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Ethnic cleansing in Amhara Region; collapse of democracy and rule of law; attacks in Guliso; massacre of migrants in Yemen

Wollo Oromo, isolated within Amhara Region, were attacked by Amhara militia in Oromia Special Zone and adjacent zones from 19-22 March (pp.9-12) and 25-28 March (see Late News, pp.25-6) . At least 13 villages were razed to the ground. The militia went on a rampage of killing, raping and burning homes and crops (illustrated below, around Kemise).
In five villages in Jille Dhuguma district and ten villages in the adjacent district of Artuma Fursi alone, at least 79 named farmers and their wives were killed, not counting those killed in Ataye town. Eye-witnesses reported hundreds dead, 'bodies everywhere' and over 10,000 displaced.
In a press release, the OLF wrote of killings by Amhara militias elsewhere - in Tigray and in Benishangul-Gumuz Regions - and that Amhara Liyu Police were deployed throughout Wallega and in West and North Showa. Earlier in the year, on 15 February, Amhara militia attacked villagers in an adjacent area of E Wallega, Gida Ayana, killing dozens and wounding more (p.17).

Collapse of law and order is most apparent in Wallega, although political killings and detention are occurring across Ethiopia, especially in Oromia Region. In this report, another 596 killings by pro-government forces brings the total recorded by OSG to 1,938. Another 92 dead before 2020 comes to 597; another 280 in 2020 makes 1,117. In 2021, quite apart from the score of thousands in Tigray, OSG has recorded 224 killed, 53 in Wallega Zone alone.

Attacks by government soldiers on civilians in Guliso, SW Wallega, from 19-24 March left six dead and at least twelve families homeless after their property was burned down and contents destroyed, not for the first or last time (pp.18-9, 26).

Most killings of suspected political opposition supporters are more individually targeted (eg pp.14-17). Barbaric torture, rape and summary execution continue to be hallmarks of Abiy Ahmed's regime. Prisoners in police custody are dragged out of prison and executed. Others are taken from homes or simply shot on the street. Bodies are discarded in the bush for hyenas to eat. Even 12th Grade secondary school students sitting School Leaving Certificate

Examinations in March were targeted for killing and arrest across Wallega (pp.17, 20). As corruption has grown and court orders to release prisoners on bail are increasingly ignored by police, lawyers now report that police are demanding bribes to release detainees who have been cleared by courts; a business whereby accusation of OLF support generates income.

The government has destroyed the possibility of a meaningful outcome from the 2021 elections by killing and detaining supporters and officers of the Oromo Liberation Front and Oromo Federalist Congress. In a press release 24 March, Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa, now in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa, verifyied complaints by OLF and OFC, including the closure of OLF headquarters in the capital in July 2020 and the illegal detention of officials since mid-2019. A staggering 884 senior OLF officials and members have been placed and remain in detention.
The OFC has suffered a similar fate. Over 300 of the party's candidates, officials and members are detained. Over 103 OLF offices had been closed and looted by early December and 195 OFC offices have been now closed.
Arrests are continuing (pp.8-9); of OLF public relations officer Bate Urgessa and his driver on 20 March - denied release by court order on 1 April; of Boonaa Yaazoo, a lawyer representing OLF detainees, 23 March; re-arrest on 29 March of top OLF youth leaders Lami Begna and Dawi Abdeta as they left court (p.8, photograph above), and the detention on 31 March and 2 April of security guards at OLF Headquarters and Chairman's residence, respectively (p.9).
Both the OLF and OFC were certified to take part in the coming general election by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia. NEBE Chairperson, Birtukan Mideksa, herself a former political prisoner, in a press conference, 17 March, said it was beyond the board's capacity to intervene in the arrest of party members and the closure and looting of their offices.
The OLF and OFC have withdrawn from the election.

Persecution promotes refugee flow.
Despite civil war and a dangerous sea passage, Yemen still attracts Oromo refugees. Over 400 died when subjected to explosion and fire in a holding facility in Sana'a on 7 March (see p.25 for full account).

A trusted OSG colleague disappeared shortly after sending this and other photographs of men killed in early 2021 in W Hararge (p.12). Soldiers are laughing as they taunt the unarmed civilian before shooting him dead.

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Abbreviations

HRLHA	Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa
OLA	Oromo Liberation Army
OLLAA	Oromo Legacy, Leadership and Advocacy Association
OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
OSG	Oromia Support Group
OMRHO	Oromo Menschenrechts und Hilfsorganisation
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region
TPLF	Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front

Sources

Gadado	Network of reporters to collator in Norway
HRLHA	Now based in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa
OMRHO	Human Rights and Relief Organisation, Hannover, Germany, 2020 Report
OLLAA	Based in USA, with database of rights abuses on website (January 2021)

Editorial note
Every entry in this report was accurate at the time it was reported to OSG. Individuals who are reported as detained may however have been released or killed by the date of publication (5 April 2021).

FINFINNEE/ADDIS ABABA AND CENTRAL OROMIA

Killings and shooting

Fikadu Tolera (left), a lecturer at Madda Walabu University in Robe, Bale, was **shot dead** in Shashemane, W Arsi, on 25 October, after posting on social media a message about the killing of five students (see p.14) in Nekemte, E Wallega, on 23rd (OMHRO).

Badhane Toyi, 10th grade student in Inciini town, Dire, W Showa, is shown right in Ambo hospital, critically ill after being shot by 'Prosperity Party security man named Guluma Ebissa' on 5 November (OMRHO).

Galana Imana (right), a known OLF member and supporter, was taken from his home in Ambo, W Showa, into *incommunicado* detention on 21 November, where **he was killed**. His body was found two days later in the nearby Debis river (OMRHO).

Taddesa Tufa, a Health Worker from Ejere, W Showa, was **killed** by government forces on 5 January 2021 (OLLAA).

Faruq (shown left, father's name not known) was **killed** by Oromia Special Forces at 19.40 on 26 February in Shashemane, W Arsi (*Gadado* 13 March).

Ms Qanani Chemeda and **Girma Bekele** (right) were **killed by soldiers** in Muger village, Muger district, W Showa, on 28 February and 1 March respectively *Gadado* 13 March).

Fayisa Qanani (left), father of three from Muger district, W Showa, was **taken from detention in Muger police station** by soldiers and **killed** on 4 March. His body **and** those of **two unidentified youngsters** (right) were later found in nearby forest.

Detention

US citizen Kanenus Kalid (left), originally from Shashemane, W Arsi, an employee of the UN, had been detained since 25 September when his continued detention was reported by OMRHO in January. He is being held in Bishoftu police station, E Showa, and has been mistreated because he refused to sign a document stating that $32,000 which had been stolen from him (by relatives of the Ethiopian Defence Forces Chief of Staff Berhanu Bulla, according

to OMRHO) had been returned to him. He has been falsely accused of rape, a charge which has been dropped and replaced with his being associated with detained politician Jawar Mohammed.

