
REPORT 54

January 2021

Empire strikes back: catastrophic consequences

There seems to be a pattern to all this. It is very worrying.

Teshale Abera, former President of Oromia Region Supreme Court, November 2020.

Despite severe restrictions on the flow of information from Ethiopia OSG continues to record a relentless rise in the death toll as the government stifles all aspirations for self-determination for the peoples of Ethiopia.

Particularly large numbers have been killed in Western Oromia, especially in Wallega, where another 92 killings of Oromo have been added to the 350 recorded previously since October 2018. Of these 92, 54 died before mid-2019 and 38 in 2020. An additional 60 Amhara settlers died by government hands in Guliso on 1 November. Government forces have been responsible for at least 442 civilian deaths in Western Oromia, 340 in 2020 alone.

The names of another 42 killed within days of Hachalu Hundessa's assassination on 29 June are recorded (all except 6 in Central Oromia) and added to the 42 already named as being killed in Report 53.

OSG has now documented 505 killings in 2019, including 100 Qimant in Amhara Region and 150 Sidama in SNNPR. Up to publication, OSG has recorded 777 killings in 2020, including 58 Walaita in SNNPR and 60 Amhara in Oromia Region. Those civilians killed in the war in Tigray have not been included in this total or in this report.

A most worrying development is the increase in reports of detainees being taken from police custody and summarily executed. At least ten of the killings by security forces recorded in this report occurred in custody or when detainees were removed from custody by soldiers.

Another significant development is the arrest of Oromo who are prominent in development, finance, the Oromo Relief Association and the *Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa*. No longer are government forces restricting arrests to political activists and journalists. Just as in 1992/3, any prominent Oromo in any sphere is at risk of arrest or killing.

In this report, another 208 killings by government forces are recorded, making the total, despite poor access to information, of over 1,342 killings of civilians by Ethiopian government forces since October 2018.

In a terrifying throwback to imperial grandeur and ambition, and demonstrating a complete failure to learn from history, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the imperial old guard which refuses to let go of its designs on all the assets of the Ethiopian empire, have brought Ethiopia to the brink of ruin.

Stifling the democratic aims of the peoples of Ethiopia whose claims for self-determination were satisfied to some extent with the distribution of powers along federal lines, the one party state which has been forced on the peoples of Ethiopia has violently suppressed opposition in Walaita, Sidama, Qimant, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromo and other areas and has prosecuted a genocidal war against Tigray Region. The Ethiopian government has precipitated and fostered inter-ethnic violence all over Ethiopia (see letter from *Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa* p.20) while seeking to establish a unitary state by force. It has terrorised and killed its own citizens merely to vilify the OLF and other Oromo organisations and institutions.

Contents

Empire strikes back: catastrophic consequences	p.1
Finfinnee and Central Oromia	Killings p.3
	Detention and rape p.4
Amhara Region	Detainees p.10
Eastern Oromia	Killings p.11
	Detainees p.12
Western Oromia	Killings p.14
	Arbitrary arrest and detention p.18
	Beating, detention and disappearance of parents of OLA leader: Home burnt down p.19
Benishangul-Gumuz Region	Arbitrary arrest and detention p.20
Southern Oromia	Killings p.20
	Arbitrary arrest and detention p.20
HRLHA letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres	p.20
Teshale Abera 'Investigate atrocities: stop blaming the victims'	p.21

Abbreviations

HRLHA	Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa
OLA	Oromo Liberation Army, now distanced from OLF
OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
OSG	Oromia Support Group
OMN, ONN	Oromia Media Network and Oromia News Network
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region
TPLF	Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front

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 (6 January 2021).

FINFINNEE/ADDIS ABABA AND CENTRAL OROMIA

Killings

On 23 June, **Ebrahim Amin**, of Salawa kebele, Dawe Hawa district, Wollo zone, was **killed** by government soldiers ‘being suspected OLF supporter’ (*Gadado* 30 July).

Killings at protests after the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June

The following were killed on 30 June in addition to those reported in Report 53:

Shashemane, W Arsi (*Gadado* 30 July):

Teshale Arja

Ambo, W Showa (*Gadado* 3 December):

Tariku Tesema

Habtamu Kumela

Ashebir Tsegaye

Lema Bekele

Teshome Qabata

Dechasa Wolde

Fituma Tadesse

Belay Waqasa

Gadado’s December report confirmed the names of 14 victims reported in Report 53 (p.5) and included additional information that Burte Dhinsa, Alemnesh Eshetu and Gadise Lechisa were young women.

The report confirmed nine killings on 30 June in Adama, one of those killed in Shiraro (p.5, Report 53), added the name of **Teshale Arja** to those killed in Shashemane and informed OSG that one of two killed in Qore on 30 June (Arabe Sh/Abdulqadir, p.5, Report 53) was a young woman.

The report confirmed the killings of eleven in Dodola, S Arsi, on 1 July (p.5, Report 53), recording Warqitesh Fariqo as a young woman and dating the killing of Musxafa Shira and Gamachis Inki as 17 and not 1 July.

The following were killed on 1 July (*Gadado* 3 December):

Ambo, W Showa:

Moti Badhasa

Dejene Bekele

Hirko Lechisa

Dadhi Gutu*

Dodola, S Arsi:

Bariso Kasu

Abditi Abdulkarim

Bereket Worku

Kalid Siraj

Amir Mohammed

Abdi Safi

Mohammedsani Shamsi

Alamudin Amano

Worku Kadi

Hasan Gishu

Alemu Kalu

Abdubakar

Abdisa Jemal

Awelu

Yasin Amano

Tahi

Finfinnee/Addis Ababa:

Musa Umar*

Killed in Dodola the following day, 2 July:

Badhasa Waliyi

Taysan Dagamo

Muzeyem Awelu

Muktar Gemedi

Abas Sh/Adam

Taysen Hasen

On 5 July, **Degaga Bedhane**, aged 17, was taken from his home in Jaldu district, W Showa, during night time by soldiers and **killed**, being ‘suspected OLF supporter.’*

* (*Gadado* 30 July)

Melkamu Dula (right) was detained in **Waliso prison**, SW Showa, during protests on 30 June/1 July. The court ordered his release on bail but police refused to release him. He was **killed** during the night of 17 September (*Gadado* 25 September).



Ligaba Erena, aged 60, of Bochesa Silasie kebele, Wara Jarso district, Selale, N Showa, was **killed when he attended Qare Goha police station** on 22 September. His wife and child had been taken there the previous day by Oromia Special Forces after failing to find Ligaba at home (*Gadado* 25 September).



Lema Boki, aged 24, and **Girma Desse**, farmers in Meta Robi district, W Showa, were **killed** by government soldiers on 30 September and their bodies (see left) thrown in the bush (*Gadado* 2 October).

