
Human Rights Abuses in Ethiopia 2005 – 2006

This publication includes information on violations of human rights in Ethiopia from victims of abuses, their close relatives and eye-witnesses as well as information from publicly available sources.

According to anecdotal accounts from refugees and visitors and according to reports by investigators from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, the widespread detention and mistreatment of civilians who criticise or oppose the government in Ethiopia continues, undiminished. Prisoners of conscience remain in detention without trial, accused by the government of supporting the Oromo Liberation Front, or other opposition groups. A large amount of information regarding abuses following post-election disturbances and related arrests is available. Although fewer reports of abuses which have taken place in remote areas are received by OSG than hitherto, reports which have been received suggest that this is not because of any reduction in the prevalence of abuse.

The Oromia Support Group is a non-political organisation which attempts to raise awareness of human rights abuses in Ethiopia.

OSG has now reported 3,874 extra-judicial killings and 925 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 unofficial detention centres, often in military camps.

Lack of democracy and accountability of government in Ethiopia is the single most important factor in the poverty, under-development and low quality and length of life in Ethiopia.

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Abbreviations

CUD	Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party
EPRDF	Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (government umbrella party)
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Council
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
Maikelawi CID	Central Investigation Department in Addis Ababa
MTA	Macha-Tulama Association (Oromo self-help organisation)
OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
OPDO	Oromo Peoples Democratic Organisation (government Oromo Party)
OSG	Oromia Support Group
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Oromo political prisoners appeal

In July 2006 a group of Oromo political prisoners sent the following message to Ethiopian government departments and to organisations and individuals in Ethiopia and abroad. Years, originally in the Ethiopian calendar (EC), have been changed to the Gregorian calendar. EC years and editorial changes are in square brackets.

‘We the Oromo political prisoners, charged with false accusations for the crimes of attempting to overthrow the regime and inciting war, were detained and have been suffering for such a long time in prison without trial and justice only for our political outlook and being Oromo. Moreover, our human rights are always violated and we have been denied of humane treatment as a result of which we have been suffering from sickness, torture and death.

1. Even though Article 20(1) of the FDRE Constitution provides that the accused have the right to speedy trial by an independent judiciary, this constitutional right of ours has been utterly violated and our trial is excessively delayed. For example:

- The trial of Tegene Gebresillasie and others (48 innocent Oromos) who were apprehended from the town of Adama (Nazereth) and its vicinity has been proceeding before the Second Criminal Division of the Federal High Court since 1998 [1990 E.C.] for 8 years. We have been suffering in prison during all these years.

- The trials of Ali Ibrahima and others (48 innocent Oromos) who were apprehended from the town of Dire Dawa and its vicinity, the trial of Mohammed Hussein and others (41 innocent Oromos) who were apprehended from Arsi, Bale and East Shewa Zones of Oromia have been proceeding for the last 6 years since 2000 [1992 EC] before the above mentioned Bench.

- The trails of Hussein Hamza and others (15 peaceful Oromos) and that of Kedir Zinabu and others (15 innocent Oromos) who were apprehended from East and West Hararge Zones, Oromia, have been dragging since 2001 [1993 E.C.] for solid 5 years before the same Court and Bench.

- The trial of Mesfin Ittana and others (9 innocent Oromos) who were apprehended from East and West Wallaga Zones of Oromia has been dragging before the same Court and Bench since 2003 [1995 E.C.].

- The trials of Diribi Demisse and others, Gameda Kasim and others, and leaders of Mecha Tulama Association(Oromo self-help association), Oromo students of Addis Ababa University and Oromo journalists (generally 59 innocent Oromos) have been proceeding since 2004 [1996 E.C.] for 2 years.

- The trials of Haile Tasisa and others (9 persons), Chala Lench and others (7 persons), Merga Negera and others (3 persons), Elias Jibiril and others (2 persons), and the trials of Olkaba Lata, Liben Jarso, and Shiferaw Hinsarmu (a journalist) have been pending before the same Court and Bench in which we all are suffering in cell without [being] lawfully convicted.

There is one and only one reason why the Second Criminal Bench of the Federal High Court has failed to dispose of our case: that is the crime we are charged with is unfounded and cannot be proved in which case we will certainly be acquitted if the court will decide the matter. So the only mechanism by which we can be kept in prison for indefinite period is by delaying our trial. This, however, is illegal and inhumane. We therefore request the concerned Ministry of Justice to respect the country's Constitution and provide us immediate and just solution.

2. Contrary to Article 21(1) of the FDRE Constitution the conditions in which we are held in prison or custody is quite inhumane. More often than not we have been subjected to torture, shot to death. For instance:

- On October 24, 2006 [1998 E.C] student Alemayehu Gerba was shot in his bed and died of this on November 1, 2006 [1998 E.C.] Gadisa Hirpasa, a student and prisoner was tortured to death by prison administrators and policemen. On October 24, 2006 [1998 E.C.] a police officer of the prison opened an automatic fire on a cell in which Amin Kelil, Idiris Awel, Lamessa Tasissa, Zekarias Tariku, and Ashenafi Biru were heavily wounded while in their cell and sustained incurable bodily injury. [Other accounts give different dates for these incidents – see below.]

- Many have become mentally deranged due to police torture. Tolera Tadesse, Umar Shek Kedir and Temam Amede are losing their conscious due to this torture in which they are also denied medical attention by prison officials.

- Others died of it, for example, Mokonnen Zawude, Nigusu Gojera, Alemayehu Ittafa, Zelalem Bayisa, Umar Haji and Haji Mohammed Messa died of the torture.

- We have denied of medical attention as a result some of us are suffering from diseases. Mahammed Tayib Abdulmelik died of a disease because he was denied access to medical treatment.

We fear that they are intentionally delaying our trial so that they get time to expose us to disease, torture and put us all to death over a longer period of time.

We demand that the torture and killing should be stopped and the murderers of students Alemayehu Gerba, and Gadisa Hirpasa, that is Major Afework

Teferra, privates Fiseha Gebremariam and Iyasu should be brought to justice immediately.

3. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law and protects against any form of discrimination. However, we Oromos have been detained and jailed without conviction only for our political outlooks and ethnic nationality, and language. We are exposed to torture such as electric shocks. Our investigators are only Tigrian members of the Federal Police. This team is led by a man called Tadese Meseret known for using electric shocks in which many innocent Oromos lost their lives. Ali Ibrahima and Gutu Geletu (in 1995 [1987 E.C]), Mahammed Yusuf in 1998 [1990] Sisay Debele in 2001 [1993] died of such torture while in custody. Many like Girma Ittafa became lame and unable to walk due to this torture.

The ones prosecuting us for such a perpetrated crime are prosecutors born to Tigrian ethnic group.

The presiding judge of the Second Criminal Division who simply delays our trial by adjourning our case is a man called Le'ul Gebremariam who is a Tigrian national. This judge has been assigned to try Oromos since 2002 [1984 E.C.] He simply orders death penalty upon Oromos.

The so-called crimes that we are charged with are said to have been committed in Oromia. Constitutionally Oromia has jurisdiction to try us, but we are put to the investigation by Tigrian police, prosecution by Tigrian prosecutor and trial by a Tigrian judge before federal court in a language which we do not understand, where we are orally abused, insulted if we demand explanation or accurate translation. So we are denied of fair trial and justice in all the processes of investigation, prosecution and trial. We could have been tried in Oromia, but we are brought before federal institutions for the purpose of discrimination.

Following the list of Oromo prisoners facing trial for intentionally perpetrated crimes which are quite unfounded and meant only to imprison us.

1. In the case of Tegenu Gebresillasei (Criminal File No. 1741, Federal High Court)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Tegenu Gebresillasei | 9) Negewo Birbisso |
| 2) Zerihun Hailu | 10) Shegena Melka |
| 3) Jida Siyum | 11) Ashu Waqayo |
| 4) Niguse Beturi | 12) Lita Angure |
| 5) Mengesaha Nabi | 13) Mirbo Korji |
| 6) Hasen Janbo | 14) Lencho Dame |
| 7) Tsegaye Koricho | 15) Megire Negash |
| 8) Challa Biru | 16) Dita Kebenecha |

- 17) Mideksa Korme
- 18) Asebot Ninni
- 19) Berhanu Beyene
- 20) Bojora Gameda
- 21) Dullo Tekaka
- 22) Dagne Belachew
- 23) Bedo Melka
- 24) Tafa Regasa
- 25) Girma Ayana
- 26) Hasan Jilo
- 27) Gudeta Kurfa

- 28) Lema Lube
- 29) Defaru Shewarega
- 30) Kasim Hamda
- 31) Wachare Abo
- 32) Abo Warajo
- 33) Getu Tadese
- 34) Biru Mamo
- 35) Demisu Daba
- 36) Tullu Birru
- 37) Alemayehu Abebe
- 38) Tesfaye Demisse

2. In the case of Ali Ibrahima and others (Federal High Court Criminal File No.809/93)

- 1) Ali Ibrahima
- 2) Temesgen Meshesha
- 3) Abdu Mohammed
- 4) Abdu Umar
- 5) Morka Idosa (dead)
- 6) Ahimad Zakiri
- 7) Girma Adugna
- 8) Adam Usman
- 9) Mahammed Jayilan
- 10) Biratu Disasa
- 11) Abera Merti
- 12) Husen Abdella
- 13) Jibiril Hasen
- 14) Hamza Uso
- 15) Abdi Ibrahima
- 16) Taye Guteta
- 17) Mehammed Aliye
- 18) Ibrahima Ahimed
- 19) Adma Ale
- 20) Ahimad Mehammed
- 21) Fayera Tolera
- 22) Jamal Ibrahima

- 23) Yunis Umar
- 24) Jora Mehammed
- 25) Abiyi Demashe
- 26) Abdella Adam
- 27) Jamal Amin
- 28) Alganesh Dirgasa
- 29) Abdella Mehammed
- 30) Mehammed A/Rahiman
- 31) Abdurahiman Hasen
- 32) Abirahim Adam
- 33) Ziyad Mehammed
- 34) Musa Haji
- 35) Abdella Shehi Ahimad
- 36) Sufian Aliyi
- 37) Teshome Desta
- 38) Yunis Sham Dado
- 39) Tofik Umar
- 40) Abdi Isma'el
- 41) Mahammed Musa Ibrahima
- 42) Dabale Asfawu
- 43) Jamal Abas.