Sintayehu Bayu was taken from his office in Bako, W Showa, and detained in Bako police station on 14 January (*Gadado* 18 February).

On 7 February, UK-based Advocacy for Justice for the Oromo People (AJOP), released an update on OLF detainees who were being kept by police in defiance of court orders for their release. Corroborating reports to OSG by lawyers acting on their behalf and by *Gadado*, the group stated that the political detainees were frequently moved and held in places not known by their lawyers. Detained since at least July 2020 (OSG Report 53, p.7), none of the OLF detainees are being held legally. Colonel Gamachu Ayana (above) was emaciated after 11 months detention and torture, when released in December 2019, barely six months before his re-arrest.

Leaders Abdi Regassa, Mikael Boran, Lami Begna and Dawit Abdata had been bailed by four courts before 7 February, first Sululta District Court (police refused to release them), then Addis Ababa Special Zone High Court (Oromia Special Police transferred them to Sebata prison), and a third court order was met with further charges against Abdi Regassa, Lami Begna and Dawit Abdata.

Galan District Court ordered the release of Mikael Boran, Kenasa Ayana and Abdulgafar Umar Kadir - for the fourth time, without success.

Lami Begna (top right) and Dawit Abdata (bottom right) were acquitted in the second week of January but were not released. They were taken to an unknown destination from Sabata Dalati prison on 5 February. On 29 March, they appeared in court and were immediately acquitted. As they walked free from the court they were re-arrested and taken away by security forces (photograph, p.2).

The prosecutor dropped charges against Mikael Boran, Col. Gamachu Ayana, Kenasa Ayana and Abdulgafar Umar Kadir but police then transferred them to Sidist Kilo ‘secret prison’. Col. Gamachu Ayana was transferred several times - to Federal Police Headquarters (Meksico), Kilinto and Kaliti, where he is held in the dark and ‘his health is at risk’.

OLF central committee member Aman File, was detained in Burayu on 7 March 2020 (OSG Report 52, p.7) and released by Burayu District Court. The police refused to release him and transferred him between major prisons in the country before taking him to Yabello, Borana Zonal Police Station. He has not appeared in court since.

OLF Executive Committee member Gamachis Tolasa, was detained when attending to routine duties in Bedele at the same time; again without charge or court appearance, according to the AJOP report on 7 February.

OFC politicians drew international attention to their detention by a prolonged hunger strike, from 27 January to 7 March, 39 days. (Mahatma Gandhi’s longest hunger strike lasted 21 days.) When on the brink of organ failure, Bekele Gerba, Dejene Tafa and Jawar Mohammed were finally allowed to be transferred to private medical care on the evening of 2 March.

Application for transfer to hospital had been refused four times by the Attorney General, Gedion Timothewos, before pressure from foreign embassies persuaded the government to move the hunger-strikers. Bekele Gerba, Dejene Tafa and Jawar Mohammed were persuaded with difficulty by numerous delegations to end their hunger strike on 7 March.

Hunda'e Taffasa, from Dukem, Finfinnee, was detained on 24 November and Siddise Ebbisa, Finfinnee, was detained on 25 December (OLLAA).

Ms Wilii Asaffai (right), Fiche, Salale, a health officer at Fiche hospital, was detained on 10 January and was still being held without charge when reported by *Gadado* on 13 March.

Getachew Zeleke (left) the OLF representative in Shambu, Horo Guduru, E Wallega, was arrested in Asko, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa,on 23 January and held in Burayu police station up to the date of report by *Gadado*,13 March.

Chala Kabetio (below left), a teacher in Bulbula, Shashemane, W Arsi, was detained on 9 February, accused of organizing student protests (*Gadado* 13 February).

OLF Central Committee member Gada Gabisa (above right) was detained on his way home from a USAID National Democratic Institution meeting in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 9 February (*Gadado* 13 February).

Television producer and activist Meseret Dhaba (right) was taken by plain clothed police from her home in Haya Hulet, Finfinnee on 10 February after being questioned about her former work with the Oromia Media Network. She was arrested on 27 January for wearing yellow during a hearing of OFC defendants at Lideta branch of the Federal High Court. She is held now at Karamara police station (*Gadado* 13 February).

Ayantu Abera (left) was taken from her home in Dukem to Dukem police station on 30 January, where she remained for three weeks before being transferred to an unknown location on 18 February (*Gadado* 13 March).

Tirfe Berhanu (right) was arrested by security forces in Asko bus station on 1 February and detained in Burayu 1 Police Station (*Gadado* 13 March).

Composer and singer Dinqisa Debela was taken from his house during the morning of 17 February (*Gadado* 18 February).

Chali Teshome, from W Wallega, was arrested in Burayu, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 25 February (*Gadado* 13 March). When he complained he had done nothing wrong, he was told he would be sent back to a Wallega prison.

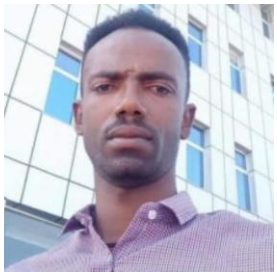
Falmata Lata (near right) and Dinayas Alemu (far right) were arrested in Tulu Bolo village, Bacho district, S Showa, and held in Tulu Bolo police station on 25 and 26 February respectively (*Gadado* 13 March).

Shasho Anbessa has been in Kaliti prison, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa, since 2016. He was not released with other political prisoners in 2017. *Gadado* reported on 13 March that he was taken from Zone 1 in Kaliti prison and taken to an unknown place. He is the right hand figure in the picture left, taken in Kaliti.

Gadado also stated that the Secretary of the OLF Chairman, Dawud Ibsa, Ms Meti Milko (right), who has been in detention in Burayu police station without charge or court appearance for more than five months, was severely unwell and that Kamila (left, father's name not known) who has been detained since July 2020, has been sentenced to 16 years in prison for demonstrating after the assassination of singer Hachalu Hundessa.

Diriba Waqjira (right), Vice-Chair of the Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa and Illilli Hotel Deputy Manager, whose detention and disappearance in custody in November was reported in OSG Report 54 (p.7) was again detained in an unknown location on 3 March. Morka Tekalegn (Model East African School Director - left) was also detained for the second time on 3 March, when on his way home from Finfinnee/Addis Ababa University (*Gadado* 13 March).

Gadado reported on 22 March that writer Ephraim Hambisa (above right) was arrested in Burayu, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 12 March;
Film producer Bilisuma Dinqu and other artists were beaten by security forces in Burayu district on 13 March;
Writer, Megistu Waquma was taken in the capital on 18 March and Nimona Urgessa was arrested in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa for the third time since 2018 on 19 March (*Gadado* 22 March).



On 20 March, OLF Public Relations Officer, Bate Urgessa, and his driver, Wondwoson Abdulkadir (both shown right) were detained in Burayu sub-city police station (HRLHA, 24 March). *Gadado* reported on the day of arrest that Bate's colleague, Gafarso Dabala was detained at the same time and that they were arrested when visiting detained OLF colleagues in that police station. Bate's release by court order was barred by police on 1 April (*Gadado* 3 April).