Three were **killed while in police custody** in central Oromia, within two days - 20 and 21 November. On the same dates, **three** were **killed** in Horo Guduru, E Wallega (see p.17), and **two** were **killed** in Hararge (see p.11).

Asefa Kushi was taken at night by soldiers from police custody in Fiche, N Showa, and **shot dead** on 20 November. His body was left on a riverbank.

Getu Jiregna was taken by soldiers that same night from police custody in Amaya, SW Showa, and **killed** before being left at a roadside.

Fanja Waya was **shot dead** while in police custody in Shalla, Arsi, on 21 November. He was reported to have been shot by the Shalla District Administrator himself (*Gadado* 22 November.)

Detention and Rape

Gadado 2 December reported the continued detention of Alemayehu Diro (right) since he was arrested mid-year, at the same time as many top OLF and OFC officials.

His arrest is significant because he has no connection with political parties. Trained in economics and anthropology, he worked in development in the civil society sector for nearly 20 years, in



HUNDEE, the Forum for Oromo Studies and, for the last five years, as General Manager of the Network of Civil Society Organisations in Oromia. He helped establish the Oromia International Bank, Oromia Insurance Company and Gutu Oromiya Business SC and has been a consultant for many local and international NGOs. Alemayehu is 47 with six children. His detention is consistent only with a government intent on weakening Oromo society in general.



Gadado 25 September reported that Jima Abdula (3rd year Hawasa University student, left) was detained in Shashemane, Arsi, while travelling to Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 24 June. He had not appeared in court for three months by the time of the report.

Mrs Obse Taye (right) was detained in underground cells in Ada Berga district, W Showa, on 29 June, the day of the killing of Hachalu Hundessa (*Gadado* 2 October). Her place of detention was unknown when initially reported by *Gadado* on 30 July.



Chaltu Takele (OLF Central Committee member and mother of nine, see left) was detained again on 4 July. She was in prison for eight years under the EPRDF and has been detained at least once previously by the current regime of Abiy Ahmed. She was released a few days after the arrest in July (*Gadado* 30 July and 5 January 2021).

Lomitu Dereje was five months pregnant and had been referred from Horo Guduru, E Wallega, to Ambo Hospital, W Showa, for medical treatment for her heart problem. She was taken to the Ambo Mayor's Office compound on 20 July at 19.30 local time, when she was **raped by soldiers**. This caused her to immediately miscarry her pregnancy and Lomitu was reported to be 'between life and death' in hospital when reported by *Gadado* on 30 July.

Gadado 30 July also reported that Jeregna Wakwaya (OLF member working at the Burayu OLF Office) was arrested and taken to an unknown place on 22 July.



On 23 September *Gadado* wrote of the continued detention of OLF leaders despite court orders for their release and payment of 300,000 Birr bail. The leaders, including Abdi Regassa, were reportedly being held in Burayu-Sansuus Police Station and there were concerns for their safety from Covid.

Dhaqaba Wariyo (above right) from Shashemane, Arsi, was detained near the end of July but had not been charged or appeared in court for two months when reported by *Gadado* on 25 September. He has since been released (*Gadado* 5 January 2021).

Belama Gutema, Ambo, W Showa, was severely beaten when he was detained on 14 September. He was in pain and had been denied medical treatment in detention, up to the report by *Gadado* on 25 September.

In Dire Inchini district, W Showa, pregnant mother of two, Tizita Abdisa (right, with her children) was badly beaten and detained on 17 September when she was being interrogated about the location of her husband. She had not been allowed visits by her children up to the report (*Gadado* 25 September).





Mrs Akafete Foraja, Bosat district, E Showa, was detained in Wolanchiti Police Station for the second time on 25 September, ‘being suspected OLF supporter’ (*Gadado* 3 December). She is shown left, attending the funeral of her brother, Warqu Foraja, shot dead when government soldiers attacked the Wolanchiti OLF office when it opened on 15 February (p.3, OSG Report 52).

Lenjisa Alemayehu (right), Qaliti district, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa, was abducted by security forces on 29 September in Galan district on his way to work (*Gadado* 2 October). His place of detention was not

known at the time of reporting. On the same day, security forces went to the home of his brother, Yadessa Alemayehu, and seized property including his laptop.



On approximately 29 September, artist and human rights activist Jafar Yusuf (left) was detained for the second time in two months, in Bole district, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa (*Gadado* 2 October).

OLF member Bira Tufa Elemo (right) was taken from his home in Garji, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa, by security forces on 29 September (*Gadado* 2 October).



Lidiya Abera (left) and her brother were taken by security forces from the Burayu district of Finfinnee/Addis Ababa in September and held in unofficial detention at Sidist Kilo in the capital. Their father, **Abera**, still at the family home in Anfilo district, SW Wallega, had been detained and tortured on many occasions before he was **killed by soldiers** in Anfilo one year ago (*Gadado* 3 December).



The 22 *ONN* staff and guests who were arrested at the Kaku Mame restaurant, Arada, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa on 5 September (OSG Report 53, p.9) were ordered to be released on bail but remained in detention. *Gadado* reported 23 September that nine were transferred from Arada Police Station to hospital because they had contracted Covid-19 in prison.

Gadado wrote on 25 September naming some of the detainees being held since protests at the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June, who had been granted bail by the courts but had nonetheless remained in detention. Those in Ambo, W Showa, whose court orders granting bail were ignored by police included:

Lelisa Urgessa
Tesema Ambisa
Ifa Taresa
Getachew Zewude

Samuel Kumsa
Dr. Dinras Nura
Getachew Barsisa
Fayera Qananisa

Milkesa Gada
Gada Fita

Among those detained in Gulale, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa for at least two months after the protests are **ten** who have been **removed to an unknown place**, provoking fears for their



safety. Two, Habib Safo (far left) and Desta Shukura, are drivers for the detained OFC politician and media mogul Jawar Mohammed. Another, Wabi Burqa, is a student. The fourth, Sultan Badiya, is shown near left. These four and six others are being held in secret or have been killed.

Every October is the traditional Oromo thanksgiving ceremony, Irreecha. In 2019, a ceremony took place in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa as well as and one day before the traditional ceremony at Bishoftu (Debre Zeit), E Showa. Irreecha ceremonies are attended by millions but despite being larger than ever before, those in 2018 and 2019 went without incident. They are organised by traditional leaders, the Aba Gadas, and Qeerroo/Qarree members. The Irreecha ceremony in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa was scheduled in 2020 for 4 October and in Bishoftu 5 October.

The government prevented the ceremony this year. Roads entering the capital from the west were blocked on 1 October and at least 111 buses containing thousands from East and West Wallega, after travelling for many miles, were stopped and made to turn around by government security forces.



