
REPORT 72

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Human Rights Abuses in Ethiopia

Contents

Introduction

| | |
|---|------|
| Human rights in Ethiopia: OSG Submission to UN Human Rights Council | p.3 |
| Taye Danda'a: Continued detention and insecurity | p.5 |
| Back home | p.6 |
| Civil strife: Students, teachers and civil servants | p.7 |
| Eruption: Volcano, war and insecurity | p.8 |
| UAE funds Rapid Support Forces base in Ethiopia | p.9 |
| Cultural erasure: 15,000 displaced for \$12.5 billion Aabbuu Seeraa airport | p.10 |
| 'Bullet food': Forced conscription of young and old | p.13 |
| Shebele resort, Jigjiga | p.15 |
| Closure of Addis Standard office in Ethiopia | p.15 |
| Abuses in Moyale, Kenya | p.15 |
| Killings and other abuses | |
| Finfinnee, Shaggar city and Oromo Special Zone | p.16 |
| North Showa | p.16 |
| West Showa | p.17 |
| Southwest Showa | p.18 |
| East Showa | p.19 |
| Wollo and Amhara Region | p.21 |
| Arsi and West Arsi | p.23 |
| Hararge and Bale | p.30 |
| Wallega: Horo Guduru and East Wallega | p.35 |
| Qellem and West Wallega, Illubabor, Buno Bedele and Jimma | p.39 |
| Guji and Borana | p.47 |
| Benishangul-Gumuz Region | p.50 |
| South Ethiopia Region | p.52 |
| Gambella Region | p.53 |
| Persecution of and within the Ethiopian Orthodox Church | p.54 |

Abbreviations

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| EEPA | Europe External Programme with Africa, Belgium |
| ENDF | Ethiopian National Defence Force |
| EOTC | Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church |
| EPRDF | Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front |
| GERD | Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam |
| GLONA | Global Oda Nabe Association |
| OLA | Oromo Liberation Army |
| OLF | Oromo Liberation Front |
| ONM | Oromo National Media, incorporating Qeerroo Bilisummaa Oromoo and OLA |
| OSG | Oromia Support Group |
| RSF | Rapid Support Forces |
| TPLF | Tigrayan Peoples Liberation Front |
| UAE | United Arab Emirates |

OSG total recorded killings of Oromo civilians since 2018

OSG has now documented the killing of 7,511 Oromo civilians in Ethiopia since 2018. This represents only a small fraction of the real total, almost certainly under 20% and possibly much less.

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Introduction

Human rights in Ethiopia: OSG Submission to UN Human Rights Council

On 31 January OSG submitted the following statement to the 61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council (23 February – 31 March) with the assistance of OSG Australia, which has consultative status with the UN.

This statement includes information contained in Reports 69-72 from the Oromia Support Group (OSG).

The Prosperity Party government of Ethiopia does not represent the interests of any of the peoples of Ethiopia. The Oromo people reside in all regions of Ethiopia and constitute the majority in the largest and most populous region, the Oromia Region. Although many of the individuals in government are Oromo, the abuses against Oromo are as severe and widespread as those against any of the country's other peoples. It is therefore inaccurate to describe Ethiopia's government as an 'Oromo government.'

The government's dependence on financial support from the United Arab Emirates and the establishment of a base near Asosa for the genocidal Sudanese Rapid Support Forces are inviting proxy wars to be fought by regional powers on Ethiopian territory.

Projects to modernise and develop Ethiopia's infrastructure are a façade while economic mismanagement, inflation, unemployment and extortion of resources from its impoverished population have destabilised society, at least outside the capital.

Poorly paid and poorly trained local militias engage in looting and extorting spurious and arbitrary taxes from rural and urban areas where people are unable to sustain themselves economically or access adequate health care or education.

A 'dog-eat-dog' situation has developed whereby militia members depend for their and their families' survival on looting and extortion from people with nothing left to give.

Reasons, if any are given, for the extortion of money include financing the building of local administrative buildings, 'health insurance', arming and feeding federal and local security forces, bribes for the release of prisoners and victims of forced conscription, and licences for businesses and vehicles.

National defence forces use drones and heavy artillery in attacks on defenceless villagers, killing people and livestock. Villages in areas where the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) is active are burnt to 'drain the ocean to kill the fish.' Villagers are threatened at gunpoint to indicate the homes of parents or other relatives of OLA members which are then destroyed.