Boonaa Yazoo, a lawyer representing some of the OLF and OFC detainees, was abducted on his way from Adama to Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 23 March. He was held *incommunicado* in Bole until his location was discovered on 28 March, according to sources in the capital.

Security guards at OLF Headquarters in Gulale, Oda Jabessa and Duressa Tulu, were arrested on 31 March and detained in Burayu. Security staff at the OLF Chairman's residence, Yunus Ali, Kedir Emiru were taken on 2 April and held in police custody at Lafto, Nifas Silk (*Gadado* 3 April).

AMHARA REGION

Ethnic cleansing of Wollo Oromo

Gadado reported on 22 March that Wollo Oromo of Ataye had been attacked by Amhara militia (shown right). The Oromo of Wollo are isolated within Amhara Region, living in South Wollo and in Oromia Special Zone which borders Afar Region to the East.
Also on 22 March, *Addis Standard* reported that Amhara Region Militia (Amhara Special Forces - Liyu Hail), backed by Amhara residents, launched attacks on Oromo villages in both zones over four days, 19-22 March. Attacks on 25 and 28 March were later reported (p.25).
The violence began on Friday 19th evening when the Deputy Imam was shot dead outside the Grand Mosque in Ataye in Oromia Special Zone.
A video posted temporarily on Facebook showed farmers at a burnt out health facility in Jille Dhuguma. They clearly state that the unprovoked attacks were by Amhara militia.
Predictably, despite the nearest OLA fighters being hundreds of miles away, a statement by the regional authorities on 21 March blamed the violence on the OLF. Amhara propaganda followed suit with hate speech directed at the OLF. For example, Borkena.com on 20 March 'Ataye: Oromo Liberation Front opened war in Amhara region'.
Oromo residents confirm the Facebook video: ten bus-loads of armed militia were reported by one OSG contact. Oromo residents spoke of two wounded patients being dragged from ambulances and shot dead in South Wollo.

Some of the burnt properties in Kemise, Wollo, on 21 March, are shown left. A resident of Kemise told *Addis Standard* that there were many casualties; that a church, mosque and a whole compound of houses had been burnt by the mob. He said clashes between Oromo residents and Amhara Special Forces had been recurring for two years, adding 'Oromos have always suffered in this region. They attack us merely because we are Oromo.'
Kemise residents defended themselves and corralled the mob which, after some engagement, was controlled by Federal security forces.
Jille District Administrator Jemal Hasan told BBC Afaan Oromo on 21 March that all the victims were Oromo farmers. He said farms in five kebeles had been razed by Amhara militias. Obbo Jemal described media reports of Amhara forces fighting the Oromo

Liberation Army as false propaganda, saying 'there's no organised forces on the ground except farmers trying to protect their families with simple traditional weapons'.
One resident told *Addis Standard* 'I know what the other side is saying but it is a government force attacking unarmed civilians and no matter how they try to hide this truth behind any propaganda, the fact remains that Amhara Liyu Police shot the deputy imam of Ataye grand mosque and that ignited what you see now.'
Another said 'We had to defend ourselves against a regional government that wanted to harm us. . . . they wanted to do in Wollo what they did in Raya and other places. It was pre-meditated, they killed that imam in Ataye and they harmed the elders.'
In a statement on 21 March, the OLF reported that the attacks had been made in Ataye, Afrata, Jille and other districts where properties had been burnt. The OLF stated there were credible reports of at least 13 villages being razed. Another village, Arba Wayu in Jille Dhuguma, was torched on 25 March (see Late News, p.25)
One source reported that the most deadly fighting took place in Wesen Qurqur, Alala, Cheffa Robit, Qallo, Chirri and Majete, as well as Ataye, and that the militia were committing ethnic cleansing, clearing non-Amhara from the region, burning villages and crops, killing and raping.
Eritrean soldiers are among the militias; one researcher for the Macha Tulama Association found a photographic record of an Eritrean soldier's ID (right) worn by a killed assailant in Wollo.

A reporter for HRLHA told OSG on 27 March that it was difficult and dangerous getting information from the area and that hundreds had been killed and more than 10,000 displaced.
Gadado reported on 29 March a list of farmers killed in Jille Dhuguma (Jille Tiguma) district but not in Ataye, which lies within the district, in Oromia Special Zone. Artuma Fursi district is the district north of Jille Dhuguma, within the same zone.
Farmers killed by Amhara militias in Jille Dhuguma district include the following 48:

in Wesen Qurqur village:

Haji Mohammed Iya She Musa
Sibare Umar Mohammed
Mohammed Adam Mumuhiti
Ahmed She Aliyi
Temam Abaye Afed
Umer Aliy Umare
Adem Umer Mohammed
Umere Muhe Umar
Temam Abaye Ali
Ahmed Siraj She Aliy
Seid Ahmed Tilaye
Umar Muhe Umar
Umer Aliy Angone
Shambal Asefa
Umer Muhe Umar
Angude Haji Umadu
Aliyo Mohammed Musa
Umer She/Musa
Said Muhe Guracho
Hama Abay Mohammed
Ms Fatuma She/Ismael
She/Musa Ebrahim
Sherif Ahmed
Aliy Muhe Husen
Mohammed Abdale

in Balchi village:

Aliyo Jafar Baqe
Nigat Aliy Umar
Ahmed Bogale
Womado Buta
Hasan Aba Nuru
Aliy Ame She/Umar

in Nanoftu village:

Umer Aliy Umere
Hame She Adam
Mohammed Adam Abdala
Jemal Adem Dima

in Bate village

Hame Mohammed Adare
Dulo Umaru Aliy

Usuman Ire Usuman
Shambel Gasite
Mohammed Hasan Hamade
Ebrahm Amadu
in Goodaa village
Badhasi Jemal Ali
Said Ahmed Mohammed
Mohammed Musa Ade
Umer Ame Muhe
Seid Mohammed Hasan
Adem Mohammed Adam
Hasan Kabir

Farmers killed by Amhara militia in Artuma Fursi District, include the following 31:
in Dirre village:
Hasan Ahmed Arbiye
Umer Ahmed Ade
Umer Muhammed Muse
Hasan Husene Hasane
Muhammed Ahmed Abdu
Ahmed Yusuf Siraj
Ahmed Yusuf Beyene
Ahmed Husen Dingo
Umer Ahmed
Abdela Umer
Ahmed Kedir
in Edede village:
Toha Adam Toha
Ahmed Husen
Muhammed Husen Boru
Aliy Abero
Ahmedin Muhammed
Muhammed Adam Toha
in Coqorso village:
Ahmed Aliy Gilala
Abdu Aliy
Husen Ade
Said Muhale
Said Husen
Muhammed Said She/Muhe
Abdela Umer Boru (Coqorso 2)
others:
Aliy Hasan Bule and **Mohammed Hase** from Tukuye village
Ahmed Muhe Tahi, from Shasho
Adam Hasan Daid, from Ganda Haaraa (New Village)
Umer Mohammed, from Jazbe/Furse
Ahmed Muhammed Mahessa, from Furse
Ahmed Husen Kali, from Jara Qarchama