3. In the case of Mehammad Usen Mehammed and others (Federal High Court Criminal File no. 992/93)

- 1) Mehammed Husen
- 2) Mehammed Teyib (dead)
- 3) Nuredin Dedefo
- 4) Hasen Abdella
- 5) Nasima Mehammed

- 6) Uke Beja
- 7) Shehi Ali Berertu
- 8) Kerjul Wayu
- 9) Abdurazak Banti
- 10) Daksisa Geleta

- 11) Gudeta Birso
- 12) Husen Teshite
- 13) Amano Warso
- 14) Tadese Ali
- 15) Gabi Shila
- 16) Gana Ali
- 17) Bulbula Seyife
- 18) Abu Gobena
- 19) Sayid Kedir
- 20) Basiye Ware
- 21) Aseffa Hika
- 22) Jarmo Chana

- 23) Hiko Bato
- 24) Dasta Bato
- 25) Dajene Gonfa
- 26) Yesin
- 27) Ahimad Kalifa
- 28) Abe Heyi Aute
- 29) Bantu Midaksa
- 30) Gameda Bati
- 31) Kemal Gobe
- 32) Yohannes Feleke
- 33) Adam Surur

4. In the case of Husen Hamza and others (Federal High Court Criminal File No. 1263/93)

- 1) Husen Hamza
- 2) Bedri Adam
- 3) Taye Balami
- 4) Umar Idiris
- 5) Haji Mehammed Musa
- 6) Jamal Ahimad Abdo
- 7) Umar Shehi Bidiri
- 8) Ahimad Haji Aliyi
- 9) Ahimad Nuri
- 10) Salim Shehi Ahimad
- 11) Irena Legesse
- 12) Sultan Isma'el
- 13) Hasim Kedir
- 14) Kedir Salih Adam

5. In the case of Kedir Zinabu and others (Federal High Court Criminal File No. 1810/93)

- 1) Kedir Zinabu
- 2) Feruz Abdi
- 3) Husen Ahimad
- 4) Sherif Jundi
- 5) Mehammed Abdella
- 6) Ali Mehammed
- 7) Aliyi Ibiro
- 8) Abdul Reshid Abdulahi
- 9) Adam Salih
- 10) Ayush Bekiri
- 11) Abdella Abib
- 12) Kedir Abdi
- 13) Usma'el Husen
- 14) Yasin Mehammed
- 15) Abdi Ame

6. In the case of Mesfin Ittana and others (Criminal File No. 222/95)

- 1) Mesfin Ittana
- 2) Mesfin Mosisa
- 3) Dani'el Ayana
- 4) Cherinet Yemaneh
- 5) Mitiku Tesfa
- 6) Yohannes Waqbulcha
- 7) Kemal Bebgir
- 8) Mengistu Hordofa

7. In the case of Diribi Demisse and others (Criminal File No. 36263/96)

- 1) Diribi Demisse
- 2) Gemechu Feyera

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3) Sintayehu Workineh | 17) Aberra Namomsa |
| 4) Ayelu Itisa | 18) Ibrahima Tarfa |
| 5) Bekuma Yendo | 19) Badasa Abdisa |
| 6) Tolasa Debebe | 20) Milkesa Dandana |
| 7) Alemayehu Gerba (dead) | 21) Idosa Tolasa |
| 8) Kebebew Bobasa | 22) Ibisa Melaku |
| 9) Bilisuma Dabare | 23) Guta Tullu |
| 10) Dawit Odo | 24) Dabasa Waqjira |
| 11) Melaku Degafi | 25) Nega Kefeni |
| 12) Teshale Tesfaye | 26) Telila Bulbula |
| 13) Legese Abetu | 27) Taye Dendena |
| 14) Gemechis Wodajo | 28) Gadisa Hirpasa (dead) |
| 15) Samu'el Haile | 29) Tomas Beranu |
| 16) Kefiyalew Gerbi | 30) Regasa Worku |

8. In the case of Gameda Kasim (Criminal File No.33176/96)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Gameda Kasim | 11) Mehammed Awal |
| 2) Tadesse Amede | 12) Nasiri Abdo |
| 3) Kedir Wadajo | 13) Derara Abdisa |
| 4) Guta Tullu | 14) Teferra Nasi'a |
| 5) Legese Gebresillassie | 15) Dagafa Gebremariam |
| 6) Challa Abu | 16) Tamene Getahun |
| 7) Zewudu Kene'a | 17) Yilma Indale |
| 8) Dachasa Banti | 18) Adam Tibeso |
| 9) Bayisa Belay | 19) Imiru Gurmessa |
| 10) Legesse Yadata | 20) Adugna Daba |

9. In the case of Haile Tasisa and others (Criminal File No.36268/97)

- 1) Haile Tasisa
- 2) Lamessa Tasisa
- 3) Wage Melka
- 4) Abdu Siraj
- 5) Aman Hasen
- 6) Zakarias Tariku
- 7) Idiris Awal
- 8) Sa'id Abdella
- 9) Tasamma Afirasa.'

Human Rights Watch report

New York, 13 January 2006.

Ethiopia: Hidden Crackdown in Rural Areas

Independent Inquiry Should Investigate Rural Violence

The Ethiopian government is using intimidation, arbitrary detentions and excessive force in rural areas of Ethiopia to suppress post-election protests and all potential dissent, Human Rights Watch said today after a research trip to Addis Ababa and the Oromia and Amhara regions.

‘The Ethiopian government is violently suppressing any form of protest and punishing suspected opposition supporters,’ said Peter Takirambudde, director of Human Rights Watch’s Africa Division. ‘Donor governments should insist on an independent, credible investigation into abuses by federal police and local officials in rural as well as urban areas.’

In the wake of the May 15 parliamentary elections, in which opposition parties won an unprecedented number of seats amidst massive controversy over the election results, federal police in the Oromia and Amhara regions have threatened, beaten and detained opposition supporters, students and people with no political affiliation, often in nighttime raids. Alongside local government officials and members of local government-backed militias, the federal police have taken the lead in intimidating and coercing opposition supporters.

In one town in Oromia, a 17-year-old girl was stopped at a police checkpoint, beaten and detained for seven days by federal police for no apparent reason except that she was traveling with students to the funeral of a fellow student killed by police. Also in Oromia, a 38-year-old farm worker and a 40-year-old widow described nighttime raids in which police beat them with rifle butts and batons, resulting in serious injuries.

In Oromia, individuals detained by the federal police are often accused of being supporters of the Oromo Liberation Front, an illegal insurgency group that called for Oromia-wide protests against the government on November 8. Detained individuals were also accused by police of being members of the Oromo National Congress, although it is a registered political party that won seats in the May 15 elections as part of an opposition coalition group.

‘The government is deepening its crackdown in Ethiopia’s rural areas, far from the eyes and ears of international observers in Addis Ababa,’ Takirambudde said. ‘People are being terrorized by federal police working hand-in-glove with local

officials and militias.’

Several recently released detainees from different locations in rural Ethiopia said that police and other officials forced them to sign statements disavowing support to political opposition groups and pledging support to the local ruling party affiliate before being released.

A 37-year-old opposition politician from the Oromo National Congress told Human Rights Watch that federal police in western Oromia beat and arrested him in a nighttime raid on his house in early December.

‘They beat every part of my body; the blood was coming out of my mouth,’ he said. ‘They beat with guns and sticks and plastic rope.’

In the Amhara region, witnesses told Human Rights Watch that kebele (local-level) officials, who are generally members of the Amhara National Democratic Movement—a party affiliated with the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)—played a key role identifying individuals and guiding the federal police to their homes at night, where federal police beat and sometimes arrested them.

‘The kebele officials know everyone. They come late, at midnight, knock at the door and take the one they want and beat him,’ a man from Bahar Dar, Amhara region, told Human Rights Watch.

Individuals in rural Oromia said they have been denied access to fertilizers and seeds by administrative officials who view them as opposition supporters. Farmers who have voiced support for recognized opposition political parties in rural Oromia have reportedly been detained without charge for 30 days or more by kebele ‘social courts,’ which are run by government party appointees without legal training.

‘Federal police and regional officials responsible for these abuses must be investigated and punished,’ Takirambudde said. ‘Prime Minister Meles Zenawi should publicly order all security forces to abide by international standards on the use of force.’

Federal police—usually identified by their blue camouflage uniforms—have been responsible for many of the abuses in Addis Ababa and the rural areas since the parliamentary elections in May. According to victims and witnesses in Addis Ababa, Oromia and the Amhara region, federal police beat and shot students and other protestors in those locations in November. In one case from Bahar Dar, where two students were killed and two were wounded in early November, an

eyewitness told Human Rights Watch that the school was surrounded by the police who shot into the compound where the unarmed students were collected.

Federal police also played a key role in the violence in Addis Ababa in early November. Eyewitnesses told Human Rights Watch that the federal police savagely beat unarmed students with batons and shot at their backs as they fled.

Thousands of people were arrested and detained in Addis Ababa and the rural areas following the demonstrations in June and November. Many of the people detained in the wake of the November violence have since been released. Yet more than 3,000 detainees held at the Dedessa military camp since November are apparently being transferred to Ziway prison, 130 kilometers south of Addis Ababa, for further questioning and possible charges.

As many as 2,500 other detainees, including many opposition supporters and some opposition party election observers, are reportedly being held in another detention facility, Bir Shelako, about 385 kilometers northwest of Addis Ababa near Bure town in the Amhara region.

‘The Ethiopian government has detained people indefinitely without trial in recent years, so there's a real concern that the authorities will do the same again,’ Takirambudde said. ‘Donor governments should call on the Ethiopian government to ensure that all detainees are either promptly charged and given fair trials, or released.’

Background

Since the May 15 parliamentary elections in which opposition parties made massive gains in their share of seats, the EPRDF government led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has used repression, intimidation and violence to punish real or perceived opposition supporters and eliminate dissent in both urban centers and rural areas.

In June and again in November, demonstrations by opposition supporters in Addis Ababa were met with lethal force from the government. In June alone, more than 30 people were killed and more than 100 injured in Addis Ababa when security forces fired upon demonstrators, who, in some cases, were throwing stones and blocking roads. On November 1-3, at least 46 protestors and seven policemen died in Addis Ababa. Following each episode of violence, the government arrested thousands of people in Addis Ababa and many other cities as part of a national crackdown. While most of the June detainees have reportedly been released, thousands of people arrested in November and afterwards remain in detention.

Many supporters of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and other opposition parties were arbitrarily detained without charges, and editors of five newspapers were arrested (and later released on bail), apparently for their coverage of the post-election violence.

On December 21, the government charged 131 persons—including prominent CUD politicians Hailu Shawel, Mesfin Woldemariam and the newly elected CUD mayor of Addis Ababa, Berhanu Nega—with charges including treason, inciting violence and planning to commit genocide. Several civil society activists and 13 journalists were included in the group.

Amnesty International report

International Secretariat, London, 2 May 2006. AI Index: AFR 25/013/2006

Ethiopia

Prisoners of conscience on trial for treason: opposition party leaders, human rights defenders and journalists

Summary

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that elected opposition members of parliament, human rights defenders and independent journalists are on trial for treason and other serious criminal offences, most of which could carry the death sentence. Amnesty International has called for their release as prisoners of conscience who have not used or advocated violence. It fears they will not receive a fair trial.

The prosecution is due to open on 2 May 2006 before the Federal High Court in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The trial is expected to last several months.

76 individuals are in court for trial, following earlier preliminary proceedings. They were arrested in November 2005 in connection with opposition demonstrations against the government. 25 Ethiopians who are resident abroad are also being tried in their absence. Four political parties and six newspaper publishing companies are also on trial, making a total of 111 defendants. Ethiopia's main donors including the World Bank have all called for the release of the defendants. The European Union, concerned about the fairness of trial, has appointed an international trial observer.

The defendants include Hailu Shawel, Birtukan Mideksa (f), Addis Ababa Mayor-elect Dr Berhanu Negga, and other leaders of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) party, 14 journalists from independent newspapers and three civil society activists. All defendants except the three civil society

activists are refusing to participate in the trial or present a defence, on the grounds that they do not expect to receive a fair trial.

Amnesty International is concerned that human rights defenders are among the accused, contrary to the government's duty to respect the legitimate role of human rights defenders as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. They are Professor Mesfin Woldemariam, founder and former chair of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, and three civil society activists – Daniel Bekele of the Ethiopian office of ActionAid, a South Africa-based international development organization; Netsanet Demissie of the Organization for Social Justice in Ethiopia; and Kassahun Kebede of the Ethiopian Teachers Association.

14 journalists of the independent media are included in the trial, apparently on account of their published articles, which contradicts guarantees of media freedom contained in the Ethiopian Constitution, as well as international standards.

Amnesty International is concerned about the treatment and conditions of the defendants in Kaliti prison in Addis Ababa, including restricted access to families and legal representatives, medical care, denial of writing materials and restricted reading material.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty worldwide and is calling for the removal of the death penalty in this trial.

This report includes the background to the trial in the May 2005 elections and the post-election crisis arising from alleged election fraud and opposition demonstrations where the security forces killed over 80 people in June and November 2005. The European Union Election Observation Mission delivered a highly critical report of the election, citing widespread human rights abuses.