Government forces continue to target for killing young men, the Qeerroo generation, whose sacrifices in peaceful demonstrations brought an end to the EPRDF government in 2018. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated in government meetings in early 2019 that his top priority was the extermination of Qeerroo members because they were the greatest obstacle to his power.

OSG has documented a small fraction of the extrajudicial killings committed by government forces. Since the end of 2018, OSG has recorded 7,340 Oromo civilian killings. Of these, 1,064 have been killed since the beginning of 2025.

All zones of Oromia Region and the Oromia Special Zone in Amhara Region have experienced killings during 2025. Killings and destruction of property have been particularly egregious in Wallega zones and of increasing frequency in the latter half of 2025 in Arsi and West Arsi zones. Poor access and communication hinders the collection of data, especially from Guji and Borana zones.

Young men and respected community members without connection to OLA have been killed in their homes, on the streets, in churches, and on their way to and from markets. Many have been taken from police custody or from detention in military camps and summarily executed, sometimes in public in order to terrorise the population.

Individuals who have risked their lives to investigate and publish human rights abuses and the dire economic and health crises in rural areas have been hounded out of Ethiopia, and family members have been detained.

Children, prepubescent girls and young boys, and mothers of families have been cruelly raped by government soldiers. The rape and killing of teenage girls and girls aged as young as ten years are documented. Deliberate shooting of infants and children under ten years old by national defence forces, for frivolous reasons, has been recorded.

There is displacement of hundreds of thousands of villagers due to the destruction of their homes and farms. Added to these are those displaced in modernisation projects, where even moderately sized conurbations, such as Dembi Dollo in Qellem Wallega, have been subjected to 'corridor projects'. Private houses and business properties have been bulldozed without consultation or compensation.

Large-scale developments such as the Gadaa Special Economic Zone project and the \$12.5 billion Bishoftu Airport, both in East Showa, are going ahead, displacing tens of thousands with no consultation and hardly any compensation, if any is given at all. The long-term livelihood of Oromo and the traditional heritage, deeply attached to their land, is being destroyed.

The Karrayyu pastoralists in East Showa, one of the major remaining centres practising the *Gadaa* system of social, spiritual and democratic governance, acknowledged as a UNESCO World Heritage, have been almost completely destroyed, since fourteen of their leaders were killed on the orders of Oromia Region authorities in December 2021.

Development projects appear to have been designed in order to completely divide Oromia Region into two, and are destined to bring millions of people from other regions into the narrow strip of land in southern East Showa, only 40 km wide in places, between Amhara Region and the Central Ethiopia Regional State.

National and regional governments have not opposed the killings of civilians and destruction of their property by Somali Region forces (Liyuu) in West Bale, East and West Hararge and South Borana zones of Oromia Region.

Division and hatred between Oromo and Amhara peoples has been deliberately fomented by the government. Clandestine federal forces, masquerading as Fano Amhara fighters and as OLA fighters have been established in at least Showa and Wallega zones, where they have been responsible for massacres and numerous smaller scale killings, with the sole purpose of spreading discord and hostility between Oromo and Amhara peoples.

For example, federal forces wearing wigs of braided hair and loudly calling to each other 'Jaal' (comrade in *Afaan Oromoo*) terrorised villagers in Dandi district, West Showa in September 2025, going from house to house at night, raping and looting.

Innocent teenagers have been beaten and imprisoned, dressed in military uniforms and paraded on media as if they were OLA fighters.

There is persecution also on religious grounds. Oromo priests within the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church have been detained and killed. Followers of the traditional Oromo religion,

Waaqefataa, have been killed and driven out of areas, and their worship halls (*galma*) burned down.

Refugees are fleeing to Djibouti and Somaliland in desperate and dangerous attempts to seek illegal work in Saudi Arabia. They face abuse and extortion on their journeys and at their destinations. Refugees are treated with hostility and disdain in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Djibouti, Somaliland, Somalia and Yemen.

Thousands are detained in life-threatening conditions or subject to slavery in Libya. Unknown numbers die in deserts between Ethiopia and the Red Sea or Mediterranean Sea and by drowning in those seas. Those who survive dangerous journeys to Europe are met with hostility, disbelief and discrimination.