On the same day, more than 2000 Oromo from Wallega were arrested in Finfinnee/Addis Ababa after being made to show their ID cards. Buses are shown, right, being held up in Sire (*Gadado* 2 October).

On 12 October, OLF chairman Dawud Ibsa was interviewed by Kello Media Network about the arrest of five journalists working for *Oromia News Network (ONN)* and *Voice of Independent Oromia* earlier that day from his home in Finfinnee.

Oromo community leaders and elders gathered at the chairman's home to issue a press release concerning the proposal for a transitional government for Oromia by the OLF and OFC (Oromo Federalists Congress). This had been promulgated a few days before in response to the legitimacy of the federal government having run beyond its electoral mandate. Federal police terrorised those in the compound when they made the arrests, despite having no warrant to enter the building.

On the same day, the Director of the Oromo Relief Association, Dachasa Nagatu, was arrested from his home in Sabata district of the capital and held for at least two days.

The vice-chair of the board of the Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa (HRLHA), Dr Diriba Wakjira (right), was taken from his home in the Kasa Inchis area of Finfinnee/Addis Ababa at 9.00 pm on 4 November and held at the 6th Police Station. His office at the Ililly International Hotel, where he is Deputy Manager, was also searched that evening (HRLHA 23 November).



He appeared at First Instance Court, Kirkos Division, on 6 November when his release on bail was ordered. He was transferred then to an unknown place. His wife and HRLHA's staff have been unable to locate him in the city's prisons and there are fears for his safety. Father of two, Dr. Diriba is a former Lecturer and Research Director at Debre Tabor University.

According to an OLF press release on 20 December, security forces arrested ten ‘OLF personalities including leaders, members and journalists’ (five are shown below). Their homes were searched, computers and mobile devices confiscated:

Mohammed Ragasa (Firaa'ol Jalata), OLF Central Committee Member and Spokesperson

Murata Saba (Malka Danu), OLF Central Committee Member

Ms Ayantuu Bulcha, *Sagalee Bilisummaa Oromoo, (SBO), Radio Free Oromia* Journalist

Ibsa Gadisa, *SBO* Journalist

Dr Gada Oljira, Office Administrator of OLF Chairman.

Yerosan Hayu, OLF Organisational Affairs, Finfinnee area

Tumsa (Asafa Fikadu), OLF Organisational Affairs

Gurmu Ayana, OLF cadre.

Gesisa Kusa, OLF Organisational Affairs, Mandi area.

Ms Lidia Ali Miseensa, OLF Women's Association member

Ms Leensa Abdalla, leading OLF member

Asefa (father's name not known)

The whereabouts of these detainees are unknown so far.



On the same day of these arrests, the Ethiopian Electoral Board decided that the OLF was an organisation which was competent to take part in the 2021 national elections.

The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee listed over 500 detainees at the beginning of December. These included the following held in Central Oromia:

In Finfinnee:

Abdi Girma and

Sabona Asfaw in Akaki, Kaliti

Kayo Milki in Nifas Silk Lafto

Oftana Mesfin Ofga'a, Bole

Turfat Dhufera, Finfinnee Special Zone

In Burayu, 3rd District, Finfinnee/Addis Ababa:

Abdi Diriba

Abraham Bayisa

Alamayo Caala

Alamayo Diro

Asagid Mohammed

Ashenafi Abera

Ayana Solomon

Barasa Zarihun

Biqila Nagaa

Caala Girma

Dame Guyasa

Desalenyte Sambato

Diro Tolasa

Eba Bekuma

Fiqadu Tasfaye

Fiqiru Sadi

Gadisa Mosisa

Galana Dagafa

Gamachis Takala

Gamachu Aboma

Girma Hindalu

Goshu Dagafa

Hacaaluu Baqala

Hindalu Gutata

Izaq Samu'el

Jafar Hussein

Jato Mekonnen

Kasahun Tolasa

Lamesa Dhinsa

Lami Caala

Mebratu Taye

Meti Milkko

Musxafaa Mohammed

Obsa Hailu Arado
Obsi Xuruna
Solomon Alamayo
Sanyi Dosha

Tayera Idosa
Tamache Banti
Temesgen Getachu
Tolera Namara

Tolina Gamachu
Wabi Idosa
Yasin Ibrahim

In Ada'a-barga, W Showa:

Ababe Fayisa
Abera Baqala
Abazu Kababa
Ababe Dabale
Adamu Kuma
Adne Tulu
Alamitu Baqala
Alamu Zagaye
Ashetu Nanesa
Atsadu Kafiyaletu
Bayisa Hunde
Baqala Dame
Baqala Magarsa
Bayisa Maridu
Dabala Olana

Dajanee Fiqadu
Daraje Mulatu
Dhaba Alamu
Diro Dasita
Diriba Alemu
Fiqadu Aboye
Getachu
Gizachu
Guluma
Hordofa Garama
Ijara Ababa
Irko Kabada
Kababa Habte
Katama Mekonnen
Lelisa Ababa

Magarsa Diro
Mosisa Nuguse
Nagasa Abara
Obse Taye
Ragasa Jailer
Rata Admasu
Sanyi Getana
Senesa Abara
Tashoma Kabada
Tashoma Qanani
Tolera Bayu
Urgesa Dabale
Zawdu Gadisa

In Ejere, W Showa:

Balaxa
Boja Warquufi
Dajane Badhadhafi
Daraje Damanu

Dhugomsa Ayansa
Galata Lami
Lami Dingu
Sabona Lami

Tashoma Jabeesa
Warqu Kafani

In Ambo, W Showa:

Abushe Haile
Baqala Fayisa
Bona Baqala
Bona Didha
Bontu Lami

Caltu Mataka
Dhugasa Fixe
Enyuma Kuma
Ibsa Mosisa
Matiyas Galatafi

Marsi Biranu
Obse Mataka
Rabuma Getacho
Samu'el Kumsa
Tola Alemu

In Ginci, W Showa:

Alemayu Si'esa
Beeki Caala
Boruuf Gidi
Caala Bayisa
Fayyo
Fiqiru Gude

Gadisa Abara
Gamachu Bacca
Garmame Warqu
Haqabas/Kabada
Iftiyom
Jawe Bayisa

Jorji Ababa
Kumsa Marga
Nimona Lamesa
Obsuman Uma
Sisay Saxxo
Waquma Asafa

In Meta Robi, W Showa:

Diriba Baayee

Katama Nadhasa

Tujuba Amana

In Babicha, W Showa - Baqala Lachisa and Kumsa Shuguti

In Bako, W Showa - Temesgen Asmara

In Goro, SW Showa:

