

29 March 2020

**Abiy Ahmed**

**Prime Minister of Ethiopia**

Office of the Prime Minister

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Dear PM Abiy Ahmed,

*I write to you out of deep concern for the current state of Mr Abdi Regassa, the leader of Oromo Liberation Front who disappeared from Burrayu Police station since 20 March 2020.*

*Abdi Regassa's family and lawyers have spent the last couple of days desperately searching police stations and detention centres across Addis Ababa in an attempt to locate him.*

*Reports suggest Mr Abdi who detained on the early hours of 29 February may have been tortured while in detention, something Advocacy for Oromia has not been able to verify in a context. Ethiopia not only has a duty to prevent torture and ill-treatment but must also ensure that a prompt and impartial investigation is conducted.*

*Mr Abdi is a selfless man who chose to give all he has for Oromo cause for more than thirty years. Advocacy for Oromia affirms Mr Abdi Regassa is a prisoner of conscience who was imprisoned solely for remains committed to the Oromo cause.*

*I therefore demand that your administration:*

- 1. Must immediately disclose Abdi Regassa's whereabouts;**
- 2. Ensures he has immediate access to a lawyer and can communicate with his family;**
- 3. Ensures he has immediate access to a medical examination;**
- 4. Ensures that a prompt and impartial investigation is conducted regarding allegations of torture and ill-treatment against Abdi Regassa.**
- 5. Ensure that Abdi Regassa and his family are free of reprisals or harassment.**

*Your attention to my concerns would be greatly appreciated.*

*Yours faithfully,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dabessa W Gemelal'.

Dabessa W Gemelal,  
**Director, Advocacy for Oromia**