Taye Danda'a: Continued detention and insecurity

The former State Minister of Peace and member of the Oromia Regional Council appeared in court on 24 November to be sentenced for the unlawful possession of a firearm.¹ This was the only remaining charge after two charges of spreading propaganda supporting anti-peace forces were dropped. Instead of being sentenced however, three new charges were lodged by the Lideta Bench of the Federal High Court, ostensibly relating to media interviews made in Amharic with *Horn Conversation* host Etana Habte.



In Report 71 (pp.5-7 and 64-70) OSG reported Taye's episodes of detention and summarised his interviews in *Horn Conversation* in *Afaan Oromoo* which were aired on or before 10 June. The new charges referred only to three interviews in Amharic which were posted on 16, 17 and 18 June.² The first charge was that he had undermined the constitution by spreading propaganda which supported enemies (OLA and Fano). The second was that he had spread false rumours about ENDF, specifically regarding the outbreak of war in Tigray. The third charge was defamation and spreading false information about the government.

Summaries of the interviews which led to these renewed charges demonstrate that their content was very similar to the interviews he gave in *Afaan Oromoo*. In the published interviews he criticised the prevalence of corruption, theft and robbery in the country and the limitations to individual freedoms. He described the National Reconciliation Commission as 'a joke'. Taye described how Abiy Ahmed had boasted that he had tricked the TPLF into starting the war in Tigray and that he was deliberately destroying and dismantling the Amhara and their forces after also provoking them into war. He accused Abiy Ahmed of not caring about the suffering and killing of his people.

In December, Taye was finally sentenced for illegal possession of a firearm. For what would normally carry a sentence of six months or less, Taye was sentenced to more than seven years. OSG does not know the outcome of the other, more serious, charges.

¹ <https://addisstandard.com/prosecutor-files-three-additional-charges-against-former-state-minister-taye-dendea-based-on-media-interview/>

² 16 June; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdEZ5gekRyE&t=449s>:

17 June; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UU-29ji2jpY>:

18 June; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCvkOtp6wUY&t=61s>

Meanwhile, he has been transferred to the notorious Abba Samuel prison in the Galan neighbourhood of Finfinnee, where normally only violent, hardened criminals are held. He has been subjected to robbery and violence in this renowned and filthy facility.

‘If you don’t withdraw your representation, we will kill you like Bate Urgessa and turn you into crow food.’

National Intelligence and Security Service pho

His life-threatening insecurity is evidenced by threats noted by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission which were made to his lawyers in early 2025 during his previous detention. His legal representatives were forced to withdraw after receiving phone calls from the National Intelligence and Security Service which stated ‘If you don’t withdraw your representation, we will kill you like Bate Urgessa and turn you into crow food.’

Back home

OSG has spoken to recent visitors to Ethiopia who, between them, spent several weeks in Finfinnee, Bishoftu and Nekemte. They paint a depressing picture of a discontented, insecure population amid the ostentatious splendour of new developments; increasing destitution and shortage of utilities for the majority in contrast to a few living lavishly, with swimming pools at home and eating out at expensive fancy restaurants.

Nobody applauds the government. It is unpopular with both the poor and the ‘rich 0.5%’ of the population. Although buildings, roads and parks in Finfinnee look beautiful and as grand as any in Europe, the façade of development and affluence is shallow.

It is difficult to cross the main road in Bishoftu. There are bike lanes but no bikes. Poverty is noticeable. People look poor and underfed. Food and drink are very expensive. Electricity is no more available than before the building of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

Water is limited to one day per week outside the centre of Finfinnee except in high rise buildings with their own reservoirs. Water bowsers are necessary in the suburbs. There is no running water in Nekemte airport but there is no problem with the supply to luxury restaurants in the capital.

Unemployment, especially for the youth, is a huge problem. Graduates, if they have any job at all, are driving Uber taxis or working as tailors, mending clothes on the street. Rents are exorbitant. Graduates with jobs as teachers and university lecturers are unable to afford more than two rooms to rent for their families despite qualifying ten years ago. Almost everybody is worse off than they were 20 years ago.

Corruption is rampant. Every service – fixing an electricity supply, plumbing, Wi-Fi and interacting with any government office – is impossible without a bribe. Property and land taxes are imposed retrospectively going back as far as 15 years. Although the richest few live very well, no-one is well off unless they have the blessing of the government.