Biqila Lalisa
Dereje Nagasu
Fira'ol Hirpasa
Galata Tashoma
Galatu Ajama
Hirphasa Rafu
Hirphasa Hailu

Hussein Ayala
Ibrahim Damasa
Idris Amdisa
Jamail Amdisa
Kadiro Galana
Lelisa Magarsa
Mamud Abdurahman

Mohammed Abdalla
Mudin Arabo
Marga Fufati
Shamsu Daksisa
Takala Damasa
Zeyinu Mohammed

In E Showa, Dereje Begi and Gobana Sida in Bishoftu
 Ginbar Nagara in Adama, and Waqineh Roba in Maqi
 In Batu, W Arsi (3* reported as Batu Jido Kombolcha):

Abiti Dule*	Dale Tushuru	Midhaso Abiti
Abdalla Gamado	Dereje Hailemariam	Muktar Hajo
Abdi Taganu	Desata Qaweti	Mulatu G/Selassie
Alemayu Ashuta	Dhaqabo Guto*	Qasim Hussein
Aman Dalu	Diriba Wayesa	Sadiq Buku
Aman Hilo	Gamado Asahami	Shumi Ayano
Ashanu Fayiso	H/Xaha Galaso	Tadassa Ilu
Birhanu Wari	Jamal Dhab	Tamiru Rorisa
Birhanu Gadisa	Kadir Amana	Tariku Ramato
Bonsa Guracho	Mamush Wondifraw	Temesgen Sojato
Bula'a Abiyu	Mengistu Abush	
Caala Wado	Mengistu Tashite*	

Also in W Arsi, Dhaqabo Wariyo was detained in Shashemane

AMHARA REGION

Detainees

The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee reported at the beginning of December that the following Oromo were being held in prison in Metekel, Gojam, Amhara Region:

Abara Ababe	Dhugasa Maaruu
Abara Ragasa	Dhugumaa Ayana
Abara Wirtuu	Dirribaa Waaqtolee
Abbaa Gadaa Dabaloo Hika	Fiqaaduu Gammachuu
Ababa Admasu	Garoma Imiruu
Ababa Baqala	Gamachu Gannatii
Abishu Waaqine	Gamachu
Abiyot Inbiyalewu	Gamachu Waqwaya
Abraham Adamu	Ginfaa Hinsarmuu
Adamu Baqala	Goshuu Hambisaa
Alamayo Warquu	Habtam Bashir
Alamu Waadii	Habtam Dabalaa
Amanu Argataa	Habtam Dhiinsaa
Amanu Fufaa	Habtee Dhiinsaa
Argataa Sanbatoo	Hiikaa Baqala
Asafa Dastaa	Hundeessaa Baqala
Asafa Raggasa	Isiraa'el Abarraa
Balay Kefyalew	Iyyaasuu Waqwaya
Basu Fiqaad Ababee	Jabeessaa Abbabaa
Bayanee Wirtuu	Jiraataa Gurmeessaa
Baqala Tadasa	Jirraa Mokonnin
Biqilaa Addisuu	Leencoo Taaddasaa
Biqilaa Asafa	Maammoi Waaqjiraa
Biqilaa Bushaan	Malaakuu Hinsarmuu
Danu'el Dassaaleny	Malaakuu Qixxeessaa
Daawit Baayyuu	Malkee Nigaatuu
Darajjee Siyyum	Margaa Mokonnin

Margaa Waaqtolaa
Mokonnin Asafa
Mulugeetaa Dichii
Muluualem Baqala
Nagasa Abdiisaa
Namoo Ol'aanaa
Nigatu Tarafa
Qana'aa Haayiluu
Raggaadaa Bogonjee
Raggasa Haayilee
Simaachawu Kabbadaa
Sooressaa Dhibbisaa
Takala Ayana
Takala Dinagdee
Takala Yaadataa

Tamiru Yaadataa
Tagibaaruu Addamee
Tamaarii Galataa
Tamasgeen Amsaaluu
Tamasgeen Bayyanaa
Tamasgeen Kabbadee
Tashaalaa Qananii
Tashaalee Dheeressaa
Tolasaa Nuguser
Waaqjiraa Gurmuu
Warquu Inbiyaalew
Zakkaree Adabaa
Zalalem Lamuu
Zamanuu Gurmeessaa
Zarihuun Alamirrawu

EASTERN OROMIA

Killings

Ahmed Nur, from 02 Kebele, Haromaya, E Hararge, was killed 'on the open gate' in daylight by military forces on 16 June (*Gadado* 30 July).

Previously unrecorded **killings** during protests shortly after the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa were detailed by *Gadado* on 3 December.

The following were **shot dead** in Chiro, W Hararge, on 1 July:

Mohammed Abdi Aliyi

Ibsa Mohammed Aliyi

Ana Mohammed

Mebrate Abera

Shot dead in Dinsho, Bale, on 3 July:

Muzaym Shemsi

Sufiyan Nuro

Father of 7, **Mohammed Abdella**, was **killed by soldiers** on his farm in Mi'esso district, W Hararge, and

Abdella Suleyman Abdella was **killed by soldiers** in Asebot town, Mi'esso district, on 22 July 'being suspected OLF supporters' (*Gadado* 30 July).

Gadado reported on 22 November that eight had been shot dead in Oromia during the preceding two days. Two were shot dead in Showa (p.4) and three in E Wallega (p.17) on 20 November and one in Arsi (p.4) on 21 November.

On 21 November, **Kedir Abdullahi**, was **killed and thrown on the roadside** in Kobo, E Hararge, and

Maftu Yusuf was **killed in front of his home** in Dire Teyara (airport area), Dire Dawa, E Hararge.

Detainees

The following 68 were among 79 detained in Gursum district police station, E Hararge, at protests following the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June (*Gadado* 25 September):

Hasan Bakar	Shukur Muktar	Toido Muktar
Kalid Abdi	Bahr Abdurham	Fati Mohammed
Muadin Husen	Yasin Musa	Woli Abdurhaman
Tajir Shafi	Abdi Ahmed	Taju Ziyad
Megersa Abdulsemed	Ugaz Mohammed	Shine Mohammed
Adnan Ahmed	Nasir Mohammed	Nur Mohammed
Mohammed Fesel	Abshir Abdi	Farha Mohammed
Dr.Sharif Mohammed	Bahiridir Ramadan	Anuar Muktar
Nasir Adem	Mujedin Adem	Usumael Mohammed
Ahimednasir Abdi	Eliyas Shemsu	Kadir Abdula
Moylud Abdulkarem	Eliyas Nure	Amin Nuriye
Abuku Mohad	Arab Mohammed	Ramadan Yusuf
Ramadan Abubakar	Ramadan Abdi	Mohammed Ebrahim
Feysel Yusuf	Yusufe Zuber	Fami Sherif
Abdunasir	Hasen Amir	Aman Tahir
Ebrahim	Nure Ahmed	Jemal Adem
Nebile Tofiq	Hayu Taha	Yusuf Husen
Ms Fozi Hiylu	Kedir Mohammed	Adam Abdi
Ms Riyade Sule	Sultan Mohammed	Shakib Abdurhaman
Ms Samir Ahmed	Yaya Habtamu	Abdi Zuber
Abdulkarim Bakar	Abdusalam	Muyadin Abdusamad
Abdisha Bayan	Feysel Musa	Eliyas Abagaro
Umar Bakar	Anos Yusuf	