Details are given of the charges against the defendants, with a renewed demand for the removal of the charge of genocide as being “absurd” in this trial. The range of defendants is described, including opposition leaders, several lawyers and academics, Yakob Hailemariam - a former UN Special Envoy, and five women – one of them seven months pregnant. There is a section on the repression of the media in Ethiopia – with a total of 20 journalists in prison, and several new convictions under the Press Law in recent months. Other pending political trials on similar charges are mentioned, and other serious human rights issues, including abuses committed by the security forces in the long-running armed conflicts in the Oromia and Somali regions, and in Gambella and other parts of the Southern Region. Aspects of possible unfairness in the treason trial are discussed.

The report concludes with Amnesty International's recommendations. It calls on the Government of Ethiopia to release immediately and unconditionally, with charges withdrawn, the political opposition leaders, human rights defenders and journalists, who are prisoners of conscience who have not used or advocated violence. Amnesty International calls on the authorities to ensure that all elements

of fair trial are afforded to the defendants and to exclude the application of the death penalty. Defendants should be treated humanely in custody in accordance with international and regional standards. The government should implement the right to freedom of opinion and association for political parties and civil society groups, including freedom of the media, as set out in the Ethiopian Constitution and international and regional human rights treaties to which Ethiopia is party. It should protect the legitimate role of human rights defenders and civil society activists.

Amnesty International also calls on the international community to continue to work for the release of the prisoners of conscience on trial, and to press the Government of Ethiopia to fulfil its international human rights obligations. In addition, it calls on them to guarantee protection of the rights of Ethiopian refugees, particularly opposition party members, civil society activists and journalists known to be critics of the government who should not be *refouled* or forcibly returned to Ethiopia where they may face persecution, arbitrary arrest or detention, unfair trial, torture or other ill-treatment.

The full 26-page report is available at <http://www.amnesty.org>

Excerpts from the full report:

2.2. Killings of demonstrators and mass arrests

p.3

In early June 2005 preliminary results were released by the National Election Board giving the EPRDF a narrow lead. CUD supporters subsequently demonstrated in Addis Ababa, accusing the government and EPRDF of fraud, and the National Election Board of bias towards the EPRDF. Peaceful demonstrations led to violent confrontations with the security forces. A special army unit, known as *Agaazi*, reportedly shot dead at least 36 protesters and wounded many others in Addis Ababa on 8 June. Some 9,000 CUD supporters including 2,000 university students, and six Ethiopian Human Rights Council officials (who were not members of any political party), were detained by police but were provisionally released on bond by the end of July 2005 without being charged with any crime. The CUD supporters had in most cases been arbitrarily arrested and were not brought before a court within the 48-hour limit prescribed by Ethiopian law. Many were allegedly beaten or ill-treated.

p.4

In a second series of pro-CUD demonstrations in early November 2005, police shot dead at least 42 protesters in Addis Ababa, wounded some 200 others and detained most of the CUD leadership, which had called for non-violent demonstrations. The protests, which started peacefully with drivers honking their horns and a workers' stay-home strike, led to violence with widespread police

shootings, seven police officers being killed by protesters and considerable damage to government property. The security forces arrested over 10,000 CUD officials and supporters in Addis Ababa, the Amhara Region and some other regions, including many who had been arrested in June and photographed for police records. There were further pro-CUD protests starting in late December 2005, and continuing into early 2006. Students boycotted school and college classes, resulting in widespread school closures, and there were widespread arrests and beating of students and teachers suspected of instigating the boycotts. Many of these detainees have since been released provisionally on bond but several thousands reportedly remain in detention. Details of the arrests have not been disclosed to detainees' families or the public, and most detainees have not been brought before a court.

2.5. Other opposition supporters facing similar political charges

p.10

Amnesty International is concerned that, in addition to the trial of the CUD leaders, several other CUD officials and members who were arrested on or after November 2005 are facing trial or could be tried under similar political charges in federal or regional courts in the coming months. Some are or may be prisoners of conscience and may not receive fair trials. They include the following:

Kifle Tigeneh, a CUD elected member of parliament detained in Addis Ababa since November 2005 and under investigation by a lower court, was charged on 21 March 2006 with treason, 'outrage against the Constitution' and 'genocide', together with 32 others, including six members-elect of the Addis Ababa City Council and journalist Solomon Aregawi. Eight of the defendants charged on 21 March complained to the judge that they had been tortured and denied medical treatment. They said they had been beaten, deprived of food for long periods, and suffered electric shocks. One said he had been forced to sign a statement he was unable to read on account of torture injuries. The court ordered that the eight defendants should be given medical treatment but did not order any investigation into the torture complaints.¹ The trial is due to start on 8 May 2006.

Berhane Moges, a lawyer who had earlier offered to represent CUD defendants such as Hailu Shawel, was arrested in Addis Ababa on 18 February 2006 shortly after he had met the visiting EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance. Berhane Moges was remanded in custody for investigation into alleged involvement in an alleged foiled conspiracy to plant bombs in Addis Ababa, which he denied. On 28 April 2006 he was charged with 'outrage against the Constitution', with the next court hearing scheduled for 12 May.

265 suspected CUD supporters who were arrested in Bahar Dar district of the Amhara Region in November 2005 were formally charged before a regional court on 16 February 2006 with involvement in rioting. They are still detained.

Thousands of CUD supporters are believed to be still detained without charge in different parts of the country since the demonstrations of November/December 2005 and early 2006.

Civil unrest and government reprisals

Anti-government demonstrations have been occurring across Ethiopia since the post-election demonstrations and killings in June 2005. Before November 2005, most disturbances reflected public protest about the May 2005 elections and subsequent killings and arrests of CUD supporters (see Amnesty International report, above, for details). Following a call to protest by the Oromo Liberation Front in early November 2005, most disturbances in Oromia Region concerned Oromo abuses and political issues. However, protests in schools in and around Addis Ababa concerning the elections and detentions of CUD members did continue.

Therefore the usual format of geographic breakdown of abuses is not being followed for the major part of this report. Events are described instead in mainly chronological order, with election-related and pro-CUD disturbances considered first.

July – October 2005

The final death toll on 8 June was at least 42, according to Amnesty International. Thousands of opposition supporters were detained and many were beaten (AFR 25/016/2005). *CNN* (13 July) reported that 74 were shot and wounded and that 17 had disappeared.

Government claims that the killings by its security forces were in response to banks being robbed appear to have been false. Officials of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Wogagen, Awash International, Abyssinia, Dashen, Nib and United Banks all told the *Reporter* (3 July 2005) they had received no reports of robberies. The *Nation* (9 July 2005) reported that ten CUD leaders and six Addis Ababa University students (most being members of the students union council) were to be tried in the Federal High Court for inciting strikes and boycotts in response to the announced election results.

Lissane Hizb (8 July 2005) reported the shooting to death of a member of the Wogdi peasant association, S. Wollo, Amhara Region, the disappearance of Mohammed Chaka after his being severely beaten by police, the burning of homes

of an election observer, Fete Teshome, and a candidate, Ayalew Ali, and the severe beating by Federal Police of several workers of Kombolcha Textile Factory.

EHRC officials and CUD leaders were in and out of prison over the summer.

On 4 July 2005, Federal Police announced the release of 878 detainees and the projected release from Zewai of 3,946 protesters. 509 were still held in Zewai and about 190 in Sendafa police camp (*Reporter*, 6 July).

Netsanet, 7 July, quoting EHRC's 84th report, wrote that in addition to deaths from the demonstrations in June, 29, including 12 AAU students, had disappeared and a further 105, including five Alemaya University students and 23 CUD members, had been detained.

The *Reporter* (19 July) stated that Federal Police were defying court orders to bring nine AAU and Kotebe Teachers Training College students to court from Sendafa police camp.

Agence France Presse, reported from Addis Ababa on 27 September that the Ethiopian News Agency had reported that police had arrested over 80 in North and East Showa, Oromia Region, 43 in Tigray Region and three just south of Addis Ababa. The state news agency claimed they were plotting a coup d'état and were in possession of weapons. It reported that at least eight CUD members were taken in Showa. Dates and other details were not given. The news was released prior to the planned protests against the government on 1 November.

November 2005 – March 2006

Protests began in Addis Ababa on 1 November against the May election results, which had been announced in September. They were initially peaceful but noisy, as taxi-drivers blew their horns. Thirty taxi-drivers were arrested early on but by the end of the day, riot police had shot dead at least six demonstrators and wounded at least 25 others (Amnesty International, AFR 25/015/2005). Further protests against the police shootings included stone-throwing, building of barricades and burning of vehicles.

By the end of the next day, 2 November, over thirty were reported by Amnesty International (AFR 25/016/2005) to have been shot and killed and over 150 wounded. Live ammunition was fired into protestors in the Mercato and other districts. Two police were reported killed.

The Times reported online, 2 November, that gangs of youths were shouting anti-Blair slogans, because of the UK Prime Minister's former championing of Zenawi, and that at least 23, including several women were shot dead. According to The Times Online Africa Correspondent, Jonathan Clayton, British residents said that the protests were initially not threatening. Youngsters were demanding that Blair 'opened his eyes' and that ex-patriates tell the UK government what was happening. One Briton asked 'When is the West going to realise this government is a bunch of morons?' The streets in most areas of the 'rundown city' were strewn

with bricks, glass, smouldering rubble and burning tyres following two days of running battles between protestors and police, the report said.

The BBC reported at least 46 were killed by 6 November. Speaking to the BBC in Germany on 6 November, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi blamed the killings on the CUD, claiming that demonstrators were throwing grenades and carrying guns.

Soldiers were fanning out into residential neighbourhoods by 3 November and one resident, reporting via an OSG correspondent in the USA, told of four Muslims being shot on returning from prayers, around the Tor Hayloch hospital and two others being shot dead in Beg Terra, near the Bulgarian Embassy. He said people were being attacked and wounded in 'every corner of the city'.

On 11 November (Amnesty International, AFR 25/019/2005) protests, involving mainly students and unemployed youngsters, were also reported to have occurred in the Amhara Region towns of Dessie, Debre Behan and Bahar Dar, and in the Sidama capital, Awassa, SNNPR. At least 4,000 were detained and held in harsh conditions in rural areas. Many of these had been detained previously, during the June protests. The police announced that 2,500 were released on 11 November. A member of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRC) wrote from Addis Ababa on 8 November, via the EHRC support committee in Geneva, that about 18,000 youths who were arrested in Addis Ababa, were being held in Didhessa, Wallega, where many thousands of Oromo have been held intermittently since 1992 – with inadequate shelter in a malaria-infested river valley. Some detainees had died in transport from the capital. Despite their reporters having to remain hidden in Addis Ababa, EHRC reported that heavily armed soldiers, not Federal Police, were patrolling the otherwise deserted streets. According to *News 24*, reporting on 23 December, the Federal Police said that 14,000 had been arrested during the November disturbances in Addis Ababa.

CUD leaders, MPs and members were systematically arrested from their homes and journalists were detained. The parliamentary immunity of 109 MPs for the CUD was cancelled because they had boycotted parliament.

The Geneva-based World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and Paris-based International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) complained in an open letter to Ethiopia's PM Meles Zenawi, posted to their website on 5 January, that EHRC members Bezu Mekonen and Chanie Reta had been forced to present themselves to zonal police on 4 November after their wives had been taken into custody in their place. EHRC members' homes were under surveillance and they were subject to fines and written threats of 'final action' being taken against them. Their relatives had been detained for questioning.

This heavy-handed approach to human rights defenders and journalists was a repeat of the crackdown on Oromo Human Rights League and Oromo Relief Association members and officials and the closure of URJI newspaper and arrests of its staff in 1997 and 1998.

Again reflecting the disinformation campaign accompanying the crackdown on Oromo in 1997/8, Radio Ethiopia announced on 10 November that 40 CUD

members were carrying firearms and grenades when arrested in Dawa Chefa woreda in Amhara Region and S. Showa, Oromia Region, and on 13 November the station reported arms ‘for use in street violence’ were captured with 33 CUD supporters in E. Showa and Arsi, Oromia Region.