The people who are displaced from towns and cities to make way for development live too far from the centres to sustain their livelihoods. Road-widening schemes – ‘corridor developments’ – result in homes and business premises being knocked down or reduced in size, at the owners’ expense and within a few days of being ordered. There is no compensation or payment for rebuilding away from the development.

Amhara settlers in Oromia have taken over former state farms and are the majority affording to fly back from Nekemte to Finfinnee. A positive change is the open use of *Afaan Oromoo* in the capital. No longer do Oromo have to look over their shoulder when speaking in their own language. Oromo restaurants and businesses are now common despite the economic

downturn. Nonetheless, not one Oromo claims that the Prosperity Party government of Abiy Ahmed is an Oromo government. Only Amhara people make this claim.

Lawlessness and banditry are everywhere outside the capital. Driving from Finfinnee to Nekemte is dangerous. Most, especially those from outside the country, prefer to fly. Visitors are easy prey for kidnap and ransom to armed groups of Fano or those masquerading as Fano or OLA. Some even hesitate to drive the 40 km between Nekemte and its airport.

In the countryside of Wallega, OLA is in control, with former Qeerroo activists running the administration of most kebeles. Government militia are able to prey on villagers in many areas only when they attend markets in larger towns. Among Oromo in urban and rural settings, OLA is popular and enjoys steadfast support.

Civil strife: Students, teachers and civil servants

University students across Ethiopia began protests on 16 November, immediately after the announcement of a directive from Education Minister Berhanu Nega that they must undergo a year of compulsory ‘national service’ after completing the third year of their courses; before beginning their fourth year or before being given their degree certificates.

The plan was proposed as a possibility one year ago but the minister only announced on 16 November that it would be implemented beginning with the 2026/2027 academic year. He said students would be deployed to different parts of the country for one year ‘to serve the community that provided them with a free education,’ which would involve, for example, teaching in schools.

ONM and *Addis Standard* reported that protests spread to at least 23 universities within two days.³ Students claim to have been contributing to their communities during their courses and to have suffered enough financial difficulties without the added burden of another year’s work before obtaining their degrees.

Students and their families fear that the scheme will be used to enable their conscription to the armed forces or other security services, as well as prolonging the period before they can start earning (if they can gain employment – see above).

Teachers have been deserting their posts and leaving the country during the last academic year, thus making worse the dire problems already existing in the education sector. *Addis Standard* reported on 26 February that over one thousand teachers had left in the past year from just three zones in Amhara Region; North and South Wollo and the Oromia Special Zone.⁴

Although armed conflict has prevented schools operating in many places, the online magazine stated that poor pay and the spiralling cost of living were the major factors in the exodus of teachers, driving them to seek jobs abroad, especially in Arab countries.

Thousands of schools have been closed throughout Amhara, Tigray and Oromia regions because of security problems, including the rape of female students by government security forces, at least in Oromia Region. Millions of children no longer enrol for schools. According to UN figures, in Ethiopia over 6,000 schools are destroyed or closed and another 10,000

³ <https://addisstandard.com/university-students-protest-mandatory-one-year-national-service-say-policy-unjustly-prolongs-study-period/>; ONM listed the universities of Madda Walabu, Arsi, Ambo, Salale, Jimma, Walqixxee, Arba Minch, Jinka, Hawassa, Dire Dawa, Dilla, Jigjiga, Walaita Sooddo, Wachamo, Odaa Bultum, Haramaya, Bule Hora, Asosa, Borana, Wallega, Mizan Teppi, Finfinnee, Mattu ‘and others.’

⁴ <https://addisstandard.com/over-1000-teachers-resign-in-amhara-region-many-reportedly-migrating-to-arab-states-report/>

have reduced capacity due to conflict damage. More than nine million children are unable to attend school. Most of these are in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions.

Civil servants, according to a report by ONM on 14 January, are to be ordered to wear militia uniforms. The secret directive is reported to be targeted at teachers, health professionals and civil service office workers. The opposition news outlet, reporting on a forum which took place on 11 January, claims that the plan would place these individuals in the cross hairs of opposition forces, putting them in danger of being killed, detained or intimidated. Thus, even more schools, clinics and offices will be closed.

Eruption: Volcano, war and insecurity



The eruption of Hayli Gubbi volcano, near the border of Eritrea in Afar Region, for several hours on Sunday 23 November, sent a cloud of ash 14 km into the atmosphere, grounding flights in the Middle East and Asia after it spread for two days across the Red Sea, over Yemen and Oman to northern India and Pakistan.