The following 42 (age in brackets), including at least eight children, were wounded in the attacks:
in Tikuye village:
Ahmed Musa Dawud
Ahmed Muhammed Ali
Ahmed Adam Umer
Muhammed Adam Abdela
Adam Umar Abdu
Ali Ahmed Debela
in Dirre village:
Muhammed Ali Indro (30)
Ali Muhammed Ahmed (50)
Said Mohammed Abdu (35)
Muhammed Ahmed Abdu (19)
Adam Muhammed Ahmed (40)
Mohammed Ahmed Abdu (19)
in Qacama village:
Umar Sagali Imam (45)
Yusuf Ahmed Aminu (65)
Kadir Umer Hasan (30)
in Caka village:
Hasan Musa Muhammed (30)
Ali Muhammed Hasan (45)
in Coqorso 2 village:
Abdela Muhammed Umer (25)
Dagne Dima (5)

Siraj She/Muhe (5)
Usumante Wayu (8)
in Ededa village:
Aliy Muhammed Adam
Arab Said Yimam
Haydar Umar Hasan
Umar Sagli Yimam
Yusuf Ahmed
in Cirati village:
Hasan She/Muhe (4)
Muhammed Musa (6)
in Jara village:
Aliy Mohammed Adem
others:
Hasan Umar Abdula (50) from Coqorso 1
Ali Husen Ali (19) from Furse
Yasufa Hasan Yasufa (24) from Fati
Umar Hasan Usuman (20) from Muri
Muhammed Husen Usuman from Bacesa

Ebrahim Haji (9)
Hasan Husen (5)

Muhammed Husen Aliy
Abdu Indris Adam
Abdu Umare Toha
Sheno Ebrahim
Yusuf Ebrahim Ali

Awalu Adam (8)

Aliy Mohammed Hasan

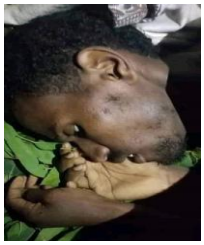
Gadado's reporter stated 'there were dead bodies everywhere' and that Ataye town, Jille Dhuguma Public Health Office, three villages in Jille Dhuguma district, and Dima village (shown right) in Artuma Furse district, were razed to the ground by Amhara Special Forces.

EASTERN OROMIA

Killings

On 24 October, father and young businessman **Fahmi Abdi Jamal**, was **shot dead** by 'local military forces' while on a business journey in his car at night in Awaday, E Hararge (OMRHO). His body is shown right.

Gamachu Mukta (left), also from Awaday, E. Hararge, **died from wounds** in November, three days after being **shot by soldiers** (OMRHO).



On 25 November, government soldiers opened fire on a group of Oromo, again in Awaday, E Hararge. Two **died immediately**, **Hayu Yuya** and **Musabe Nasradin**,(both right) and three were injured. It is not known if **Gamachu Mukta** (above left), who **later died**, was injured in the same attack (OMRHO).

Adam Yusuf and **Asado Ahmed** from Machara, W Hararge, were **killed** by government forces on 10 December (OLLAA).

Firomsa Sirak and **Zubeyri Xaha** from Dire Dawa, E Hararge, were **killed** on 21 and 25 December respectively.
Cala Aliyyi and **Canco Yusuf** from Sharif, Awaday, E Hararge, were **killed** on 26 December.
Kadar Yonis, a businessman in Shankor, Harar city, E Hararge, was **killed** on 4 January (OLLAA).

On 6 February, shortly before losing contact with OSG, a reliable informant from W Hararge sent **three photographs of men who were killed by government soldiers**. The names and locations of the killings are not known. The informant expressed concerns for his safety and has not been in contact since. He has been a trusted correspondent for ten years. The three photographs include a teenager, a detainee in an orange jumpsuit and a man who is clearly being taunted by soldiers before being killed. The soldiers are laughing.

Torture

Abdulhaviz Nasru Hassan (left), in Meta woreda, E Hararge, was reported by OMRHO to have been detained in a nearby military camp in December, where he was '**physically and psychologically tortured** and still under critical situation'.

Detention

Previously unrecorded imprisonments in East and West Hararge and in Bale were listed by OLLAA in January. The following were detained in Haromaya, E Hararge on 22 and 23 November:

Ayyala Girma
Baca Licha
Amansisa Girma
Fikadu Abdata
Gammachu
Geetuu Garrama
Habtamu Tashoma
Mulugeta Garrama
Nagashu Habtamu
Shallama Tullu

Mu'aza Suqul was detained in Dire Tayara (Dire Dawa Airport) on 23 December
The following were detained in Bale on 24 December:

Awwal Tahir
Fesal Tahir
Nasir Adam
Sa'ad Adam
Sahil Husen
Said Jamal
Seyfu Haji
Sufiyan Huseno

Taju Qadi
Tuji Mammo

The following were detained in Dobba, W Hararge, on 25 December:

Ibsa Alisho (24th)
Ibrahim Alisho
Adam Alisho
Ibrahim Husen
Adnan Jibril
Mohammed Ibrahim
Dine Husen

OLF member Abdela Yuyo (right) was taken from his home near Dire Dawa, E Hararge, on 2 March and held at Dirree Tiyara (Airport) police station (*Gadado* 13 March).

Organised looting

A military force including armoured vehicles is reported to have been systematically looting in E Hararge in early March. One vehicle used in Harar is shown left. *Gadado* reported on 13 March that the looting took place in Harar, Awaday, Babile, Cinaksen, Dadad, Fadis, Gursum, Haromaya, Gara-Muleta, Mi'esso and Midhaga Tola towns and cities on 5 March.

WESTERN OROMIA

Killings

Around midnight one night in September 2020, **Waqjira Bakare**, a young man in Gimbi, W Wallega, was **shot dead by soldiers** and his body (right) was disposed of under garbage on the street (OMHRO, January 2021).

The killing of five university students, all Qeerroo members, **shot dead** in cold blood in Nekemte on 23 October 2020 (OSG Report 54, p.17) was ordered by Commander Girma Abdissa, in control of the Oromia Special Force, Nekemte Regiment, according to OMHRO.

The bodies of **Ragu'el Hailu**, **Henok**, **Falmata**/**Abiti** and **Seifu Kedir** are shown (above right) being transported by horse and cart because relatives were forbidden to use motorised vehicles.

OMHRO also reported that **Daniel Ebissa** (left) **died after his tongue was cut out** while in police custody in Nekemte, E Wallega, at an unspecified date in October.