Further CUD-related killings and detentions

On 10 November, *State Media* announced the release of 1,779 detainees from prisons in Addis Ababa, 285 from Zewai and 353 from Didhessa.

State Media (18 December) reported the transfer of over 2,600 detainees from Didhessa detention camp to Zewai prison and the closure of the camp.

Voice of America (VOA) Radio News reported on 6 January that five of its staff members in Addis Ababa were among 131 opposition, civil society and media leaders charged with capital offences on 21 December. All had been denied bail and the opportunity to make statements. The radio station reported that thousands remained detained without charge since early November.

According to *VOA* (27 December), *Tikusat* newspaper and *Ethiomed* (28 December) student protests began again on 21 December and over the following week affected Tikur Anbessa, Ayer Tena, Menen, Shimelis Habte, Menelik, Black Lion and Addis Ketema secondary and high schools, Entoto College, and Addis Ababa Technical College. Police attacked and removed unknown numbers of students – at least 20 from Addis Ababa Technical College, amid shots, burning vehicles and shop closures.

CUD activist and young student, **Miss Birtukan Feleq, was found murdered** in Jimma, three days after disappearing, and she was buried on 24 December.

Many students were injured when police attacked Abiot Kirs and Dejazmach schools in Addis Ababa on 29 December, according to *VOA*. Students were removed to unknown locations. Information Minister Berhan Hailu was reported to have said ‘there were minor problems in the capital’s schools’.

Amnesty International (AFR 25/003/2006) reported that students in Addis Ababa schools had been ‘holding rallies and boycotting classes and exams in protest at the detention of CUD leaders and the contested election results’ since 2 January.

Several hundred of the thousands detained in December in Amhara Region were believed to still be held incommunicado in undisclosed prisons, at risk of torture.

The *Ethiopian Review* (3 January) reported protests by students in Menen, Tikur Anbessa, Ayer Tena, Addis Ketema and other Addis Ababa high schools on 2 January, with police beating students and threatening teachers to stop the protests or face withdrawal of their salary. The *Reporter* (4 January) added protests at Menelik, Medhanialem and Yekatit 12 secondary schools and Entoto, Bole and Addis Ketema high schools on 3rd, with reports of police entering school compounds and beating students. Twenty were detained from Menelik high school, including some teachers (*Dagim Wenchif*, 3 January).

Several high school students at Menen and Addis Ketema were reported injured in clashes with police on 12 January (*Ethiomeia* 12 January) and day students at Teferi Mekonnen School were detained there while evening students were denied access.

Addis Admas (14 January) reported that riot police broke into Menelik II secondary school and beat and arrested students on 13 January. Students at Menen school destroyed a bus on 12 January after **a girl student had been beaten to death** by police two weeks previously. Federal Police also beat and detained students at Kelem and Addis Ketema secondary schools on the same days.

On 13 January, 656 prisoners remained in Zeway prison after 2,252 who were detained after the November protests in Addis Ababa were released, according to *Radio Ethiopia*.

Amnesty International (AFR 25/003/2006) reported the killing of three and the detention of 42 people following police opening fire on an Epiphany procession of Ethiopian Orthodox Church members on 19 January in Addis Ababa. The police stopped the procession and started firing into the gathering of thousands of worshippers when calls were made for the release of CUD political prisoners. **Two were killed** and many wounded. Another Epiphany procession was fired upon the following day and over 20 were wounded. **Ms Lealem Bogale died later** from injuries sustained in this second attack. The 42 detainees were held incommunicado in secret locations.

Human Rights Watch called for investigations into the deaths of four teenage students in Gonder on 6 February, according to *Addis Admas* (1 April). A Federal Policeman was arrested for **killing Bereket Fantahun, Sintayehu Workineh, Abebe Wondimagnehu and Dawit Tesfaye**, by shooting them in the head after ordering them to kneel by a riverside, but no proceedings against him had been published.

Ethiopian Review (8 March) reported that students in Dessie boycotted classes from 6 March at Kidame Gebeya, Memher Akalewold and Hote schools I protest at detention of political prisoners and human rights violations. Parents came to their assistance in clashes with police which lasted three days, according to *VOA* (9 March). Severe beatings, gunshots and ambulances removing injured girl students were reported.

Oromo student demonstrations, killings and arrests

Oromo students began co-ordinated protests against the government on 9 November 2005 across Oromia Region. The students demanded respect for human rights, the rule of law, release of political prisoners, reinstatement of the Macha-Tulama Association and Oromo Relief Association and self-determination for Oromo people. They loudly proclaimed their support for the Oromo Liberation

Front (OLF) and distributed leaflets. After the killing of some demonstrators and detainees, many protestors shaved their heads as a sign of mourning.

Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action appeal on 30 January (AFR 25/002/2006) naming Oromia Region students Shumi Dandana, Dawit Urga, Ahmed Musa, Adam Uma, Sada Ibrahim (female), Ulufa Bilo, Adem Jildo, Gemechu Bona, Musa Buta and Addis Ababa University students Berhanu Gemechu and Matewos Teferra among 'thousands of other Oromo students' who were detained without charge and at risk of torture. The reports states:

'The 11 students named above are among several thousand school and college students from the Oromo ethnic group who have been detained in a series of anti-government demonstrations in different parts of the Oromia Region, in the capital, Addis Ababa, and in other towns. All those named above are detained incommunicado at a number of different locations, and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The arrests have taken place during a wave of student demonstrations which began on 9 November 2005. The demonstrations are still taking place in some areas. Most of those taking part were secondary school students, some of them children under 18 years old, but teachers, farmers, businesspeople and others have also been detained in connection with the demonstrations. Most demonstrations reportedly began peacefully but some police and demonstrators were injured, property was damaged and explosions were reported in some places.

The demonstrations are said to have taken place after a call by the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), an armed opposition group, for demonstrations against the government. Demonstrators called, among other political demands, for the release of Oromo political prisoners, including officials of the Mecha Tulema Association, a long-established Oromo welfare association (see UA 180/04, AFR 25/006/2004, 21 May 2004, and follow-ups). Several demonstrators were reportedly shot dead and others wounded by the security forces. Many protesters were beaten by police. Those detained have reportedly been accused of links with the OLF, although none of them has yet been charged. Some detainees have been released, but others are being held in locations where torture has frequently been reported, such as Ambo Palace prison and Senkele police training centre, near the town of Ambo. The whereabouts of many of the detainees, some taken to remote rural prisons, are not known.'

The UN news service, IRIN, reported from Addis Ababa on 2 February, Ethiopian government denials of the Amnesty International report, saying it was 'misinforming and incredible' admitting detention of only 86 students whom it accused of throwing bombs and destroying property.

Summary Executions and shooting of detainees at Kaliti prison

Radio Ethiopia reported 7 detainees were killed and 23 injured in an escape attempt from Kaliti Prison, Akaki, 20 km south of Addis Ababa, on 3 November.

Reports from local informants via OSG researchers in Norway and Germany and reports from the OLF all stated that detainees had been shot in cold blood in their cells. Government claims that the detainees were shot while trying to escape cannot be true, as is illustrated by the killing of Alemayehu Garba. In all, **nineteen were killed**.

Alemayehu Garba was detained in October 2003 following the demonstrations against the removal of the Oromia Region capital to Adama. He was initially taken to Maikelawi CID (OSG Press Release 40, July 2004, p.11) where he was tortured. He was transferred to Kaliti prison in Akaki, possibly via Karchale central prison in Addis Ababa. He was a very bright and ebullient Addis Ababa University student, despite being disabled and needing to use crutches when walking. He was otherwise healthy when initially detained (see photograph). However, it is obvious from later photographs, taken after he was shot, that he was severely malnourished following more than two and a half years of detention. He was thus incapable of attempting to escape. Alemayehu did not die instantly. He was taken to hospital in Addis Ababa, and died in the Police Hospital on 9 December.



Alemayehu Garba before his detention in October 2003



Alemayehu Garba's body showing emaciation from malnutrition in detention and wasting of his paralysed right leg; incompatible with any escape attempt.



Careful research by an OSG member in Germany (himself a victim of torture by the current regime) enabled him to compile a list of those shot dead and those injured, like Alemayehu Garba, by shooting in Kaliti prison on 3 November. The information was sent to OSG on 19 March 2006.

Shot dead in detention in Kaliti prison, 3 November 2005:

Abdunab
Anteneh Apilo
Dereje Mamo
Efrem Geletu
Gemechu Geda
Getu Hailu
Haile-Mariam Ambaye
Indalew Iwunetu
Indargachew Worku
Kebede Tolcha
Kitaw Worku
Mesfin Ayele
Sintayehu Kebede
Tadese Feyisa
Tamiru Haile-Mariam
Tewodros Giday
Tigistu
Wegayehu Zerihun

Shot and wounded at Kaliti prison on 3 November 2005:

Ashenafi Biru – wounded right hand, no treatment given
Addis Kidane
Awal
Damtew
Dawit Ababa
Eliyas Bedargew
Ibrahim Ajam – wounded right eye
Ibrahim Adam
Ibsa Asfawu
Idris Awal – wounded right hip bone
Isayas
Kibron
Lamessa Tasissa – wounded right hand
Marsa Diro
Masawal
Mastu Salah

Michael
Minas Tadesse
Mosissa Dadhi – wounded right hip bone
Nabiyat Wondimu
Seifu Worku
Tariku
Teka
Tsegaye Sahilu
Yalew Bedargeligne
Yibeltal Tizita
Zakariyas Tariku – wounded chest and arm
Zerihun Tesfaye



Morkata Idosa also died in Kaliti prison at the beginning of November 2005, reportedly from excessive bleeding following torture during prolonged detention, according to an OLF in a press release on 14 December and according to Oromo refugees reporting from Kenya on 28 March 2006.

Killings at demonstrations

Five students were reportedly **shot dead** during protests at Ambo on 9 November, including 11th Grade students **Jagama Badhane** and **Kabada Badhassa** (the latter from Tikur Incini) **and a young female student**. Jagama was shot at the gate of Ambo secondary school and **police killed at least two more** when shooting in response to protests at Jagama's death (*Reporter*, 13 November). *The Sunday Times* (10 November) reported 17 were wounded. The funeral of Jagama was attended by 50,000 according to the *Reporter*. The paper reported demonstrations, school closures and loss of lives in Ambo, Wallega, Adama (Nazareth), Woliso, Guder, Gedo and Alemaya.

Local informants reported via Norway on 10 November that residents joined students in street protests in Ciro, Galamso, Badesa, Awaday, Haro Maya (Alemaya), Dire Dawa, Gimbi, Bako, Warra Jarso and Innango (across Oromia Region). About 100 were rounded up by police in Ciro and details of two of the killings in Ambo (named above) were confirmed. Civilians in Mojo prevented police taking others to prison.

Reports, again via Norway, on 14 November were received of detentions in Arsi of the following farmers and students from their homes in Qorsu Toli the previous day – Nagara Foggi, Mohammed Macca, Anwar Shee Sharif, Mohammed Amin

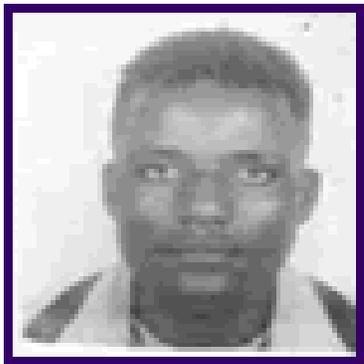
Shee Isaa, Hafizi Haji Ahmed (student), Dalili Aba Jabal Aba Dura (student) and Mr Ibrahim. Also from Arsi, detained incommunicado since 11 November from Qarsa Balto were students Mohammed Abba Maca, Ibrahim Sheshifa, Jalil Aba Jabal, Aba Naga Aba Jabal, Mohammed Amin, Haafis Haji Ahmed and Anwar Shesharif.