The potential destruction of the eruption, for the first time in nearly 12,000 years, is however of little significance compared to the destructive forces being unleashed in and around Ethiopia by the actions and policies of the country's leaders and their supporters in the United Arab Emirates (see below).

War drums are being banged in Tigray and on the border with Eritrea. EEPA reported on 29 January that clashes had occurred between ENDF and Tigray Defence Forces over several days.⁵ Cancelled flights between Finfinnee and Tigray, military movements, a run on the banks in Mekele, the presence of surveillance drones over the city and the exodus of youngsters from Tigray to avoid conscription; all signalled a deteriorating security situation.

The International Rescue Committee has placed Ethiopia at number four behind Sudan, Palestine and South Sudan in its global emergency watchlist for 2026.⁶



⁵ <https://www.cepa.be/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Situation-Report-EEPA-Horn-No.-699-29-January-2026.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/2025-12/WatchlistAtAGlance2026.pdf>

UAE funds Rapid Support Forces base in Ethiopia

For a long time, the United Arab Emirates has been bankrolling Abiy Ahmed and funding his vanity projects in Ethiopia. Ethiopia's gold and grain were the price he paid. He is now paying much more by sacrificing the youth, predominantly the Oromo youth, for the UAE proxy war with Saudi Arabia, taking place in Sudan. The war in Sudan is dangerously close to becoming a regional conflagration involving the whole of the Horn of Africa. By opening up a new front in Sudan's war, through Ethiopia, the UAE threatens to pull Egypt and Eritrea into the conflict.⁷

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which evolved from the Janjaweed militia in Darfur, is continuing its genocidal war against Sudan's non-Arab peoples, killing and raping hundreds of thousands in Darfur and Kordofan since 2023. The RSF depends on the UAE for its existence – its weapons, ammunition, bases and personnel are funded almost exclusively by the UAE.

A *Reuters* report on 10 February⁸ backed up reports by DNE-Africa on 10 December,⁹ and *Addis Standard* on 29 December,¹⁰ that Ethiopia was hosting an RSF base in Menge district in the Asosa zone of Benishangul-Gumuz Region. *Reuters* presented conclusive evidence of the base, established 32 km from the border of Ethiopia, where it meets the borders of both Sudan and South Sudan.

The base is also of strategic importance to Ethiopia, being about 100 km from the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

Clearance of the forest at the site of the base began in April 2025. Buildings and tented areas appeared and increased activity at the site was noted in October. Dozens of Land Cruisers and heavy trucks arrived with RSF units and trainers. Tents began filling the site in early November. In mid-November, 56 trucks, each containing 50-60 recruits, arrived, followed by another 70 trucks two days later. Bulldozers and diggers were being driven through Asosa to the camp every day in January as construction continued at the site.

General Getachew Gudina, the head of Defence Intelligence in ENDF, is in charge of setting up the camp.

Associated construction and development also took place at Asosa airport, 53 km from the camp, where a drone ground control centre has been established since August 2025 in a newly built hangar. Asosa airport is a vital supply route for the RSF in Sudan. Its enlargement was also funded by the UAE.

In early January, 4,300 RSF fighters were being trained at the base. They were reportedly mainly from Ethiopia and would therefore have been mostly Oromo conscripts but they also include recruits from South Sudan and Sudan, involving members of SPLM-N (Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North, which controls areas of Sudan's Blue Nile province). Hundreds, possibly thousands, have already departed the camp to be deployed in Sudan. The capacity of the base near Asosa is estimated from satellite images to be up to 10,000.

⁷ *Foreign Policy* 27 January <https://foreignpolicy.com/2026/01/27/sudan-united-arab-emirates-saudi-arabia-ethiopia-trump-red-sea/>

⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/ethiopia-builds-secret-camp-train-sudan-rsf-fighters-sources-say-2026-02-10/>

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/61550751002969/posts/sudan-tells-al-jazeera-ethiopia-running-rsf-training-camps-near-bordersudanese-g/122265903530025033/>

¹⁰ <https://addisstandard.com/sudan-military-cites-rsf-threat-near-ethiopian-border-as-burhan-warns-neighbours-against-interference/>

The UAE denied its involvement in the project but Ethiopian officials confirmed to *Reuters* that the Emirates financed the construction of the base and are supplying weapons, logistical support and training. Ethiopia also denied that it was supporting RSF from the base in Asosa, according to the 29 December *Addis Standard* report.