On 1 November, **Ayana** (father's name not known) was taken from the house of a relative he was visiting in Qaqee town, Dale Wabara, in the Qellem district of W Wallega, and **shot dead by soldiers**. His body (right) was left on the street (OMRHO).

On 4 November, **Ahmed Abdurahman Abba Bulgu**, a prominent and well-liked local businessman (left) in Caffee Ilfata, Limu Kosa, Jimma, was taken by soldiers and **beaten to death**. His body was left in the forest to be eaten by hyenas. Relatives and friends were prohibited from collecting his body (OMHRO).

On Sunday 15 November, **seven church-goers** were stopped by soldiers on their way to a service in Shebel town, Anfilo district, SW Wallega. The seven **were shot dead on the road**. They included an **unidentified 19 year-old** and the following (OMRHO):

Shone Raga, 25 years old
Jorge Barkessa, 25
Isayas Israel, 15
Obsi Adino, 15
Zekiwo Oliqa. 20
Ramata Madad, 30

Three young men, Sekele High School teacher **Kitila Gudeta**, **Gadissa Alemayehu** and **Mosissa Gebeyehu**, were taken to a local prison in Saqala town, Horo Guduru, E Wallega on 17 November, where they **were killed by security forces**. Their bodies were found thrown in a nearby field two days later (OMRHO). Their funeral procession is shown above right.

On 19 November, **Galib Aba Sambi** (left), was taken from his home in Jimma town by three masked men in **military uniforms**, in front of his wife and four children. Two hours later, his wife was told anonymously that he was lying in the bush with **three gunshot wounds**. He **died** three days later (22 November) in Jimma hospital. Galib was a law-abiding teacher at a school in Seqa town. His killing was believed to be in reprisal for the activities of his brother, Yaya Beshir, at Malmo University in Sweden, an outspoken opponent of the Ethiopian government on social media (OMRHO).

Dawit Hambisa, from Guliso, W Wallega, was **killed** on 23 November (OLLAA).

Eight young men (right) were taken by government soldiers from their homes in Mexi Marami village, Nejo district, W Wallega, at night on 14 December, gathered together and **shot dead**. Two were not identified by name. The other six were:

Diriba Tarfassa
Gutu Kumara
Balina Waqikene

Ebaa Mosissa
and brothers **Yigazu** and **Balina Kurayu** (OMRHO).

Mammazen Tashoma and **Mohammed Shamsadin**, from Bedele, Illubabor, were **killed** on 24 December.
Amanuel Abata, farmer in Daro Sambo, Boji Dirmaji, W Wallega, was **killed** on 2 January.
Three farmers and heads of families were also **killed** in Nejo, W Wallega, on 2 January:
Asfaw Jalata
Dabala Ayyala
Haile Ebbisa
Admasu Tesfaye, a Healthworker from Qaqe, Dalle Wabara, SW Wallega, was **killed** on 5 January (OLLAA).

Gadado 13 March reported the shooting and injuring of several people in Nekemte, E Wallega, on 2 January. These pictures of wounded were taken in Nekemte hospital.

Amanuel Daraje Totoba (left), a 16 year old 7th Grade student at Gimbi Walo Yesus school, W Wallega, was **shot dead by soldiers** as a suspected OLF supporter on 10 January. He lay on the street **injured** by a shot to his leg, **another soldier shot him in the head**. His body lay on the street for over one week before burial (*Gadado* 13 March).

Habtamu Gudeta and **Dagim Jebena** were **killed** by soldiers in Giray Horo, Gidami district, SW Wallega, on 31 January. Roba Kantiba was seriously injured by the same forces in Biqiltu Abote in Gidami district, that day (*Gadado*13 February).

Tamirat Tefera (left), Jarso Birbir kebele, Guliso district, W Wallega, was **shot dead** by Oromia Special Forces on 8 February 2021 (*Gadado* 13 February).

Gadisa Bulcha (right), Hinde town, Ebentu district, E Wallega, was **killed by soldiers** during the evening of 8 February (*Gadado* 13 February).

Ashetu Melaku, from Dembi Dollo, SW Wallega, was arrested in Nekemte, E Wallega on his way to Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 9 February. He was **taken back to Dembi Dollo, where he was killed** in 03 kebele on 10 February at 10 p.m. (*Gadado* 13 February).

Gemechu Teshome (left) was **killed by Oromia Special Forces** in Dembi Dollo town, SW Wallega, on 14 February (*Gadado* 13 March).

Mulugeta Beyene (right), a teacher, was **killed** in his home in Hamaru district, Horo Guduru, E Wallega, on 17 February.

Amhara militia crossed into Oromia Region and **opened fire on villagers** of Lalistu Anger in Gida Ayana district of E Wallega on 15 February, **killing dozens** and forcing local police to flee (*Gadado* 18 February) .
Among the dead were:
Brothers **Zelalem** and **Merga Fikadu** **Daniel Daqa**
Jamana Watessa **Mamush**
Bekele Feyisa
Others were badly injured and admitted to Nekemte hospital, including Tilahun Tamire, Dereje Mekonnen, Mekonnen Olani, Gezahegn Yadate, Dawit Fedhasa, Robe Turessa and Ararso Reegassa.

Father of two, **Tewekel Jemal** (right), was **killed** in front of his father, wife and children in Kobor village, Gidami district SW Wallega, 'in daylight' on 26 February (*Gadado* 13 March).

Two teenage boys were killed in Haro Limu district, E Wallega, on 1 March (*Gadado* 13 March):
Diriba Dessale, aged 15, from Dange Farmers Association
Dachasa Dhaba, aged 16, from Ucha Farmers Association.

12th Grade student **Lucho Tesfa** (right) was **killed** by Oromia Special Forces on his way to school to sit School Leaving Certificate examinations in Horo, Gidami district, SW Wallega, on 5 March.
Tadele Belay (left), also a 12th Grade student on his way to sit the same examinations on the other side of Wallega, in Jargeda district, Horo Guduru, in East Wallega was **shot dead** on the same day (*Gadado* 13 March).

Eba Waqgari (left) **was killed by government soldiers** 'in daylight' on 10 March in Mandi town, W Wallega, because his brother was suspected of joining the Oromo liberation Army (*Gadado* 22 March).

Rameta Sale was killed by soldiers in Dabaso Chiracha village, Sayo Nole district, W Wallega, on 11 March (*Gadado* 22 March).

Slaughter and ruin in Guliso, SW Wallega

Investigators from the Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa (HRLHA) sent details of attacks by pro-government forces on farmers in the Guliso district of SW Wallega on 27 March, including additional information about attacks since the beginning of the year. Between 30 December and 1 January, the following farmers were **killed** in Tegi Galawo kebele in Guliso:

Yemane Garoma aged 55
Wandimu Malaku aged 50
Abule Tadesse
Dawit Hambisa
Dula Hambisa
Hirpha Tamena
Amanuel Kasaye
Tomas Saketa
Shumani
Jorro Gabisa aged 70, whose house was burnt to the ground

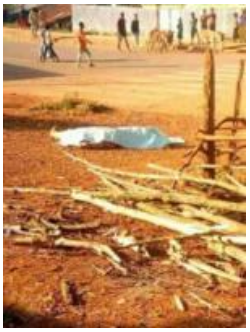
Other farmers whose homes were burnt down (see pictures):
Gemechu Matewos, Temesgen Karayu and Melese Kebeta.