Jagama Badhane

Kabada Badhassa

Two of the students shot dead in Ambo on 9 November 2005



Malaku Tafara Fayissa

Dabala Oliqa Guta

Two students, Malaku Tafara Fayissa and Dabala Oliqa Guta, were killed and several were arrested during protests in Innango, Wallega, on 15 November. The OLF announced on 17 November that 5000 Oromo students at universities in Gonder, Bahar Dar and Mekele were beginning hunger strike in protest, against killings of Oromo students and the harassment of Gonder students under the pretext of investigating the burning of houses there.

On 16 November, **four students were killed** when peaceful protestors were fired upon in Qore, Arsi. Local residents reacted with more protests and **another six were shot dead**, according to the OLF on 18 November. In response, students in

Kofale, Arsi, staged large demonstrations on 17 November and in Negele and Kuraya, Arsi, on 18 November.

Protests in Hirna, Hararge, continued for that week, with nine more students and other residents, including a mentally disabled person, being added to those in the detention camp there on 18 November, including Amme Shankor, Bashir Mohassen, Hussein Amme Mohammed (and all his family), Abraham Aliyi, Ahmed Abraham, Abdi Mohammed, Mohammed Hassen and Mohammed Khalif. Many were reportedly severely beaten in Hirna camp and one was said to have life-threatening injuries. Farmers around Hirna refused to attend a government meeting and students and residents of Ciro blocked roads to the town on 18 November in protest.

The OLF reported that protests were continuing in Ambo, Jimma, Bishoftu, Robe, Nekemte and Gimbi.

Reports relayed from Norway on 8 December included the detention of 130 from Ambo who were held incommunicado in remote centres after demonstrating against the killing of three high school students (see above). In addition to those listed further below, the detained students include:

Takala Darasa	Tasfaye Badada
Binyam Baqala	Baqala Umma
Tarafa Tolera	Abara Hirpha
Dhuguma Tadala	Moti Motuma

Five explosions occurred in Ambo on 5 December, believed to be government instigated in order to justify further detentions.

On 20 November, Oromia Region president, Minase Wolde Giorgis, arrived in Sakina, Darolabu, Hararge, but left immediately when faced with thousands of demonstrators. One, Dita Ahmed Mume, was shot and wounded.

On 24 November, Shambu residents closed the road to Bako. On 22nd, the main road from Addis Ababa to W. Oromia was blocked at Asgori by demonstrators for several hours.

Police attacked and arrested 24 peacefully demonstrating students at Jimma Teachers College on 25 November including:

Amanuu Wayyoo	Hasha Raayaa
Olqaba Ibsaa	Fasiya Reebaa
Badhaatu Ayyaanaa	Yashii Alamuu
Biranu Tulluu	Chuchu Mokonon
Mohammad Suleman	Abdulshakur Mohaa Umar
Amanu Abdullahii	Abduu Abaa Joobir
Kasahun Getacho	Tananyee Qananiisaa
Suleman Misganaa	Sisay Abarra
Xayibaa Abbu	

Two were reported to be seriously injured.

In Bale zone, residents blocked the main highway at Robe with boulders on 21 November. Students at the Teachers College were besieged and two, Jamal Guye

and Tasfaye Jamal, were arrested. A young boy was shot in Gindhir on 19 November and the nearby town of Dallo Sabro was reported under siege following protests.

School closures around Kofale and large numbers of arrests, with detainees being tortured and crammed into small cells, were reported.

On 29 November, two students, **Habtamu Bayata Biqila** and **Fekadu**, were **shot dead** while peacefully protesting in Jaldu, W. Showa, according to information collected within Oromia and local sources reporting via Norway.

Others were critically injured including Nuressa Katama Xaafa. Schools were closed in Jaldu and in nearby Gedo and Harartu, following similar protests.

On 3 December, Oromia Region president, Minase Wolde Giorgis, aborted a meeting with Addis Ababa University students because of their protests against him and the government.

The *Reporter* (11 December) wrote that classes at Jimma university had stopped since 7 December because of clashes between Oromo and Tigrean students, leading to several arrests. Twelve high school students were injured in clashes with police in Mendi, Wallega, on 8 December. Students in Zewai demonstrated on 12 December and according to *Seife Nebelbal* (16 December) five disappeared and two were injured following clashes with police.

The *Reporter*, 18 December, wrote that students at Jimma were refusing to resume classes because police and army were still on campus.

The private weekly *Tikusat* (21 December) reported that **six students died** and six were injured and sent to hospital when students blocked a road in Mendi Kiltu [Kiltu Kara] to help prisoners heading to an unknown destination escape. Members of the military forces that were driving behind the truck which carried the prisoners opened fire and killed six students. The newspaper also reported the arrests of several Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement members in Nejo, Wollega.

Dagim Wenchif (27 December) reported **two killings in student demonstrations** in Beji Chekorsa, Wallega, and the arrests of several elders and youth in Gimbi. The youth were taken to Didhessa, despite its earlier reported closure.

Tomar (28 December) reported the arrest of four businessmen in Dembi Dollo, Wallega, Yonas Gelan, Fekade Shibeshi, Kassahun Kitla and Belay Yadeta, and that those who were arrested from Dembi Dollo, Anfilo, Mughii and Gimbi were detained in Senkele police training camp. 'Parliamentarians representing the Oromo people have petitioned the House Speaker to discuss mass arrests in Oromia State' the paper reported.

Ethiopian Review (26 December) reported that hundreds of people from the towns of Mendi and Gimbi, Wallega, were rounded up and taken to Senkele Police Training Center in Ambo. Special forces surrounded the towns after the residents started holding protest rallies demanding the removal of Meles Zenawi and Juneidi Sado [OPDO president].

VOA reported on 28 December the closure of the three high schools in Nekemte, Wallega, following student arrests and the **killing of four students in Wallega** that week. Police admitted over 300 arrests to VOA (30 December).

On 20 January it was reported via OSG's informant in Norway that school closures following demonstrations and strikes were ongoing in Ambo, Tikur-Incini, Dembi Dollo, Gimbi, Qoree, Biyo Karaba, Asasa, Kofale, Gedo, Bako, Sarbo, Shashamane, Nekemte, Lalo Asabi, Jimma, Machara, Finca'a, Kombolcha, Xullo, Dhangago, Ciro, Oliqa Dingilu, Qelam, Haro Maya, Doba, Ginir, Habro, Matufi Darimu, Dire Dawa, Galamso, Badesa, Asabot, Bedeno, Mi'esso, Bordode, Mandi, Daro Labu, Gadulo, Gololcha, Calanqo, Awaday, Bate, Kara-Mile, Harar, Qobbo, Langey, Masala, Awash, Didhessa, Guttin, Haro Sabu and Gibe.

Student demonstrations and strikes had also become widespread in Gondar and Gojam, Amhara Region.

The informant said security forces had been reinforced across Oromia Region. Abductions and killings had continued with 14 more killings since 8 December 2005, the abduction of 51 more civilians and the torture of 109 students from Finca'a, Galamso, Mandi, Arada, Biliqa, Ciro and Asasa with 'many major bodily injuries'. Thousands of elementary school children and elders were reportedly detained for merely wearing traditional Oromo dress. The total detained was stated to be in tens of thousands, but detainees were being held in rural Ethiopia, away from the international media.

Lists of those killed and detained following protests have been sent to OSG via a researcher in Norway, definitively on 12 May but in four separate reports prior to that. A separate detailed corroborative report was sent on 12 April from a visitor to Ethiopia after his return from spending several weeks in Oromia Region gathering information. OSG has declined from publishing his country of residence or the organisation for which he works. Of the many thousands detained, OSG thus obtained names and places of detention of 339, in addition to those named in preceding paragraphs, of whom 210 were provided by the two main informants. An additional 5 were provided solely by the informant in Norway. An additional 124, including all those detained in Hararge and Jimma, were provided by the other investigator who visited Oromia in early 2006. The names of those who were killed during protests, with only five exceptions, were provided by both the informant in Norway and the other researcher. The visiting researcher was informed of the remaining five. A report from Oromo refugees in Kenya on 28 March corroborated five of the killings and claimed a total of 70 detainees were killed.

Killings at protests in November 2005

Ababa Jagama Wagi
Ahmad Illu
Anane Adamu

Jaldu, Showa
Kofale, Arsi
Gimbi, Wallega

Birtukan Jaldu
Fayissa Duula
Habib Ragassa
Hamid Mohammed
Jamal Lencho
Kabada Dhinsa
Lachisa Dhabasa
Mekonnen Gayessa
Nurasa Girma
Tashoma Tadassa
Waqjira Tafara

Ambo, Showa
Kofale, Arsi
Qoree-Kofale, Arsi
Negele, Arsi
Qoree-Kofale, Arsi
Ambo, Showa
Tikur-Inchini
Guduru, Wallega
Jaldu, Showa
Guduru, Wallega
Jaldu, Showa

Killings at protests on 5 February 2006

Adugna Abara
Ahmad Abduljabar
Belay Tadassa
Belay Waqjira
Dachassa Gurmessa
Haile Desta
Jando Bodana
Kafalo Tadassa
Marfatta Gurmessa
Misgana Begna
Misgana Taganye
Mohammed
Motumma Tarfa
Murtessa Lamu
Nagassa Sanbata
Taso Wirtu
Zarihun Ayana

Horo Guduru, Wallega
Kombolcha, Hararge
Horo Guduru, Wallega
Horo Guduru, Wallega
Ambo
Fincaa-Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Begi, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Guduru, Wallega
Begi, Wallega

Other Killings, reported to OSG 28 March and 12 April 2006

Abdalla Adam
Ahimad Xayib
Elias
Gadissa Hirphasa

Kunza Yasin

Galamso, Hararge
Dire Dawa, E. Hararge
Hararge
AAU student died following torture and
denial of medical care, Karchale, Addis Ababa
Died from gunshot wounds in Ciroo
Hospital, Hararge

Killing, reported to OSG 21 May (from Norway)

Miss Roman Adamu Bayissa, 14 yr old student at Gimbi secondary school, was killed in her home in Diddisaa Biqilal, Gimbi, at 1.00 a.m. on 21 December. Security forces broke her 65 yr old aunt's leg at the same time.



Gadissa Hirphassa

Student at Addis Ababa University.
He died in Karchale Prison following torture and denial of medical attention.