Support for Abiy Ahmed from the UAE began early. *Reuters* wrote that the UAE pledged \$3 billion in aid and investments to Ethiopia soon after Abiy Ahmed assumed power in April 2018. One billion dollars from UAE went to shore up Ethiopia's central bank which was desperately short of foreign currency.

The malign influence of the UAE is now apparent. UAE successfully backed Ethiopia in the Tigray war and is extending its influence in the Horn. After failing to succeed against Saudi Arabia in Yemen, where the Emirates backed the Houthis rebels, the UAE is funding the development of Berbera port in Somaliland, to the tune of \$450 million, and has a base in Bosaso in Puntland. It is financing the expansion of Puntland's airport and training security forces there.¹¹ In January, the UAE was already known to be supporting the RSF via Libya, South Sudan, and Bosaso.¹²

The *Middle East Eye* reported on 21 January that a huge UAE cargo plane, which is known to have taken large shipments of weapons to fighters in Libya and to RSF in Sudan, made a number of flights between UAE, Israel, Bahrain and Bishoftu military airport (Harar Meda) in Ethiopia. Israel is part of this axis, being the first country to officially recognise Somaliland as a sovereign state in December.¹³

The *Middle East Eye* also pointed out that the RSF obtained six fighter jets from a UAE defence contractor.

Lining up in opposition to the UAE, and by inference Ethiopia, are Egypt (already hostile because of the perceived threat to the Nile waters by the GERD), Turkey, Eritrea, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF – which has already attacked RSF positions near the Ethiopian border) and Somalia, because of its objections to the support given to Somaliland and Puntland.

By his belligerent rhetoric concerning Egypt's option of bombing Ethiopia's Grand Dam, President Donald Trump is adding fuel to the fire, despite the State Department and EU calling for RSF to be designated a terrorist organisation because of its appalling disregard for human rights.^{14,15}

Ethiopia's involvement in the war in Sudan is a colossal mistake that may cost the lives of scores of thousands.

Cultural erasure: 15,000 displaced for \$12.5 billion Aabbuu Seeraa airport

On 10 January, the foundation stone was laid by PM Abiy Ahmed and his officials for 'Africa's largest airport' in Aabbuu Seeraa, southwest of Bishoftu, about 45 km southeast of Finfinnee.¹⁶ Significantly, the inscription on the foundation stone was written in Amharic and English, but nothing was written in *Afaan Oromoo*.

¹¹ Semafor Africa 17 January, https://www.semafor.com/newsletter/01/16/2026/us-visa-freeze-hits-africa?utm_source=newslettershare&utm_medium=africa&utm_campaign=flagshipnumbered4#

¹² <https://foreignpolicy.com/2026/01/27/sudan-united-arab-emirates-saudi-arabia-ethiopia-trump-red-sea/>

¹³ <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/uae-flights-linked-sudan-war-tracked-israel-ethiopia>

¹⁴ <https://addisstandard.com/when-mediation-becomes-intimidation-gerd-trump-and-ethiopias-sovereign-rights/>
¹⁵ https://addisstandard.com/u-s-senate-foreign-relations-chair-warns-of-consequences-following-report-alleging-ethiopia-hosts-rsf-training-camp/#google_vignette

¹⁶ <https://addisstandard.com/pm-abiy-lays-foundation-for-africas-largest-airport-olf-describes-project-as-extension-of-2014-master-plan-demands-equity/>

The notion of a new airport was initially conceived by the TPLF-led government of the EPRDF in early 2018 but definitive plans were not released until 2020. On completion of Phase 1 of the project, funded by government-owned Ethiopian Airlines, foreign investors and the African Development Bank, the airport is expected to handle 60 million passengers per year. When the building is complete in 2030, it is expected to accommodate 270 standing aircraft and 110 million passengers each year, easily triple the capacity of Bole airport which is scheduled to reach its limit within three or four years.



The site is reported to have been selected because it is several hundred metres lower than Bole. At an altitude of 1,910 metres, aircraft fuel efficiency during takeoff is expected to be much improved.