On 2 January, more **killings by security forces** occurred elsewhere in Guliso subdistrict (*Gadado* 13 March):

Araga Badhasa
Daraje Garba
Wondimu Garba
Mohammed Idar
Daraje Dagafa
Tamiru (Father's name unknown)
Abba Alamudin
Abba Momina
Abba Kadir
Ahmed Hussen

Mohammed Adam and his sons, Nuradin and Abdu, were wounded in the same attack and admitted to Ayra Guliso hospital. Many others were detained in unknown locations.

Hundassa Ayale Kenea (left), 26 year old father in Chalia Eka, Guliso, **was shot dead** by Oromia Special Forces on 1 February.
The **body shown discarded** on the street in Guliso (right) remained unnamed when HRLHA sent the picture on 27 March.



Abdi Dingata (lower left), from Chalia Eka, Guliso, was **killed** and thrown on the roadside on the outskirts of Guliso by Oromia Special Forces on about 28 February.

The latest wave of attacks came between 19 and 24 March.

Guta Boya Nekara (low right), from Chalia Danno kebele, Guliso, was **shot and left for dead** on the street on 19 March (HRLHA 27 March).

Edosa Gigazu was **shot dead** by soldiers in Garjo kebele, Guliso, on 20 March. His brother **Mitiku Gigazu** was critically injured in the attack (*Gadado* 22 March).

Farmers were attacked by government soldiers in Jarso Badeso kebele, Guliso, on 22 March on the pretext of their feeding OLA fighters (HRLHA 28 March).
Dagafa Itana, head of a family of eight, was **shot dead** and **his home burnt down**
Jiregna Lamesa and **Sanbeta Gudina** were **shot and wounded** and **their homes were burnt down**, leaving 14 dependants homeless.

Two village teenagers in Chalia Eka, in Guliso district, W Wallega, were **killed by soldiers** on 24 March (HRLHA 27 March):
Gutu Kelebessa, (left) aged 16, and
Ayana Matewos, aged 17.
Ten farmers' homes were burnt down in the neighbouring village of Jarso on that day and the following were arrested from Chalia Eka:
Abdi Merga (with untreated bullet wounds)
Leti Turuna (with untreated bullet wounds)
The following mothers were beaten and detained:

Hanna Yadessa	Fayine Tolessa
Sena Ayana	Meti Ayana
Million Shafe	Demitu Mekonin

Oromo farmers in Guliso district have been attacked in the past. The burnt out remains of the farm belonging to Obbo Yohanis (left) were photographed in Sanko Danno, Guliso, in 2019.
In late 2019, Mokor Kenea Firdi (right) from Chalia Danno, Guliso, was abducted by unknown agents and disappeared, leaving his wife and eight children without assistance (HRLHA 27 March).

Detention, burning of property

Lecturer Dr Shabe Abdulbari, Jimma University, was arrested on 13 February when visiting Mohammed Deksiso (now charged with terrorism) at Jimma 1 Police Station, whose call for the release of political prisoners during his degree ceremony was televised (*Gadado* 18 February).

Dr Daniel Lamessa (right), a lecturer at Nekemte University, E Wallega, was taken from his home by security forces on 18 February. His whereabouts were still unknown when *Gadado* reported on 13 March.

Prominent OLF member Qabana Dhunfa (left) fled from Ayra Guliso district because of the nearby Military Command Post. He was kidnapped in Nekemte, E Wallega, on 21 February and taken back to Ayra Guliso, where he remained at the police station when *Gadado* reported on 13 March.

Yohannis Gerba, Bila town, Boji Dirmaji district, W Wallega, was arrested on 24 February after visiting his brother, Bekele Gerba (both shown right) during his hunger strike in Kaliti prison (*Gadado* 13 March).

On 12 March, Yohannis' son, Derara Yohannis, aged 18, was detained in Bila when visiting his father in prison. Neither has appeared in court (*Gadado* 22 March).

The Abba Gadaa (traditional leader) Mekonnen Qana (right) was arrested in Bedele town, Buno Bedele, Illubabor, on 1 March (*Gadado* 13 March).

The homes and property of three farmers in Lata Bombine, Boji Dirmaji district, W Wallega, were burnt down on 7 March. Security forces claimed that their sons had joined OLA fighters in the bush. The remains of Eliyas Guta's house are shown left. The other farmers were Yonata Oliqa and Ayana Yonata (presumably father and son).

In the same report from *Gadado* on 13 March was the continued detention of ten farmers from the same Farmers Association, Lata Bombine. Held without trial after being taken by security forces over six months ago are:

Zewude and Eliyas Gudeta
Zewude Terfasa
Dawit Eliyas
Emano and Ms Zewditu Birasa
Shoni Waqtole
Muse Yohannis
Fikiru Kitila
Sembeta Abdisa

Gadado quoted Fikadu Tessema, 'Head of Oromia Prosperity Party' at the Oromia Region Council meeting on 27 February warning that in the campaign against OLA, he would 'deal with it like fish . . . to completely get rid of them, you will need to dry the oceans.'

Gadado reported on 13 March that Gamachis Tolassa (right) was being harassed and mistreated in Buno Bedele police station, Bedele, Illubabor, where he has been with trial or charge since 29 September 2020.

The group also reported the detention of two children in Nekemte police custody. Haile Solomon, a resident of Nekemte, E Wallega, was released shortly before the report, when his daughters Amarti and Falmata (above left), one of whom is an infant, were placed in custody.

12th Grade student Jemera Abdisa was arrested after he had sat School Leaving Certificate examinations at Burqa Jato High School in Nekemte, E Wallega, on 12 March (*Gadado* 22 March).

Jimma University Professor, Isaias Kebede, and lecturer Dr Gudina (both shown above right) were detained on 17 March (*Gadado* 22 March).

BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ REGION

Killings

Jammare Babe, Metekel Zone, was **killed** on 22 November 2020 (OLLAA).

Ms Rusiya Abdella (right), a 3rd year student at Asosa University, was **killed** on the campus on 4 March (*Gadado* 13 March).