Detentions since November 2005

The following were taken in November 2005 unless otherwise stated

Addis Ababa

Asafa Lata – Maikelawi CID

Asafa Waltaji – Karchale Central Prison, reported to be severely tortured

Birhanu Gamachu – Karchale, severely tortured

Kabada Baqala – Maikelawi CID

Laqo Gebre Tsadiq – Maikelawi CID

Mengistu Desta – secretary of Macha-Tulama Association

Robe – Karchale, severely tortured

Ambo, W. Showa

Ababa Tolera Dirriba

Ababa Gonfa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Abdata Batiri – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Abiyot Dandana – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Alemayehu Tola

Alamu Gudata – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Ashenafi Mataka Gurmessa
 Bajiga Jima Gadhafa
 Baqaqala Beeka – transferred to Karchale Central Prison by end March
 Balaxa Kidanu Safara
 Berhanu Abara Dhaba
 Caluma Mengistu – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Dajane Baqala Shooxee
 Daraje Damaqa Tsigee
 Dawit Urgaha – L arm broken during torture, transferred to Karchale Central
 Prison by end March

 Dheressa Gurmessa Nigirti (since 10 January 2006)
 Endale Gamachu Gadissa (since 10 January 2006)
 Feqadu Caali Desissa
 Fufa Gule – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Furgessa Barsissa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Getu Baqala Tolassa (since 2 January 2006)
 Getacho Damisu Himaru
 Gudata Dahaba Tolera
 Gudisa Dheressa Dalassa
 Gudisa Hirko
 Guta Bayessa Gada
 Haachalu Hundessa Gebre-Maskal
 Habtamu Garoma – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Hirphasa Fedhasa Qalbeesa
 Imnat Hailu – transferred to Karchale Central Prison by end March
 Likassa Lejissa – transferred to Karchale Central Prison by end March
 Massala Caala – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Minilik Jifara – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Mosissa Dabala Dhugo
 Mosissa Diribsa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Qana’a Chuche – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Rata Mekonnen – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Sanyi Tilahun – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Sawanut Tamana – transferred to Karchale Central Prison by end March
 Shifara Daksissa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Shifara Ebissa – severely tortured and denied medical care, transferred to
 Karchale Central Prison by end March
 Shifara Taganye – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Shumi Dandana – transferred to Karchale Central Prison by end March
 Simmanyi Dayasa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Sisaay Dhinsa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
 Tadassa Dabala Dhugo

Tadassa Teesso – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Takala Korsa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Tamirat Ebissa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Tamrat Urgessa Dadhi (since 25 January 2006)
Tarik Girma – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Tasfaye Beeka – injured by torture, transferred to Karchale Central Prison by
end March

Tasfaye Gudissa
Tasgabbi Dikgasa Yadata
Tolera Owata (teacher) – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Urgessa Damana Kumsa (since 15 January 2006)
Warqu Dagafa Calqaba
Wase Gadissa
Warqu Fayissa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Yadassa Gari Bari
Zarihun Akala Dachassa (since 15 January 2006)

Adama, E. Showa

Adam Gariso – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Asafa Tafassa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Bira Rorissa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Cala Hummoo – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Minisha Girma – severely injured by torture, transferred to Karchale Central
Prison by end March
Mammush Tasfaye – transferred to Karchale Central Prison by end March

Sanqalee (Sankalle Military Camp), Showa (includes some detainees from Gimbi, Wallega)

Alamu Tashome	Gamachis Belay
Ayele Nagawo	Girma Zerihun
Aynalem Tesfaye	Marga Mosissa
Dereje Galu	Marga Tamiru
Elias Daniel	Merid Zewde
Eskindir Estefanos	Nabiyu Umata
Galana Feqadu	Solomon Lamessa
Galata Tasissa	Yohannes Abdata

Detained Ginci, Showa

Galata Kafana – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Jaldu, Showa

Lama Dachassa (since 29 January 2006)
Imiyu Baro

Fiche, Showa

Abarra Hirasu
Ms Aster Kabada
Bayana Gadafa
Biranu Abara
Daraje Kafala
Ms Darartu Dadhi
Daraje Getacho
Daraje Irree
Dirriba Baqala – severely tortured
Dirriba Waqtola
Getu Abara
Getu Girma
Getu Temesgen
Girma Negusse
Hailu Naggu

* - severely injured by gunshot

Katama Gari *
Kormu Tafari
Kuba Tashoma*
Magarsa Lelissa
Magarsa Tufa
Ms Masarat Yadate
Masayi Hailu
Mekonnen Sime
Roba Qaca*
Ms Sabile Batiru
Tadasa Nagasha
Tadase Sime
Tafara Baqala
Zalalem Tola

Dagam, Showa

Biranu Moti
Fiqadu Dachassa
Miliyon Dadhi
Siyum Nanessa
Solomon Irana
Ms Tolashi Tamiru

Gedo, W. Showa

Tamiru Alamayo – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March
Tashoma Ebissa – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Meta Robi, Showa

Zawde Tullu – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Siraro, Arsi

Abako Hamda
Abdalla Shaggano
Fayissa Dagalo
Gabita Tusa
Mangasha Burqa
Marim Nure
Mrs Meyimana Buta – mother of many children
Safawo Suniti – very old man

Sheko Ogato
Badale, Illubabor
Alemu Raggas
Jibril
Malkamu Tamiru
Salasib Aynalem
Yosef Yonas

Jimma

Dawut A/Olii
Idris A/Sirra
Mizbawu Sheik Hagalu'o
Muddesir Abba Surra
Mohammed Sheik Hagalu'o
Muktar Abba Rago
Nabso Abba Macca

Rayya Abba Digga
Sheik Ahimad Abba Oli
Sheik Mohammed Nur
Sheik Qassim Finficulo
Sheik Sado – Imam of Gurbo Cora
Mosque

Dire Dawa, E. Hararge

Fahami – location of detention unknown
Garaman Boru – location of detention unknown
Jabre – location of detention unknown

Badessa, Hararge

Abdi Eliyas
Abdi Mohammed
Anwar Yusuf
Ibsa Ahimad
Idris Kamal

Kamal Umar
Najib Mohammed
Nuradin Tarki
Ziyad Ali

Bordode, Hararge

Amme Mamma
Dina Zakariya
Mrs Haadha Mana Mohammed

Mohammed
Mammad Nur
Turkee Mohammed

Ciro, Hararge

Ahimad Adamisho
Ahimad Samman
Ms Aliya Abdi
Aliyi Abdo – severe leg injury, denied treatment
Aliye Ahimad
Aliye Ahimadee
Awal Adam
Badiru Hassan Kadir Gasim

Baqala
Durii
Ebrahim Mohammed – arm broken by torture
Hamad Samman – arm broken and stabbed in eye and flank
Hawaso Balcha – face and head injured
Hussen Adamisho
Juwar Aliye
Kadir Abdalla – arm broken and head injury following torture
Kubira Hassan
Mohammed Abdi
Mohammed Huse
Mohammed Rudwan – badly injured by torture
Mika’el Yusuf
Mume Ahimad
Mustafa Mohammed
Nassir Hamido
Nure
Xibabu Tolassa
Zakko Mohammed – head injury in custody

Guduru, Wallega

Yadesh

Gimbi, Wallega (many of these were taken to Sanqalee Military Camp, Showa, 300 km from Gimbi)

Ababa Kumara	Asrat Yadassa
Abas Mohammed	Banti Kuma *
Abebaye Hika	Bari Yadassa
Abebaye Tamiru	Belay Jabera
Abebe Tasissa	Belay Yadata
Abera Bayana	Bayana Badhassa
Adamu Tamiru	Biratu Lata
Adane Etana	Bona Wariyo
Admasu Mamo	Bulti Abara
Adugna Bayana	Cali Farada
Abiyot Debissa	Dabala Bojia
Ahmad Jabarra	Daniel Bobo
Akililu Adugna	Daraje Tola
Alebachu Busa	Dawit Fekade
Annane Waqqari	Damisse Gamachu
Andenet Tamiru	Degefa Tasissa
Asfaw Emanu	Degefa Daniel
Ashebir Hordofa	Degefa Waqtola

Dinqa Bulti
Dulla Yohannes
Ejigu Mako
Elias Hambissa
Eligayehu Tasgara
Enaqabu Mitiku
Endalew Kebede
Ephraim Gobana
Etana Abara
Feqadu Daniel
Feqadu Dhuguma
Gamachis Etana
Gamachis Magarssa
Gamachu Busa
Garamew Ayana
Girma Tesfa
Gutu Etana
Habtamu Ligaba
Habtamu Nagassa
Habtamu Taye
Habte Tesema
Haile Riqitu
Israel Dhibissa
Kanassa Lamessa
Lalissa Boongasse
Lata Tamasgen
Malkamu Jargafa
Marqos Bulti
Marqos Taressa
Misganu Kusa
Mulugeta Berhanu
Nuredin Mustafa

Qano Sileshi
Radeny Mohammed
Sanbato Bulcha
Shimelis Emiru
Solomon Mulugeta
Tadele Bulti
Tafara Itticha
Tafari Mamo
Taklu Bulti
Taklu Teesso
Tamasgen Jujuse
Tamasgen Akuma
Tariku Jira
Tariku Worqu
Tasfaye Garba
Tasfaye Qumbi
Tigistu Boya
Tilahun Waqbulcho
Tolossa Tashome
Tsegu Wolde-Yohannes
Tufa Suukessa
Wahima Amaya
Walqixe Olani *
Waqgari Boobo
Wondimu Bulcha
Wondimu Etana
Wondimu Gutama
Yadassa Habte
Yasin Sayid *
Yusuf Nura
Zarihun Gejo

* – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

In addition to the above arrests, Miss Tsayinesh Alamu Yosef, 16, from Nejo, suffered permanent uterine damage from injuries during Gimbi secondary school protests on 15 November and Miss Galane Qixessa 16, from Jarso, was permanently paralysed due to a bullet wound to her right leg (information via Norway, 21 May).

Dawit Mekonnen Kinati, 18, Yohannes Mekonnen Kinati, 16, and Zelalem Mulatu Nagari, 17, from Warra Sayo, Gimbi, were tortured, expelled and now live in hiding. Gamachis Yosef Ayana, 14, also from Warra Sayo, Gimbi, is now in hiding after two months detention in Karchale, Addis Ababa (information via Norway, 21 May).

Nekemte, Wallega

Adugna Lamessa	Gamachis Asfaw
Abraham Likassa *	Gamachis Shimalis
Bafaqadu Dabala *	Getahun Amanu
Bijigdu Warqina	Gonfa Duressa *
Dawit Mengistu	Gudata Shube *
Desalegne Ayele	Hambissa Misganu
Desalegne Tasfaa	Hunduma Waqessa
Dhaba Asafa *	Moti Bogale
Dhugassa Mangasha – transferred to Karchale Central Prison by end March	Sanyi Tadassa *
Ebissa Olqaba	Sara Desalegne
Feqadu Nagara *	Taye Kafiyalo
Galati Jirenya	Warqina Dhinsa
	Yisaq Marqos

*– transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Qellem, Wallega

Feqadu Shibashi – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Didhessa, Wallega

Dhugassa Yadata
Ms Lensa Dheressa

Dembi Dollo, Wallega

Yonas Galana – transferred to Maikelawi CID by end March

Protests March – June 2006

Students again clashed with Federal Police in Oromia Region in the second week of March. *VOA* (13 March) reported that peaceful anti-government demonstrations began on 10 March and led to violent clashes with police and other security personnel in especially Ginchi, Guder, Ambo, Chelia and Geda in W. Showa, Bedeno, Deder, Water, Chelenko and Qorsa in E. Hararge and in Nekemte and Hamiru in W. Wallega. In Ginchi, a number of students were injured and one policeman was killed. The *Reporter* (12 March) wrote that arrests were being made. *Ethiomeia* (16 March) also reported clashes and closure of schools in Awassa, SNNPR. (See below.)

On 20 March, students at the secondary school in Dire Dawa hoisted the flag of the OLF and security forces arrested 26 students and the school director, according to *Addis Almas* (25 March) and an informant from Dire Dawa. The school was closed for three days and disturbances spread to Legehar elementary and junior schools and the Sabeen school. Security forces intensified searches near the secondary school and searched government offices and vehicles. *VOA* (21 March) reported

student disturbances in Fiche, Showa, and Galamso, Hararge, also on 20 March. **One student was killed** and nine wounded at Galamso where ‘full participation’ of the community was reported. Police seriously wounded one student and arrested 48 others in Fiche.

The *Reporter* (26 March) wrote that eight students were injured in protests in Alemaya University on 24 and 25 March, following the **killing of** an 18 yr old 9th grade student, named **Mohammed Suufi** by *Sudan Tribune* (16 April) by the Damot kebele chairman, Abdalla Hussien, and the reprisal killing of a militiaman. Mohammed Suufi was killed for burning the OPDO flag. Federal Police beat and arrested students on campus after they protested at not being allowed to attend the funeral the previous day.

Further disturbances erupted between Oromo and Tigrean students, supported by security forces, at the Dire Dawa campus of Alemaya (Haro Maya) University, E. Hararge, from 10 to 13 April following the rape of a student. Amanuel Tesfaye, Hailu Kifle and Anwar Johar are among those detained. Lata Qindessa, Dale Abdissa, Bayissa Galata, Girma Tesfaye and Dirriba Fiqre are among those needing medical attention. There were also disturbances in Hirna, E. Hararge, where Mustafa, Ame Shankor, Abraham Yusuf and Amadu were among those detained, according to *Sudan Tribune*.