However, the OLF and the Global Oda Nabe Association (GLONA) report that the new airport and the city which will coalesce around it, together with the planned Gadaa Special Economic Zone (also in East Showa), will in effect divide Oromia Region into two.^{17,18} They suspect that the removal of Oromo from the area is part of a process of cultural erasure of Tuulamaa Oromo from their ancient lands.

As evidence of this process, GLONA and the OLF cite the removal of Jiillee Tuulamaa Oromo for the Wonji-Showa Sugar Corporation in 1951; the displacement of Siibas of the Jiillee Tuulamaa for the Qooqaa reservoir and hydro-electric plant, south of Adama, in 1960; the eviction of Galaan Oromo to make way for Bole airport in 1962; the loss of land and the poisoning of water supply for Karrayyu pastoralists by the Matahara Sugar Factory and Plantation in 1965; and the Finfinnee ‘Master Plan’ in 2014, which sparked the Qeerroo pro-democracy protests, and displaced Tuulamaa Oromo from around the capital.

The OLF pointed out the disappearance of ‘clans like the Eekkaa, Galaan, Gullallee, and Abbichuu, who were displaced from their heartland to make way for the capital’s expansion.’ They claim the airport project is a direct continuation of the Master Plan, ‘expanded and intensified.’

The land designated for the Aabbuu Seeraa Airport is not barren. It is fertile and excellent land for growing teff. Farmers in six kebeles have already been displaced. Three thousand homes have been bulldozed in six kebeles; Aabbuu Aciroo, Aabbuu Garbii, Aabbuu Kombolchaa, Aabbuu Looyyaa, Aabbuu Lugnaa, and Aabbuu Saarkamaa.

Residents of these kebeles mostly belong to the Ja’an Galaan lineage of the Tuulamaa Oromo.

Not one resident has received compensation and none were consulted about the project before a military camp was set up and intimidation and detention of protestors began last year. About 15,000 individuals lived in these six kebeles. Residents of 1,200 of the 3,000 homes were given accommodation in the kebele of Dhibaayyuu on the outskirts of Bishoftu, but they

¹⁷ <https://advocacy4oromia.org/2026/01/10/a-city-rises-a-people-displaced-oromo-liberation-front-condemns-mega-airport-project-as-cultural-erasure/>

¹⁸ <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Displacement-of-Tulama-Oromo-for-New-Airport.pdf>

complain that the buildings are unfinished, substandard and lacking infrastructure and utilities.



They have not been given deeds of legal ownership, leaving them vulnerable to coercion, eviction and exploitation. Already, developers are queuing up to offer knock-down prices to the destitute occupants. There is no replacement of their farms or livelihoods. Crops and animals were left in their fields. Most of the displaced are destitute and homeless. As noted by the OLF ‘A farmer deprived of land, tools, and resources cannot survive in a concrete structure alone.’

About 30 billion birr was allocated for the rehousing, approximately 25 million birr per unit. The poor quality and incomplete state of the units indicate that corrupt officials siphoned off most of the allocated funds. Authors of the GLONA report spoke to OSG on 25 January confirming the data in their report and in the report from the OLF.

Demonstrations took place in Bishoftu on 12 January and GLONA researchers reported that 500-600 demonstrated on 24 January. Images from a video of the 12 January demonstration, including a woman speaking to camera, are shown below, followed by two pictures of homeless displaced people.



The claim by GLONA that the Gadaa Special Economic Zone and Aabbuu Seeraa Airport will divide Oromia Region in two is illustrated below (reproduced from the GLONA report):



Ethiopia does need a new airport but this project does not follow acceptable models of development. There should have been meaningful consultation and compensation.

The OLF suggested a four-point alternative path which is more than mere cash compensation. They suggested that farmers should be shareholders, with displaced communities granted ‘equity shares that make them co-owners, not casualties.’

There should be intergeneration rights, with inheritable shares benefitting current landowners and their descendants. Rehabilitation infrastructure should include immediate construction of schools and health centres, and supply clean water and electricity in resettlement areas.

Finally, there should be cultural safeguards; special programs to prevent the loss of Oromo identity, culture and language.

As written by *Advocacy4Oromia*, the airport conflict is a ‘microcosm of the larger Oromo struggle for land, self-determination, and the right to exist as a people on their own terms – not as obstacles to someone else’s progress.’¹⁹

‘Bullet food’: Forced conscription of young and old

As former minister Taye Danda’a stated before being detained again on 2 June last year,²⁰ PM Abiy Ahmed has boasted that ‘in this country there are a lot of unproductive youth. We can wage war for twenty years; we have enough bodies.’

