1).

Tesfaye Deressa and Israel Saboqa were detained in Didessa camp for one year, 1992-3 (1).

Reporters and editors have to obtain permission from government controlled Kebele administrators and are frequently refused if their papers criticise the government. Short prison terms have been given to people for reading such papers - eg Solomon Wayessa and colleagues, Dembi Dollo, Wollega (1).

Temesgen Gamada, journalist, Fayissa Yadassa, broadcaster and Gudata Disassa, head of Oromo language of radio Ethiopia, have all been dismissed from the radio and printing department of the Council of Oromia. Temesgen and Fayissa were pensioned off, five years early. The three are all specialists in Oromo broadcasting (1).

HARASSMENT OF OROMO JUDGES AND DOCTORS

The following five judges have been dismissed (1), :-

Tilahun Gobena, Central Court of Oromia, one court dismantled.

Nurru Badasso, dismissed after being transferred from Assela (S.Oromia) to Fitcha (N.Oromia).

Bayene Jaldu, Borana Regional Court.

Temesgen Waqjira, dismissed after being transferred from Wollega (W.Oromia) to Harar (E.Oromia) and thence to Jimma (W.Oromia).

Gossaye Zegay, W.Hararge.

Frequent transfers continue (1), eg :-

Rare Hika from Harar (E.Oromia) to Nekemte (W.Oromia) and back to Harar.

Gobena Ujulu from Adama to Assela in central region.

Three doctors were expelled from Nekemte hospital on 28.12.94 (1). Their names are :-

Worku Wadajo

Dhabi Badhadha

Michael Mengesha

Local EPRDF officials effected their dismissal and they were driven away by armed security police.

Dr Dabali Kalbessa, expelled one year ago and in private practice has been deprived of the right to work anywhere in Oromia. He was driven away by EPRDF forces (1).

EPRDF SECURITY

Security staff are tapping private telephones. Ms Qalemuwa Mengistu, Dembi Dollo, Wallega, (see Imprisonments, above) was interrogated at Gimbi about a telephone conversation she had (1).

EPRDF security are reported to have on file details of pro-OLF people in Addis Ababa, at least in district 8, kebele 35, (1).

"ETHIOPIA MARS POLITICAL RIGHTS"

Gulf News, 2.5.95, relayed a Reuter report from Geneva. The report states that the International Commission of Jurists and its American affiliate association, the AAICJ, has accused the EPRDF government of "suppressing political dissent and violating human rights".

The commission said "Those who dare to question its policies risk arrest, in some cases being beaten or even jailed".

Reuter also reported that the Geneva-based ICJ accused the USA and European Union of turning a blind eye to current human rights violations. The TGE has been penalising journalists and restricting the Ethiopian Human Rights Council because of reports accusing the EPRDF of killings, torture and disappearances, the ICJ reports.