Large scale killings in Benishangul-Gumuz have occurred on several occasions but have not been included in OSG totals except for 54 of those Oromo killed by Benshangul-Gumuz militia in the Yaso subdistrict of Benishangul-Gumuz on 21 November 2018 (OSG Report 50, p.14) and two others.
On 14 November 2020, **34 civilians were killed** when a bus was attacked; on 23 December, **armed militia killed 207 civilians** in Bekaji village, Bulen subdistrict of Metekel zone of Benishangul-Gumuz (Al Jazeera 23 December and 13 January).
On 13 January, over **80 civilians were killed** in Daletti, in Metekel (Al Jazeera 13 January).
No group has taken responsibility for these killings which have driven over 7000 to cross into Blue Nile province of Sudan, a separate exodus to that from Tigray from where scores of thousands (61,000 according to Al Jazeera) have fled to border areas further north, near the towns of Gedaref and Kassala in Red Sea province, Sudan (Al Jazeera 23 February).

Detention

Negesso Abdisa, in Metekel Zone, was detained in July 2020, released around 10 February but immediately re-arrested and detained again (*Gadado* 18 February).

Abera Wirtu and his wife Abebech Atibiya (left) from Galessa town, Metekel Zone, were arrested again on 3 March. Wirtu and his brothers had only been released one week previously after a long imprisonment (*Gadado* 13 March).

For **ethnic cleansing** of Oromo from Metekel, **see Late News, p.25**.

SOUTHERN OROMIA

Killing

Tiqa Dabaso (right), a university student in Moyale, Borana Zone, was shot dead by security forces when attending a peaceful demonstration on 8 February (*Gadado* 13 and 18 February).

Detention

A large number of detentions in East Guji and destruction of property in East and West Guji were reported by US-based Oromo Legacy Leadership and Advocacy Association (OLLAA) on its website in January. Apart from four arrests in Liban in August, all were either in December 2020 (150 detained) or January 2021 (60 detained). No fewer than 28 homes and shelters were burned to the ground by government forces.

Detained in Dhaka Qal'a, Liban, E Guji, on 9 August:

Bargalle Fora
Huqqa Halake
Mallu Halake
Usman East Guji

in Negele, Liban on 1 December:

Dambala Dambi
Dasta Dhugo
Gawwole Dullacha
Guyye Tephelo
Galata Gawwole
Mangado Shifarra
Safay Danbi
Nyapho Dullacha

Raggasa Dullacha
Roba Danbi

in Adola Wayyu, all farmers unless otherwise stated, on 21 December:

Abba Sabit(Adem Abdella)
Abdalla Ahmed
Abdalla Yusuf
Abdallah Mumme
Abdallayi Aliyyi
Abdoshe Ahmed
Abduljalil Siraj
Abrahim Abdurahaman (Imam)
Abrahim Jamal
Abrahim Mohammed
Ahmed Abdullahi
Ahmed Mohammed
Ahmed Shafi
Aliyyi Ahmed
Aliyyi Mohammed
Awwal Abrahim
Dasta Husen
Guto Amin
Haji Abdalla
Haji Mohammed
Husen Abdalla (Teacher)
Ibrahim Ahmed
Iliyas Ahmed
Jamal Abubakar
Jamal Alisho
Kabbada
Kadiro Adola
Kamal Muktar
Kifle ....
Mrs Madde Hasan
Mammannur Mohammed
Mamme Abdalla
Mamud Umar
Mohammed ... (Teacher)
Mohammed Abrahim
Mohammed Husen
Mohammed Sani
Mohammed Umar
Muktar Adama
Muktar Adbdurahaman
Muktar Mohammed
Mumme Kalil
Shame Jamal
Sheikh Husen
Sheyb Abdallayi
Shukri Jemal
Sufiyan Ahmed
Taju Mohammed
Taju Sufiyan
Usman Sabit (Imam)
Mrs Wabi Ahmed
Nuraddin Abdallahi
Qaamus Abdalla
Sabur Abdallah
Samade Mohammed (Teacher)
Yusuf Umar

in Sabba Boru, all farmers, on 22 December:

Abbabiyya Nenqo
Abbushi Roba
Adam Ibrahim
Bachura Waddessa
Baddessa Bellello
Badhaso Arero
Bilu Girja
Birhanu Danbala
Bontu Camarri
Bultumi Qilxa
Buno Sokka
Chala Birbirsa
Mrs Chaltu Alamayo
Cukke Olko
Dambobi Mi'essa
Danbobi Kusa
Dannole Figa
Dasta Dukkalle
Desha Mixa
Dhugo Jarso
Digafe Dido
Galma Jilo
Galmessa Alamayyo
Galmessa Mangistu
Gamba Olko
Gammachu Adola
Gammachu Deshu
Gammada Halake
Gammada Sorsa
Gannale Boru
Ms Ganno Birbirsa
Gararro Wate
Girja Bultumi
Gobena Goddo
Godana Gada
Gutu Fanja
Hagala Gobena
Harsu Ware
Hasan Kara
Ebbisa Guyye
Ejersa Cana
Ejersa Oddo
Fiqadu Gammada
Galchu Mixa
Injifanno Note
Israel Katte
Jarso Qilxa
Jibicho Qilxa
Kadiri Aliyye
Katello Dhugo
Katelo Figa
Liban Xedhe
Makuria Bariso
Mamma Damise

Mandho Olko
Mi'essa Sabba
Mokkora Hanqu
Morkata Bultumi
Mulugeta Darara
Musxafa Mohammed
Nagessa Bariso
Nagessa Sirba
Nagesso Katelo
Shibbiru Gammada
Shukkula Galma
Shukri Gumi
Sokora Mi'essa
Tukke Gammada
Ture Xedhe
Udessa Ullane
Usuki Galchu
Wacifa Bakkalcha
Waddessa Buno
Waqo Bilu
Xalle Mi'essa
Qilxa Baiso
Raggasa Busuna
Mrs Ribiqa Mokonna
Roba Waccu
Robayi Dukkalle
Robe Gola
Sambato Bokko
Samuel Damise

Attacks by government forces on 11 January on herders in Gumi Eldallo, E Guji, left three badly injured after beatings and six with all of their properties destroyed by fire. All were described as pastoralists. Two to four 'homes' were ascribed to each of those whose properties were destroyed, referring presumably to temporary transportable structures.
The injured were Boru Liban Diqa, Diqayya Dilo and Jaldessa Dida. The following had their homes destroyed:
Geddi Dida - two homes burned to the ground
Halkano Duba - four homes
Taarii Iyya - four homes
Kotombola Hiyyessa - four homes
Loko Duba - two homes
Orobo Jilo - three homes
Two days later, security forces destroyed the homes of settled farmers in West Guji. On 13 January, in one location Galana Dango Ardo, the homes of the following farmers were burnt to the ground:
Abbabe Badhane
Badhane Burundo
Badhane Guyye
Badhaso Gulufa
Boru Ararso
Burundo Abba Galcha
Galgalo Burundo
Ibbiru Gammade
Nuguse Boru