The organisation named 33 of those detained at the same time in Dire Dawa, E Hararge:

Aneso Ahmed Ebrahim	Balisa Mohammed Jibril
Mohaammed Abdurahman Mume	Nadhi Jemal Mume
Ararso Ahmed Abraham	Badhaso Daso Tahir
Bahar Mumad Yuye	Raju Hamid Jemal
Farahan Mohaammed Ume	Chala Yaya Mumad
Gammada Abbas Mame	Ahmed Mohammed Abdurahaman
Hasad Bakar Sabur	Barento Abdi Umar
Kadir Abdulahi Hasan	Nabiya Jemal Dawud
Tujji Mohaammed Abrosh	Ms Ayantu Tayib Taha
Arjun Abdurahaman Bakar	Usniya Abdulqadir Kadir
Abdi Jemal Abdurahaman	Ms Fakiya Bakar Abdulahi
Abdi Sufi Usman	Qabula Abduule Alisho
Sufii Usman Bakar	Mohammed Ahmad Adam
Hasan Mohaammed Abdurahaman	Dine Uso Sali
Marawin Ahmed Mume	Damis Hailu G/mikael
Dinaras Mohammed Ibirosh	Ibsa Abraham Mumado
Ramadan Usman Mume	

The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee named over 500 detainees at the beginning of December, including the following in Eastern Oromia, almost all in Bale. They included four who were held in unspecified places in Bale:

A/Wahaab H/Daawud

Dr Adam Rahmatok

Birhaanuu Alammayyoo

Umar Aliyyii, local leader (Abbaa Gadaa)

Held in the provincial capital, Robe:

Abdul-Aziiz Mohammed	Feeysal Abdaa	Musxafaa Aliyyii
Abdusalaam Umar	Jeettii Hasan	Rashiid Bunkii
Abdii Bunkii	Jeylaan Umar	Saafii Ismaa'il
Ahmuu Umar	Kaalid Jeeylaan	Sayiduu Hasan
Aliyyii Amasn	Hamzaa	Shamsaddin
Anwaar	Mohammad H/Saanoo	Sintaayyoo Alamuu
Awwal H/Saanoo	Mohammad Ismaa'il	Taajuu Huseen
Awwal Suleeyman	Mohammad Kadir	Tafarraa Tsaggaayee
Barsiisaa Hamzaa	Mokonnin Wasanuu	Umar Saafii
Faxxanaa	Muddiin Maammaa	

Held in Gasara:

Abdulhafiiz Abdulaziz	Fooziyaa Amiinoo	Mubaarak Mohammad
Abdulhakim Amar	Fu'aad Umar	Mudaree Tamaam
Abdurahmaan Yaasin	Hamzia Sheikh Aliyyii	Mudasir Jibriil
Abdusalaam Nuuree	Huseen Warraa	Muktaar
Aabbu Idiree	Jaabir H/Abdulqaadir	Muzayyan M/Hiseen
Aabii Xaazoo	Jaabir Kadir	Muzzamil Aloo
Aaludin Jundii	Jambo Aliyyi	Sa'aad Qaasim
Abdii Jamaal	Jamaal Huseen	Sh/Abduljaliil H/Ismaa'il
Ahimad Kibrat	Jamaal Shalfaa	Taaju Jaamal
Akaaluu	Jibriil Mohammad	Waziiri Mohammad
Anawaar	Kadiir Abubakar	Xaahir Abba Badiruu
Awwal Umar	Kadir Sheikh Jamal	Yuunaa Abdurroo
Feeysal Idiree	Mahadii Muzayyan	

Held in Dalo Mana:

Abdulwahaab Jiloo	Gadaa Jiloo	Muzammil A/Kariim
Adam Amaan	H/Xaahir Mohammed	
Awwal H/Kadiir	Hasan Jiloo	

Held in Agarfa:

Abdi Juneeydiin	Mahmad Surur Hasan	Saadiqoo Haaaji
Abdurahmaan H/warji	Mamad Adam	Tammiruu Urgeessa
Feysal Mamaa	Nuure Ahmed	
Maammush Qaasim	Rooza Mahammad	

Held in Goba:

Ahmed Haajii	Fiqaadu Ayyala	Mohammad Abbittii
Alamaayyoo Birhaanee	Galata gamaad	Mohammad Jeylaan
Alamayyoo Dibaaba	Haadam H/Awwal	Mudaasir H/Suleeymaan
Aliyyi Jabboo	Hasan Maammaa	Mudaasir Sh/Mahmud
Amaan Ganaamoo	Ibraahim Tilmoo	Mudassir Muhammad
Anwaar A/Baasix	Ibraahim Xaahaa	Muhaammad Jeylaan
Awal Abdurroo	Ibrahim xahaa	Naasir
Bilaal Jundii	Jabraahin Amaan	Saadam Mohammad
Birhaanuu Shurrube	Kenna Shashara	Siraj Ahmad
Efireem Laggasaa	Mammoo Geetuu	Tajuu Duureessa

Zubeer H/ Bariisoo

Held in Goro:

Ballaxxaa Raggaasaa

Hayluu Mokonnin

Held in Qarree:

Foziyaa Adam

Haalima Adam

Misra Abbaatii

Held in Dinsho:

Abdulmannaan Kadiir

Abduu Kaliil

Huseen Jamaal

Ibraahim Yuusuf

Rahimaa Nuuree

Safinaa Awwal

Samiiraa Bushuraa

Awwal Abdulsamad.

Siraaaj Amaan

Miftaah Xayyib

Xaayibaa Ibraahim

Zabiibaa Amaan

Zamzam Jaarsoo

Masqaloo Badhaasaa was held in Matu and the following three were detained in Hararge, Eliyas Aliyi Sa'ido in Bookee, W Hararge
Oromsii Elemoo in Hadare Biyo, E Hararge, and
Michuu Seenaa, at an unspecified place in Hararge.

WESTERN OROMIA

Killings

The following were recorded by *Gadado* on 30 July 2020 to have been **killed** during the last **few months of 2018 and the first six months of 2019**. Their deaths have not previously been reported by OSG, although, due to variations in name spellings, this cannot be absolutely guaranteed.