Assefa Getachew and Odit Assefa, from Chelenko, were sentenced to three years and six months respectively in Metta, E. Hararge, on 24 April, for inciting unrest on 8 March at Rarre school, according to the *Republic* (6 May).

Oromo National Congress (ONC) chairman, Tesfaye Tolosa, complained that party members were again being arrested and mistreated in late May, and gave for example the two day detention without charge of ONC member Tariku Gutatu, according to the *Reporter* (28 May). Former chairman, Merera Gudina, claimed that 3,000 ONC members were in detention, including six MPs, according to the *Republic* (4 June). One MP was so disenchanted he had joined the OLF, he said.

Killings at Adama (Nazareth)

Fortune (28 May) reported two deaths and 20 injured, while the *Reporter* (28 May) wrote of 25 killings on 27 May in Adama, 98 km south of Addis Ababa, when businessmen protested at being forcibly moved from their areas for the last 31 years. Shots were fired, roads were blockaded and tyres were set on fire.

Tension continued to be high between Oromo and Tigrean students at Adama University following the death by suicide of Tigrean student, Mowahl Arefayne, on 2 June. Students clashed the following day, with many injured. Classes were suspended, according to the *Reporter* on 7 June. Students were seen leaving with their belongings and many were being searched by security forces. When Mowahl’s body was returned to Tigray, there were further clashes (see below).

Addis Ababa and Central Oromia

MPs detained, tortured and threatened

Abiyot Kebede, MP for Werejarso Woreda, N. Showa, belonging to the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM) told *VOA* that he and a companion were abducted by plain-clothed security men near his home in Addis Ababa in late March (posted on Nazret.com). They were forced into a car and blind-folded. His ID card was destroyed and his parliamentary immunity ignored. He and his companion were driven to a church cemetery, badly beaten and threatened with immediate execution unless they confessed to inciting students to oppose the government and to sympathising with the, now illegal, Macha-Tulama Association. At one stage he was threatened with four guns at once, including one in his mouth. In the same report, ONC representative for Jeldu Woreda, Mrs Derbe Yirga Sireda complained of threats and intimidation preventing her calling a public meeting, the detention of her son and the beating and temporary detention of her daughter.

Detentions

Tsegaye Wolde-Yohannes, 70 yr old elder and former Board member of the Macha-Tulama Association, was taken on 4 April to Maikelawi Central Investigation Department for unknown reasons. (OSG informant, Norway, 6 April 2006).

Jambaru Lamu Fayissa, private engineering contractor, was taken from his work place to Maikelawi CID on 14 December 2005 and held without charge.

Birhanu Gamachu Fayissa, close relative of the above and 4th year management student at Addis Ababa University, was taken to Maikelawi from his dormitory the same day.

Again on 14 December, Getachew Amente was taken from his shop and internet café in the capital. The premises were looted and his relatives, Mrs Burane (Buzulem) Dhugassa, Desalegne Kumsa and Dereje Galata were also taken to Maikelawi and held without charge.

Jambere Mulata, elder and employee of Abyssinia Bank, was taken from his work place to Maikelawi on 15 December.

Matewos Tarfa, Addis Ababa University student, was taken to Maikelawi from the Sidist Kilo campus on the same day. (OSG informant, Norway, 19 December 2005).

South Oromia

Kenyan Oromo drought victims robbed and forcibly returned

On 19 April the Kenyan *Nation* newspaper reported that Oromo people who had crossed into Borana, Southern Oromia Region, in December 2005 to escape drought, were rounded up and expelled by Ethiopian soldiers.

Thousands of Kenyan Oromo from North Horr, Marsabit District, had travelled over the border with their animals as they had done for many years when drought conditions were bad. They enjoyed good relations with local Oromo.

However, one day after Dr Bonaya Godana, the Oromo MP for North Horr, was killed in a plane crash, Ethiopian administrators surrounded the visitors' manyattas, rounded up their animals and drove them away and then told the Kenyans to leave.

They were forced to walk back to Kenya and forbidden to take their animals or their temporary shelters with them.

Chief Tuye Katelo, from Dukana, N. Horr, told the newspaper that 497 families were driven off and 1,000 cattle, 1,730 camels, 4,582 goats and 52 donkeys in addition to 172,000 shillings were taken from the pastoralists.

The families were held together in camps for one day before their animals were taken and they were driven off.

Twelve men were abducted by Ethiopian forces and local leaders claim that the Ethiopians were more likely to attack the community since the death of their representative Dr Bonaya Godana. They feared the repeat of last year's killings in Turbi, N. Horr, when 95 lost their lives.

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region

Sidama and Gedeo

Amnesty International (AFR 25/008/2006) reported on 31 March that hundreds of people, including many Hawassa (Awassa) University students, were arrested at demonstrations in Hawassa and Yirgalem on 2 February and that most had been released without charge a few days later. Demonstrations for the elevation of Sidama to full regional status again took place on 12 March and were met with severe beatings by Federal Police. Amnesty International and *Ethiomed* (16 March) reported injuries when police surrounded schools and abducted students. Deaths by shooting were initially reported but OSG has received no confirmed reports. Over 60 were known to have been arrested, including employees of the Sidama Development Corporation and USAID. All were reported released by the

end of April (Amnesty International AFR 25/017/2006, 4 May 2006). Students were reportedly tortured.

On 12 March, *Sidama Concern* reported that large units of federal security forces were stationed in tents at Magara and Agara, in Dale district, and that local farmers and residents were being intimidated.

A little further south, disturbances were reported on 2 April in Dilla (*Reporter 5 April, Addis Admas* 8 and 15 April) with **three killed**. Further disturbances occurred in Dilla, Fisseha Guenet, Bule and Yirgachefe from 6 to 12 April. Roads were blocked by protestors and at least **three more were killed**. Injuries and business closures were reported. *Sendek* and *Negadras* (19 April) reported rioting and fighting was between Gujji, Gedeo, Amhara and Gurage peoples, with Federal Police and later Ethiopian army involvement. Previous disturbances in this area have been fomented by government forces, although fighting has routinely been attributed to inter-ethnic conflict by the Ethiopian government (see *Sagalee Haaraa* 31, July 2000, p.8).

Gambella

Genocide Watch (genocidewatch@aol.com, Washington, D.C.) and the UK-based Aegis Trust (office@Aegistrust.org) issued genocide alerts on 14 and 15 April, warning of atrocities against Anuak people in Gambella and in Sudan by the Ethiopian army and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA).

Genocide Watch has previously reported the killing of over 2,500 Anuak beginning with the massacre of 440 by Ethiopian soldiers in December 2003 in Gambella town (see OSG Press Release 40, July 2004, pp. 29-36). This is blamed by Anuak leaders on the discovery of major oil reserves in Gambella in 2003 by the Malaysian oil firm Petronas, which has been granted concessions in the area by the Ethiopian government. At least 5000 Anuak fled to Pochalla in Sudan in January 2004 and it was feared then that the Ethiopian army would follow. Over 17,000 displaced Anuak are now in Pochalla and 10,000 in nearby Otalo. The April reports were of roads to Pochalla and Otalo being blocked to the east by Ethiopian forces and to the west by SPLA. The Anuak community in Pochalla feared killings on a greater scale than in 2003/4.

Genocide Watch reported that troops had invaded Sudan in late March 2006 in their report 'Ethiopian Army Murders, Rapes, and Kidnaps Sudanese Anuaks'. They have demanded that 18 Anuak leaders in Pochalla, many of whom are Sudanese, be handed over.

According to the Aegis Trust 'Members of the Anuak community state that disarmament operations commenced on 4 April and claim that they have been accompanied by extreme violence against civilians, including killings, rapes, the looting of property and the burning of houses'.

Under western diplomatic pressure some troops were withdrawn on 12 April but 'some of the Ethiopian troops sent from Dimma, Ethiopia reportedly remain in

Sudan, reuniformed as troops of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army' and 'they have reportedly pillaged up to thirty Anuak villages and carried out mass killings and rapes' state Genocide Watch.

The **troops** tortured and murdered the chief of Pinythiinh village, Sudan, **murdered five Anuak** in Obwodi village (two women, two men and one child) and they killed three elders and one child and kidnapped ten boys in Tado village, Ethiopia. Other young men have been kidnapped and taken to Pinyudo village, the report states. 'The Ethiopian Army has systematically raped the women of Obwodi, Pinythiinh, Tado, Nyium and other Anuak villages. Genocide Watch bases its charges on multiple direct Anuak sources in Pochalla, Sudan, corroborated by international organizations and Western governments.'

The organisation further states that the 'Ethiopian government is attempting to repopulate the province [Gambella] with settlers from the Ethiopian highlands, who view the Anuak as racially inferior. Genocide Watch has declared a Genocide Alert'.

In October 2005, the Ethiopian government news agency announce that Anuak 'anti-peace forces' had attacked a church and prison in Gambella and that **six of them had been killed**. On 26 December, the Anuak Justice Council announced that 16 Anuaks including the former governor of Gambella, Okello Ngello, were released from prison after appearing in court on 2 December. They were arrested with 28 others in October 2002 and remained in prison for over three years without trial. 'Of the 44 detainees, **six died in prison**. Prior to their arrests in 2002, ethnic conflicts between the Anuak and Nuer had resulted in large numbers of internally displaced Anuak in the Itang district of Gambella. At that time, the regional government, led by Governor Okello Ngello, called on the central government for help, but their requests were denied. Okello then turned to the Anuak community in Ethiopia and the Diaspora, asking them to send funds to provide for the growing number of internally displaced Anuaks.

The Anuak responded generously, however, the central government viewed Anuak's well-organized efforts and unity as an impending threat to their authority and it was this event that led to the arrest of the Anuak leaders. At the hearing, police could not verify the accusations and so the judge ordered police to release the 16 defendants immediately. However, trial dates have not yet been set for the remaining 22 people.'

Tigray Region

Oromo students beaten by Tigrean students, residents and police

According to a detailed report from Oromo students at Mekele University in Tigray Region on 6 June, they and other non-Tigrean students were badly beaten

and subject to racist attacks for four days following the return of the body of a Tigrean student from Adama (Narareth) University in Oromia Region at the beginning of June.

During and after the funeral of Mowahl Arefayne, residents and students in Mekele took to the streets chanting for revenge against Oromo students whom they blamed for his death. Armed with knives, wooden clubs, iron bars and firearms, they battled with Federal Police who kept them out of the Ende-Yesus and Adi Hakki campuses. The next day, the Federal Police, which included Oromo and other non-Tigreans, were replaced with Tigrean Regional police and Agazi Special Forces. Clashes then developed on the Adi Hakki campus between students at the Faculty of Business and Economics.

Oromo students were rounded up and taken to prison while Tigrean students rallied on the Ende-Yesus campus demanding secession from Ethiopia for Tigray, expulsion of non-Tigrean students from Mekele and removal of Federal Police. Chants and songs included racist anti-Oromo messages, it was reported. Oromo students reported feeling under siege from students and residents and an unsympathetic police force. Pamphlets circulated the Adi Hakki campus warning Oromo students to leave within three days or face 'severe harm'.

The father of Mowahl Arefayne came to the campus to explain that his son had committed suicide (by hanging) but his appeal was met with Tigrean students' demands that Oromo students be 'kept from their sight and driven out of their country'.

Oromo students were restricted to campus for several days and restricted to dormitories after 9.00 p.m. The 'sight of a gathering of a few Oromo students is not tolerated and we are dispersed with baton-armed Tigrean policemen' they reported.

Dozens were reportedly injured during two nights of violence and at least some were refused treatment at local hospitals.