Mass arrests in Harkalo town, E Guji, also occurred on 13 January:
Abbushi Hasan
Abdulatif Aliyye
Abdulsalam Siraj
AhmadNur sh/Qasim
Aliyye Galchu
Aman Mi'essa
Amanti Hambisa
Ambo Hasan
Arabiyu Xayyib
Badhasa Cacu
Badru Aman
Baqala Mi'essa
Boru Danbi
Chala Bululta
Daniel Mitiku
Darara Dannisa
Ms Darartu Ali
Dube Halake
Galchu Dida
Haji Hasan Qilxa
Husen Hotessa
Husen Ifaf (Teacher)
Isaq Tayyib
Isaqa Adam
Jabesa Muse
Jamal Dabbaso
Jamila Xula
Jarra Shibbiru
Kaffala Dajane
Kidi Umar
Kifile Wacu
Morkata Kula
Morkata Shororkicha
Muhabba Bokkola
Nagesa Golu
Nagessa Buchana
Nasir Dambi
Odaa Jilo
Qajela Golu

Qasim Ture
Robe Guyye
Sadam Husen
Sayid Godana
Suleman Galchu
Sultan Birbirsa
Sulxan Umar
Tangir Guyye
Tasfaye Jima
Tashoma Borbor
Udessa Ture
Umar Husen
Umar Suleman
Utura Dambala
Waliyyu Siraj
Xayiba Dajane
Yusuf Xahir
Ms Zeynaba Kadir
Mi'essa Badacha
Midhagdu Cana (Teacher)

Gemechis Ayana (right), 3rd year university student, was taken to an unknown place by security forces from his home in East Guji on 26 February (*Gadado* 13 March).

SOUTHERN NATIONS, NATIONALITIES and PEOPLES REGION

Sidama Zone Killings

In a statement released on 24 February, calling for national dialogue, the Sidama National Liberation Front (SNLF) reported that government forces had **killed over 67** Sidama civilians in June 2018 and **174** peaceful demonstrators in July 2019. OSG has previously recorded 'over 150' killings, in July 2019 (OSG Report 51, p.23-4).
The SNLF reported that 300, out of the 5000 who were detained in July 2019, remain in detention. Political leaders have been replaced against peoples wishes.

YEMEN

Massacre of over 400 migrants

The following account is from information given by survivors in interviews transmitted from Yemen and by local Yemeni layers and human rights activists in meetings before and after a press conference on 16 March hosted by SAM Rights and Liberties, a Yemen human rights monitoring group based in Geneva, and by the Oromia Global Forum. It was attended by 13 human rights and community organisations, which jointly signed the press statement.

Over 900 people, almost all young men, were detained in a hangar used as a migrant detention centre in Sana'a in early March..
Most detainees were captured by Houthi militia when trying to reach the border to cross into Saudi Arabia. Others were taken in house-to-house searches in Sana'a.
They had been in detention up to 6-7 months, living in filthy, unsanitary conditions.
They could leave or avoid detention by paying the equivalent of $100-500 to have a residence permit renewed, or by joining Houthi militia as poorly paid fighters. The conditions of detention are deliberately bad, to encourage payment or conscription.
About 180 women and 30 children were released from the hanger a day or two before the attack.
About 60 men began a hunger strike a few days before the attack to force Houthi militia to release them.
On 7 March, in the afternoon, two elected representatives of the hunger strikers attempted to negotiate with their captors. Instead of speaking to them, Houthi militia shot them dead and left the building.

About 30 minutes later Houthi militia returned. They first fired a tear gas canister into the hangar and then they fired a missile into the hangar. It is not clear if this was thrown or fired from a shoulder-held launcher.
At least 400 died at the scene from the explosion or from the ensuing fire.
Another 500 were taken to hospitals in Sana'a to treat injuries from the fire.
At least 43 died in hospital within 24 hours.
To avoid the truth about the nature of the atrocity and its extent becoming known, Houthi militia bribed survivors with 100,000 Yemen Riyal to keep quiet about the number who were killed and to claim the explosion and fire were due to a missile fired in a Saudi air strike.
They guarded hospitals and removed migrants from cleaning jobs in hospitals to avoid news getting out.
Large numbers (estimates were up to 1000) of migrants were taken out of Sana'a towards Aden within two days of the attack.
There were believed to be about 7000 detained migrants in several detention centres in Sana'a.
Surprisingly Yemen still attracts migrants. On 3 March at least 20 died off the Djibouti coast from a boat carrying over 200, including minors. The people-smugglers shouted there were too many on the boat and simply threw 80 overboard.

Abuses in Tigray recorded in UK Parliamentary Debate proceedings

Labour MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, Helen Hayes, listed the evidence for egregious human rights abuses by Ethiopian soldiers, Amhara militia and Eritrean soldiers in Tigray in the UK House of Commons on 25 March, in a debate 'Conflict in Tigray Region of Ethiopia'. In the absence of James Duddridge, Minister for Africa, Ms Hayes was answered by the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly. The written account is in Hansard and Ms Hayes' presentation may be viewed on Facebook.

LATE NEWS

Ethnic cleansing by Amhara militia continues in Wollo and Metekel: more villages in Wallega destroyed by government soldiers

Immediately before publication (4 April) *Gadado* sent information about continuing destruction of Oromo villages in Oromia Special Zone, Amhara Region, and in Metekel, Benishangul-Gumuz Region, by Amhara militia; driving more Oromo out in acts of ethnic cleansing.

Arba Wayu village, Jille Dhuguma district, was razed to the ground on 25 March. A video clip of the destruction was at least temporarily accessible. On the same day, the Jille district school at Wesen Qurqur (above), site of killings and burning one week previously, see pp.9-10) was destroyed. Another video was sent, accessible on publication.
Chalia village in Metekel is shown left after Amhara militia burned it down on 28 March.

In W Wallega, eight homes in Lalisa, Ganji district, were destroyed by Ethiopia Defence Forces on 29 March, see below.

Warnings of impending genocide

Ethnic cleansing of Oromo from Amhara and Benishangul Regions by Amhara militia and the destruction of villages in Wallega and Guji by government soldiers are a chilling indication of Ethiopian government intentions.

As this report went to press, films of frenzied attacks by Amhara militia on Oromo in Wollo came to light. The ferocity of these attacks and the vitriolic misinformation about Oromo and the OLF on Amhara social media and some national media is reminiscent of Interharamwe hate speech in Rwanda leading up to the genocide in 1994.

On 4 April, residents in Ambo, W Showa, and Nekemte, E Wallega, reported large numbers of new young faces in the towns. The demography of the towns is changing as youngsters flee from the countryside because of the likelihood that they will be killed if they stay in their villages. This is unprecedented.

In times of increasing economic hardship and unemployment, in a milieu of hate speech against Oromo and the unleashing of uncontrolled Amhara militia, the possibility of genocide in Ethiopia is growing exponentially.

Attempts to allow Oromo people a political voice by OLF and OFC politicians have been met with detention. Even a 39 day hunger strike by Hamza Borana, Bekele Gerba, Jawar Mohammed (above) and others failed to secure the release of political prisoners.