Killed in Gidami district, SW Wallega:

Naasir Qana'aa

Bashaa Ittafaa

Fedhasaa Ga'eera

Gammachuu Guutaa

Ifaa Guutaa

Gamachu Guta and Ifa Guta were brothers. Their home was razed with all their property when their parents were detained in the local military camp. Their parents disappeared after being released.

Qellem kebele:

Sanbatoo Olaanaa

Daani'eel Olaanaa

Umar Iisaa

Girayii Sonkaa kebele:

Mohammed Taliilaaa

Gamulaa Jigsaa

Giraayii Biishaa kebele:

Gammadaa Siraataa

Tasfaayee Gisimoo

Giraayii Horoo kebele:

Dabalaa Taarikuu

Addisuu Nagarii

Abootee kebele:

Mulunaa Qannaa

Dabalaa Solomoon

Yohannis Al-maadii

Tafarii Dinqaa

Yoohannis Dassalenyi

Toomaas Dhabsuu

Yisaaq Fiqiruu

Balaay Ruufii

Margaa Ittafaa

Koorii Daaqaa

Mazgabuu Geeboo

Solomoon Alamuu

Tasfaa Iisaa

Saadaam Iisaa

Eebbisaa Raagaa

Naasir Guddinaa

Toomaas Dirribaa

Gabaa Facaasaa kebele:

Hambisaa Baacaa

Ganda Burii

Tufaa Galaalchaa

Tamasgeen Gaarii

Malkaamuu Daggafaa

Ganda Qumbaabii Shaappii:

Eebbisaa Jabaanaa, aged 80

Shundaa Zarihuun

Ganda Coomman Kallaa:

Yakob Boloo

Tasfaayee Haile

Ganda Laaloo Garee:

Gamulaa Fayyisaa

Lalisaa Sooraa

Darajjee Galataa, aged 12

Gidamii 01 Kebele:

Nagaash Fufaa

Abeel Taammiruu

Gidaamii Ganda 02:

Balaay Turaa

Saamu'eel Lammeessaa

Pheexiroos Gammachuu

Burruusee Taaffasaa

Sa'id Mohammed

Daawit Tashoomaa

Yoonas Waltajjii

Habtaamuu Taaddasaa



Gadado reported on 30 July that **Waqjira Tolosa** of Garjo kebele, Ghimbi district, W Wallega, was **killed** by soldiers on 12 February because he was a suspected OLF supporter and because he denied having contact with his sister Ayanatu Tolosa (pictured above) who disappeared in 2007 after several episodes of detention, torture and rape. Waqjira disappeared in detention until released at the end of 2017. He was held in Senkele military camp for three months in 2019 and was **killed in custody**.

Gadado reported on 19 September the names of **four of six killed** when soldiers burnt houses and fired on their occupants in a settlement of displaced people from Eastern Oromia in Gero Dingaja, Dapho district, Buna Bedele, Illubabor, on 15 April (see OSG Report 52, p.15). Two were burnt to death in their homes and two were shot as they ran. They are named:

Aliyi

Aba Gutema

Aba Amadin

Abdurahman

Melkamu Gutama was taken to the local military campo from his home in Yubdo, Ghimbi district, W Wallega, on 1 June.

There he was **tortured and killed**. Local sources describe his body being **dragged 'on the floor like a dead animal'**.

Habtamu Jalata, Kabi kebele, Homa district, W Wallega, was **killed** by soldiers on 6 June 'being suspected OLF supporter' (*Gadado* 30 July).

Brothers **Samuel Emiru** and **Isaq Chaala** (right) were taken by soldiers from their parents' home in Kapi kebele, Ganji district, W Wallega, on 22 June, **'brutally beaten and finally killed,** being suspected OLF supporters' (*Gadado* 30 July).





On 26 June, **Dhaba Debelo** and **Musa Umar**, from Sago, Jerdega Jarte district, Horo Guduru, E Wallega, were '**killed by military forces being suspected OLF supporters**' (*Gadado* 30 July).

Thomas Saqeta (aged 15, left), Tegi Gelewo kebele, Guliso district, W Wallega was '**brutally killed** by Ethiopian military forces on 27 June 'being suspected OLF supporter' (*Gadado* 30 July).

Lamessa Bekele, a lecturer at Illubabor University, was '**killed on the open gate in daylight**' outside his home in Alge town, Illubabor, on 27 June 'being suspected OLF supporter' (*Gadado* 30 July).

Amayu Banti, Sayo Nole district, W Wallega, was **shot dead** by soldiers on 28 June. His relatives were refused permission to remove his body from the street for one week and were denied a burial ceremony (*Gadado* 30 July).

Alemayehu Abdi, a teacher in 04 kebele, Dembi Dollo town, SW Wallega, was **killed** by soldiers on 9 July 'being suspected OLF supporter'. He was a respected elder among the community and regularly met other elders to solve local disputes (*Gadado* 30 July).

On 27 July, **four innocent Oromo were killed by soldiers** in Jawi Gicho kebele, Anfilo district, W Wallega. Three were students - **Abdo Hailu**, **Amayu** and **Gamachu Asfaw** - and the fourth, **Mereba Waqjira**, was a farmer. They were shot because they were suspected supporters of the OLF (*Gadado* 30 July).



Mesfin, a harmless young man with mental and learning difficulties (left), managed to live independently in his parents' home in Ghimbi town, W Wallega, after their deaths from natural causes. Despite his posing no possible threat to the government, **Mesfin was shot dead by soldiers on 24 September** (*Gadado* 25 September).

Ararso Gemmechu (right) was detained in Jabo prison, Nejo town, W Wallega, in around July for being a suspected supporter of the OLF. **Soldiers took him from prison and killed him** on 5 October (*Gadado* 3 December).



Six Oromo were shot dead by government soldiers on 7 October in Qellem, SW Wallega, because they were suspected OLF supporters.

Two of four killed in Machara village, Hawa Galan district:

Obsa Bekele and

Ephraim Boshe

Two killed in Debita Bile kebele, Sedi Chanka district:

Aboma Mitiku and

Workneh Bekele (*Gadado* 3 December).

Respected Oromo elder, **Masune Biratu Mandudo**, Halaku Dogoma kebele, Yubdo district, W Wallega, was **killed in public**, on 8 October. Soldiers gathered the local population by force to witness the killing (*Gadado* 3 December).

Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa (1 November) named **five young Oromo killed** when troops opened fire on them in broad daylight in Nekemte, E Wallega, on 23 October:

Ragu’el Hailu

Henok

Falmata

Syfu Kedir

Yisak Zelalem

They were members of the Oromo youth movement Qeerroo. The government claimed they belonged to a fictitious group ‘Abba Torbee’ which extremist Amhara media claim to have targeted Amharas.