Ogaden/Somali Region

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee issued its latest report on 20 February 2006, covering abuses which have occurred since its report on 22 January 2004. The following information is taken from that report unless otherwise stated. The full report 'Mass killings in the Ogaden: Daily atrocities against civilians by the Ethiopian armed forces' may be obtained from ohrc@ogadenrights.org

Killings

Qabridaharre

Detainees at Birgaydhka military detention camp demonstrated peacefully about conditions of their detention. Protestors were tortured and denied access to medical

treatment. An escape attempt thus occurred on 15 November 2005. Soldiers threw hand grenades and opened fire **killing more than 20** (17 of whom are named in the report) and wounding at least 45. Civilians coming to the aid of the injured were also fired upon and included in the dead and wounded. Twelve others are missing since the incident. Bodies were not allowed to be buried but remained on display for two days.

Farmadow

Seven named innocent civilians were **shot dead** and 15 injured when troops opened fire in Farmadow on 26 October 2005, without apparent reason.

Shilaabo

On 29 July 2005, government soldiers **shot dead six** (four of whom are named) and wounded many others when they opened fire on a group at a tea shop listening to the BBC Somali service, because an ONLF member was being interviewed.

Madax-Maroodi

Three named pastoralists **were shot dead** on 15 March 2005 for unknown reasons.

Karin-Bilcille

On 30 November 2004, **four** named pastoralists were **shot dead** by government forces while tending their camels in this area in Qabridaharre district.

Other killings

A number of civilians including **five men** named in the report were **shot dead** in Goray by Ethiopian armed forces on 19 March 2004.

On 7 April 2004, government soldiers **shot dead two**, including a pregnant mother at Golhabreed, Dhuxun district, and wounded a one year old baby (all named in the report).

Abdi Elmi was killed by soldiers on 15 April 2004 in Boodhlay, Dhagaxbuur, for no known reason.

Two named civilians were shot dead by government forces on 20 April 2004 in Geerigo'an.

Government soldiers fired on a civilian truck **killing 10 civilians** and wounding 17 others, on the road between Qabridaharre and Waadheer, for no apparent reason on 16 June 2004.

Abdinur Osman Yusuf, a civilian in Galaalshe, was **shot** in revenge for the loss of an Ethiopian soldier in fighting the ONLF on 21 July 2004.

Elder, **Dahir Adan Hirsi**, of Laab, Godey region, **was killed** for no known reason by government soldiers on 3 August 2004.

Five were named as killed on 10 August in Fiiq and Waadheer, one on 25 August in Godey and one on 28 August in Qudhac Dhabab, near Farmadow, all for no apparent reason.

Four named civilians in Lahelow on 29 August **and two** in Ceel Berde (South-west Somalia) on 31 August 2004 **were killed** by Ethiopian troops.

Government soldiers **shot dead** the Mayor of Jeerin, **Abdirahman Sheikh Khalif**, in September 2004.

Ibrahim Ahmed Barkhadle was killed on 6 October in Geerigo'an and **Sulekh Mahamed Hayd (female) was killed** on 4 October in Toonceeleey, by government forces.

ONLF fighters **shot dead** a named and **wrongly suspected informer** in Qorraxay in December 2004.

Mawlid Sh. Abdi Gas, a nomad, was killed by government troops in Wargaadsan on 7 December.

Ethiopian government **forces killed Abdiwahab Moallim Ahmed** and seriously wounded Osman Ali in Yucub on 30 March 2005.

Two civilians in Fiiq, **Khadar Abdullahi Mohammed and Ahmed Sheikh Barkhadle, were shot dead** by security forces on 19 April 2005, for no apparent reason.

Well known Qabridaharre doctor, **Ahmed Gurey Abib, was killed** on 18 May 2005, by gunfire from Ethiopian forces while he travelled in a convoy between Shaygoosh and Birqod. Two other civilians were injured.

Mohammed Nur Abdi, the cousin of an opposition candidate in the delayed elections, was **shot dead** in broad daylight in August 2005 in Dhagaxbuur.

Tea shop owner, **Bashir Abdi Abbi, and his son were shot dead** by government forces in Barida, Dhuxun district, on 29 October 2005, for not paying extortion money.

In Garloogubey, on 10 December 2005, **six civilians, including religious scholar Sheikh Bashir Ismail, were shot dead** by Ethiopian troops for no apparent reason.

Mohammed Abdirahman, a detainee in Jigjiga prison, was taken from his cell on 5 January 2006 and **shot dead**.

Hassan Moallim Qorane, a civilian in Waafdhuug, was **shot dead** by government forces on 16 January 2006.

Disappearances

5 March 2004 – Ahmed Dolal Duale, Dayin Ahmed Gabane, H. Farah Mursal and Nassir Adan Dhari were arrested in Dusmo and taken to Awaare military barracks, where they were accused of supporting the ONLF, tortured and subsequently disappeared.

9 March 2004 – Teacher, Ahmed Mohammed Fatule was taken from his home in Waadheer at gunpoint and subsequently disappeared.

1 May 2004 – Arrablow Mohammed Hassan and Barre Mohammed Mohamoud, two nomads who were watering their camels in Ananu, Awaare district, were abducted by Ethiopian armed forces and disappeared.

10 June 2004 – Khalif Abdullahi Omar was detained by militia loyal to Reyale Kahin in Burao, North-west Somalia, accused of being an ONLF member, tortured and disappeared.

23 November 2004 – Abdi Kafa Ali and Bashir Khalif disappeared from detention in Jigjiga military barracks.

17 January 2005 – Abdi Ibrahim, Jefad Farah Abdi, Abdi Dahir, Siraje Abdi Shafe'a and Yusuf Mohammed were detained in Boodhey and disappeared after being transferred to Shaygoosh military barracks.

10 February 2005 – Fathi Mohammed Khalif and Omar Moallim Sahardid were taken at gunpoint from their homes in Barmiilka after government forces looted their properties and have been untraceable by their families since then.

15 November 2005 – Shamsudin Bashir disappeared during the Qabridaharre massacre and is presumed dead.

Rape

Frequent rape, forced marriage and sex slavery by government forces are commonly reported and have caused a sharp rise in cases of HIV/AIDS. Many rape victims are reported to have fled to neighbouring countries because of the associated stigma. Despite warnings of severe retribution if cases are reported, the OHRC has published the beating up and gang rape of two named women in Golhabreed, Dhuxun district, by government soldiers on 7 April 2004, the **death** of teenager Wadiya Mohammed Aidid after being gang-raped by soldiers on 6 June 2004, the gang-rape of a thirteen year-old in Fiiq and her needing hospital treatment in Harar for genital injury, and the attempted rape of Ubax Mohammed Khalif in September 2004 in Xamaro. When she escaped from the soldier who was trying to rape her, he threw a hand-grenade at her, causing serious injuries.

Torture

The OHRC report many cases of torture with methods similar to those used elsewhere in Ethiopia – beating with sticks, iron bars, electric cable, boots and gun butts (including on soles of feet, ankles, shins and testicles), mock execution, suspension upside down, burning with cigarettes, injuries resulting in amputation of limbs, limb fractures, partial suffocation by burial, being forced to drink salty water or urine, tying of limbs behind the back, prolonged exposure to sunlight, sleep and food deprivation and denial of medical care. **Two detainees, Hiis Muse Jama and Ahmed Mohamoud Hussein, died from torture injuries** in Hargeisa

Central Jail in September and December 2005, respectively. Four co-detainees of Ahmed are reported to be in a critical condition.

Detention and other abuses

Numerous detentions, including human rights defenders, women and children are reported – including a total of over 60 named detainees in nine incidents of arbitrary detention under the pretext of supporting the ONLF. Almost all are beaten and/or tortured and held without charge or trial.

Looting of vehicles, grain and large numbers of animals is reported as is the looting and razing to the ground of Fooljeex village, 44 km east of Qabridaharre, and the government's stated intention of razing six more villages around Qabridaharre.

Dismissal of 150 teachers and over 5,000 civil servants in Somali Region is reported since 2003, so that non-Somalis can take up their posts.

In a press release, 15 September 2005, the OHRC report the continued detention in Hargeisa, Somaliland (North-west Somalia) of 31 civilians on suspicion of involvement with the ONLF. They initially appeared in court on 15 June 2004. On 2 September, 28 appeared before Hargeisa High Court and were acquitted because there was no evidence against them. However, the police took them back to their cells. **Three of the original detainees did not appear in court and their families fear for their safety.**

YEMEN

UNHCR report drownings

The *Republic* (5March) wrote of BBC and UNHCR reports of 33 people were found dead after being forced to jump into the sea by traffickers taking them to Yemen. In all, 137 were forced to jump and those who survived risked torture and rape in Yemen. UNHCR said that about 100 people entered Yemen illegally on a daily basis during the first half of 2005.

Nuho Gobena detained

Well known musician and singer, Nuho Gobena, was arrested when on vacation in Yemen at the end of October 2005. Despite protests by Oromo living in North America, where Nuho has lived for a number of years, he was held for several months before being released in early 2006. It is suspected that he was detained at the request of Ethiopian authorities because of his known Oromo nationalist stance.

Oromo refugees denied resettlement in USA

Oromo refugees in Yemen, at risk of detention because of cooperation between Yemen security personnel and the Ethiopian government security apparatus (as in Djibouti), complained on 14 August 2005 that they were denied the opportunity for resettlement in the USA because the resettlement officer who came to interview them was an Amhara, Aster Zeleke.

Several had spent between one and 3½ months in detention in Sana'a in 2003 and seven individuals with their families had been recommended resettlement prior to interview, having lived with insecurity in Yemen for up to 13 years.

Kenya

Refugees harassed

VOA reported on 28 December that Kenyan police were at last investigating allegations that Ethiopian government agents were kidnapping and harassing Oromo refugees in Kenya. UNHCR representative in Kenya, Rosella Pagliuchi, was reported to have acknowledged the insecurity felt by Oromo refugees in the country and to have welcomed the investigation.

Hundreds of Oromo gathered outside UNHCR offices in Nairobi on 27 December to complain about abductions instigated by the Ethiopian government and claimed that some had been killed.

Somalia

Refugees treated harshly

A seven person committee of Oromo refugees representing 52 living in Somalia wrote an open letter to the UNHCR protection unit in Hargeisa at the beginning of December 2005 complaining of their treatment by UNHCR personnel. They complained of harsh words and racist comments by interviewing officers, the use of force, often involving military personnel, in removing refugees from offices and the denial of the validity of ICRC certificates of detention in Ethiopia. They said that interviewing officers claimed there was stability and peace in Ethiopia and even ordered soldiers to beat refugees in their offices.

Nearly all of the 52 bore ICRC certificates of detention in Ethiopia.

Swedish cameraman shot dead

Martin Adler, the Swedish cameraman who spent time with the OLF in southern Oromia Region and helped to publicise the plight of Oromo in Ethiopia, was shot dead in Mogadishu on June 23 while filming a demonstration. Reuters, 26 June, reported that the demonstration was a protest about interference by Ethiopia in Somalia and was also in favour of the planned co-operation between the transitional government and the Union of Islamic Courts. Thirteen foreign journalists have been killed in Somalia since 1991, including BBC Africa correspondent, Kate Peyton in February 2005. Foreigners are treated with suspicion because the CIA is backing warlords which the Islamic militia have successfully driven out of Mogadishu, with overwhelming popular support. However, the killing is widely suspected in Somalia to have been committed by an agent of the Ethiopian government, which has since invaded the country, with U.S. backing, to remove the Union of Islamic Courts and their militia. Martin Adler, 47 yr old father of two, was shot from behind by a hooded gunman who then melted into the crowd. His Oromo acquaintances also believe that an Ethiopian government agent was responsible. A Dutch NGO employee met a similar fate in Dire Dawa in the mid 1990s.



Martin Adler, moments before he was shot dead on 23 June.