About **60 innocent civilians, mostly Amhara** whose families were forcibly resettled from Wollo in central Oromia/Ethiopia to Gawwa Ganka in Guliso district in W Wallega in the 1985/6 Derg resettlement programme, **were gathered together by armed forces on 1 November and slaughtered en masse and their homes burnt down.**

Within hours, the government and Amhara-dominated national media blamed the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) for the incident. This version was quoted and echoed unchallenged by *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, and even *Amnesty International*.

Spokesmen for OLA and OLF strenuously denied any involvement. They pointed out inconsistencies in the government version of events and called for an independent inquiry. Information gathered personally by Teshale Abera, *Gadado* and *Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa* (2 November) can only be consistent with the killings being committed by a group which was backed and employed by the government Prosperity Party. Either this group or a similar one was employed previously to commit atrocities for which the government blamed the OLF, OFC or the Qeerroo/Qarree movement (such as in Shashemane on 29/30 June).

Inconsistencies with the government version of events include:

Large-scale movements of government troops were noted by local people during the day before the killings.

The heavily armed local Command Post was evacuated immediately before the atrocity. The general said he expected security forces to arrive to replace the evacuating troops. Within hours of the evacuation, the civilians were told to gather together.

The incident happened on the same day that Qeerroo announced the beginning of a fifth round of civil unrest throughout Oromia and on the very day when the TPLF told the European Union that it will not negotiate alone but with all opposition forces including the OLF.

OLA and OLF have been operating in W Wallega throughout the time that settlers were moved there without conflict.

It appears that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is willing to sacrifice Amhara lives merely to vilify the parties which represent Oromo interests and their call for equality.

On 22 November, *Gadado* reported eight extra-judicial killings in Oromia by government troops during the preceding two days. Two were killed in Showa on 20 November (p.4), one in Arsi on 21 November (p.4) and two in Hararge on 21 November (p.11).

Three were killed in Horo Guduru, E Wallega, on 20 November. The three men were **taken from police custody** in Sekela police station during the night. They were killed and their bodies thrown at the roadside:

Berhanu Gabayo

Gadisa Alemayehu

Kitila Gudeta (teacher)

Arbitrary arrest and detention

Previously unrecorded by OSG is the disappearance in detention of Teshome Guta, Lecturer in the Language Department, Wallega University, on 24 June (*Gadado* 30 July). He was suspected of supporting the OLF.

The family of detained OLF official Lammi Benya was reported by *Gadado* on 23 September to have been subject to persecution. His elderly father Benya Burika was taken from his home in Wayu, Tuka subdistrict, Wallega, on 15 September and held in Tuka Police Station. All of Lammi's brothers and sisters have disappeared from the family home.

An Oromo Ethiopian Orthodox Church priest, Chala (right) was arrested when teaching from a bible written in Afaan Oromo in church in Lema kebele, Limu district, E Wallega, at 19.00, 15 September (*Gadado* 25 September).



Gadado reported 25 September that over 700 men and women in Yabu district, Jimma zone, who were arrested in protests after the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June, were still being held in detention three months later despite court orders to release them on bail. The detainees include teacher Tadele Merga (left).

In early December, the Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee released the names of over 500 detainees in Oromia, including the following in Western Oromia.

Detained in Ebantu, E Wallega:

Abara Dajane	Dabala Aga	Haftamu Hirpha
Abdana Gamu	Damiso Badhasa	Jira Jarso
Abdisa Ababa	Daraje Gobana	Kefale Qixata
Alamayo Marga	Daraje Hunde	Lamesa Itticha
Alemu Mekonnen	Diriba Mekonnen	Lamesa Ganati
Asafa Alamayo	Elias Galata	Misgane Mekonnen
Asafa Warqina	Fayera Warqina	Nagasa Lamesa
Asaba Dhufera	Fida Oljira	Nagara Dhufera
Ayala Gamachis	Fiqadu Ayana	Qalbesa Getacho
Badhasa Admasu	Gonfa Baqala	Shifara Yadata
Biratu Ababa	Gulti Abetu	Temesgen Sori
Caali Mashasha	Guta Ganati	Tuli Gabisa

Haro Limu, E Wallega:

Abi Dabalo	Dhinsa Yadata	Hunde Haile
Amanu Duresa	Fayera Tasisa	Jamal Suse
Amsalu Jibat	Fayisa Hailu	Jamara Tadese
Ayala Akuma	Fayisa Neguse	Mudin Adam
Dabalo Dasale	Fiqadu Hailu	Sadiqu
Dasu Beyene	Galata Amsalu	Sanyi Tadese
Dawit Fiqadu	Hirpha Likasa	Temesgen Qana'a

Gudaya Bila E Wallega:

Asanbit Eliyas	Diriba Gobana
Dereje Wadajo	Tariku Edeta

Sasiga, E Wallega:		
Biqila Birhanu	Eliyas Shiferaw	Kasahun Buzayehu
Dasale Asfaw	Gamada Girma	Tariku
Eliyas Hambisa	Guta Sima	Takile Salbane
Jardaga Jarte, Horo Guduru, E Wallega:		
Buze Lami	Hirko (Kulula) Lata	Rabitu Walde
Galane Wirtu	Olqaba Namara	
Limu Gal-ila, E Wallega		
Diriba Nuqusu		
Mootuma Namo		
Goban, Horo Guduru, E Wallega:		
Hunda'ol Tafari		
Kiramun, E Wallega:		
Tame Moti		
Mendi, W Wallega:		
Fenet Wandimu		
Solane Imiru		
Darimo, Illubabor:		
Awalu Kalif	Isacho Mekonnen	Muzamil Kalifa
Irkisa Waga	Laxif Qadi	
Mettu, Illubabor:		
Hussein Ahmad	Mohammed-Amin Farsi	Zabiba Jibril
Dhaba Gamachu	Rabiya Kalifa	
Keenboon Oromia	Tesfaye Tolasa	

Beating, detention and disappearance of parents of OLA leader: Home burnt down

OSG in Australia received a report immediately before Report 54 went to press on 6 January 2021 that the parents of Marro Dirriba, the commander of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) were attacked and severely beaten at their house in Horo Guduru, E Wallega, on 26 December while their home and property were destroyed by fire. Commander Marro's 70 year-old father and 65 year-old mother had not been in touch with him since he left home 17 years ago to join OLA. Neighbours and friends have been trying to locate the couple in detention, to take food for them, but were unable to locate them up to the time of the report. They are shown right with their destroyed property.



BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ REGION



Arbitrary arrest and detention

Gadado 25 September reported that the Aba Gada (Oromo traditional Gada system leader) in Metekel in the Oromia zone of Benishangul-Gumuz Region, 65 year-old Debelo Sheka (left), had been illegally held for two months by the regional government.



Asefa Regassa (teacher, top right) and Bidiqa Muse (bottom right) were arrested by Ethiopian military forces in Metekel on 5 October 'because they are Oromo' (*Gadado* 3 December).



SOUTHERN OROMIA

Killings

It was reported in OSG Report 53 (p.26) that **Tefo Umar**, in Wadera, E Guji, was killed but the date was not specified. He **was killed on 17 July** (*Gadado* 3 December).

On 22 September, **Tariku Kefeyalew**, of Hidha Korma kebele, Surro district, Guji zone, was **killed by soldiers and decapitated**. His **head was then hung on public display** to terrorise the local population (*Gadado* 2 October). Photographs were sent to OSG but not reproduced.

Arbitrary arrest and detention

Teacher **Dabaso Oda**, Tille Mado village, Moyale district, Borana zone, was detained in the open, as shown right, on 15 September (*Gadado* 25 September).



The Oromia Political Prisoners Support Committee released the names of over 500 detainees in Oromia Region in early December. Only six of those detained in Southern Oromia were named:

Aisha Jamal, Jara Jabir. Jalata Lammi and Lalisitu Adola were detained in Guji, Beeka Bude was detained in Shakiso, Guji zone, and Jarso Malicha Arero was held in Hidi Lola, Borana zone.

Human Rights League letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

In an open letter to the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, on 1 November, *Human Rights League for the Horn of Africa* wrote of the government's use of secret detention centres, *incommunicado* detention in military camps, widespread torture, denial of court orders for release and the government's lack of legal mandate to continue in power. The letter continued:

'At this moment, the security situation in Ethiopia is highly problematic. The government is not in a position to control the prevalence of repeated attacks against ethnic minorities in Beishangul-Gumuz Region, Southern Region [SNNPR] and elsewhere. Sporadic inter-ethnic

conflict that has been arising between Afar and Issa Somalis on the one hand, and Wollo Oromos and Amharas on the other, is very threatening. *HRLHA* has received credible data of hundreds of killings and property destruction because of these armed attacks and inter-ethnic clashes in the foregoing regions in the past few months alone.

The so called, ‘Oromia Special Force (OSF)’ has been widely perpetrating human rights atrocities throughout the Regional State. ***HRLHA* has recorded more than 250 extrajudicial killings of civilians perpetrated by OSF since 30 June 2020** [*Gadado* 3 December claimed that 219 were killed between 30 June and 4 October and named 88 in this report]. Dozens of killings have been registered in the last 10 days alone in different towns of Oromia region such as Nekemte, Sabata, Shashemane and Awaday. The most shocking incident of all was the heinous killings of five unarmed youths [Qeerroos] namely Ragu’el Hailu, Henok, Falmata, Syfu Kedir and Yisak Zelalm in the Nekemte town of Western Oromia on 23 October 2020 [see p.??]. These youths were brutally murdered by OSF using live ammunition in broad daylight. . . .

Teshale Abera ‘Investigate atrocities: stop blaming the victims’

Teshale Abera, former President of Oromia Region Supreme Court, has maintained contact with many well-informed sources in Ethiopia since he fled to the UK in 2005. He wrote of his anxiety and frustration shortly after the government-sponsored massacre of Amhara settlers in Guliso district, Wallega, on 1 November, which was, predictably, blamed on the OLF. He wrote:

‘. . . About 60 people are reported to have been killed in West Wallega at a place called Gulliso. As William Davison [Journalist] said, the government quickly blamed the OLA and TPLF. Given the current state of things and the record of Abiy's government on its ability to properly investigate and its willingness to tell the truth it is difficult to believe what this government is saying.

The Amhara news outlets such as *ESAT* support the view promoted by the government on this, as they always did, particularly since the consolidation of power by Abiy. The OLF issued a press release asking for an independent investigation into this and similar accusations. Oromo media reports and news also indicate the OLF were not responsible. People from the surrounding area are reported to have witnessed government military movement in that area right before the incident; and that the victims were asked to assemble by armed men before being executed.

The story of the government doesn't seem to hold. . . .

More than 200 people were reported to have been killed around the end of 2018, at the border area between Gumuz and Oromia, when more than 240,000 people were evicted because of a reported military raid under by the Command Post. The government then blamed the OLF both for the eviction of people and the killings. The residents reported otherwise.

The OLF sought independent investigation. None took place. Most of the victims were children and women. We have evidence, including pictures showing bodies of victims. A Mayor of Nejo [W Wallega] was burned alive when his house was lit on fire. The residents claimed that the government was to blame. The OLF, despite being blamed for orchestrating it, asked for an independent investigation. No independent investigation took place.

In early 2019, several Oromia Banks in West Wollega (two zones) were reported to have been robbed. Again, the government blamed the OLF. The OLF asked for an independent investigation and yet it didn't happen.

In early 2020 a group of five people including foreign citizens were killed around the Nejo area. The government blamed the OLF. The OLF asked for an independent investigation. Nothing has happened thus far.

In September 2018 four high officials from Benishangul Gumuz were killed while travelling across Oromia at a place called Ayira Gulliso. The government blamed the OLF. The OLF asked for an independent investigation. It didn't happen.

In 2020 students in Dembi Dollo University, allegedly from Amhara ethnic group were allegedly kidnapped, again by the OLF. Oromo media and residents around the university have persistently denied this and have claimed that it was fabricated news that never happened. The OLA leader Mr Marro repeatedly denied and stated that there is no way his army would target civilians. The OLF asked for an independent investigation. No investigation at all took place.

There were however widespread reports that it didn't even happen, that the news was a hoax used to downplay the killings of Oromo university students in Amhara Region. Oromo students in Amhara Universities have been continuously targeted in 2020. Some were thrown out through windows and killed, many have been beaten to death. The students blamed armed government forces conducting the operation. No independent investigation took place. No one was brought to justice.

Hachalu Hundessa was assassinated in the capital in June 2020. The government quickly blamed the OLF and TPLF. The OLF, together with other opposition groups asked for an independent investigation. Nothing happened thus far.

There are continuous and perpetual massacres taking place in different parts of Oromia zone. Evictions of about a million Oromo took place in Bale and Harar area. Widespread killings are reported to have been taking place in Arsi, Bale, Hararge and Guji Borana. There is no meaningful remedial action taking place by the government.

Oromos who settled in Jimma because of the eviction in Harar and Bale are reported to have been evicted again. Nothing took place to remedy this.

There seems to be a pattern in all this. It is worrying.'