Children as young as 12 years old have been forcibly conscripted into the federal army while middle-aged and elderly men, including the weak and frail, have been forced to join local militia.

The boy shown right is Hamza Muktar Abamaca from Limu Shabe village, Gomma district, Jimma zone. He was subjected to forced conscription into the ENDF four years ago when he was only 14 years old (W1). The image of two youngsters copied below was reproduced on the Facebook page of Jawar Mohammed on 20 February.



Conscription has gathered pace in the last few months as the ENDF prepares for war in Tigray and Eritrea as well as against its own citizens in Amhara and Oromia Regions. Scores of thousands of young Oromo are being forced physically and by extreme poverty and unemployment into being ‘bullet food’ not only for the ENDF but now as commodities to be traded on behalf of the United Arab Emirates as mercenaries in the Rapid Support Forces which are responsible for genocide against the non-Arab peoples of Sudan (see above).

Forced conscription is being reported from throughout Oromia Region, notably from Nopha district, Illubabor (ONM, 29 December), Anfilo and Yamalogi Walal districts of Qellem Wallega (ONM, 30 December and 7 January), Guliso district, West Wallega (W1, 15 February) and in Jimma zone (ONM 4 February).

¹⁹ <https://advocacy4oromia.org/2026/01/10/a-city-rises-a-people-displaced-oromo-liberation-front-condemns-mega-airport-project-as-cultural-erasure/>

²⁰ See OSG Report 71, p.7; <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/OSG-Report-71-20-November-2025.pdf>

In North Showa, W1 reported on 23 November that the young boys and girls shown right were gathered in Salale town after being subjected to forced conscription for the government's war effort in Tigray and Eritrea.



ONM reported that **Malkamu Gazzaany**, a resident of Nopha district, Illubabor, was shot and killed by ENDF soldiers on 20 December because he refused to hand over his children for conscription into the army.

In East Wallega, forced conscription, unless large sums are paid for release, was one of the reasons for detaining and beating five youths in Guto Gida district on 8 January, followed by their transfer to the district police station three days later (ONM).

W1 wrote on 15 February that over 400 young and old were being taken from West Wallega.

In East Showa, forced conscription of young men in Adama, unless they paid 15,000 birr to be released, was reported on 15 January, and on 3 February over 400 were taken from eight villages in Dugda district, in the south of the zone, for militia training (ONM).

In West Guji, large scale forced conscription of youngsters over several days following 31 January was reported from the villages of Robi Magada, Kalaltu Sawa, Kalacha Hache, Qidiste and Murto Xilisa in Bule Hora district and from Cabita Magada, Gelede, Dogo Dhuqisa, Doya and Medano in Dugda Dawa district.



In Borana zone, large numbers of forced conscripts were taken from the districts of Dillo, Elwaye, Taltale and Mega town. They were taken at night to different military training bases.



In a video clip sent to OSG on 16 February,²¹ 50 empty buses and 25 trucks and/or trailers, each with a capacity to carry at least 50 conscripts were filmed and are believed to have been part of a convoy preparing to take conscripts north to wage war in Eritrea, Tigray and Amhara regions. A conservative estimation of their combined capacity exceeds 3,500. Images from the video are shown above right.

As well as taking youngsters to fight in its wars in the north and to join Sudan's Rapid Support Forces in its base in Benishangul-Gumuz Region, the Ethiopian government is coercing middle-aged and elderly men to be members of its local militias.

ONM reported that around 1,500 completed training as 'Garchana Sirnaa' local militia in Jimma city on 31 January. These were described as including the weak and elderly who were vulnerable and at risk once they were armed. Poverty and unemployment force these individuals to risk their lives in order to provide for themselves and their families.

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1623649975718797>

Shebele resort, Jigjiga

A luxury tourist resort in Shebele, north of Jigjiga, was inaugurated by PM Abiy Ahmed with the Presidents of Djibouti and Somalia in attendance on 31 January.²²



The celebration, attended by Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh, Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and Ethiopia's Somali Region President Mustafe Mohammed Omer, marked one more flagship development project initiated by Abiy Ahmed.

The site includes a hotel with 51 luxury rooms and three restaurants with a joint capacity for 400 guests, and modern banquet and conference halls. The luxury resort is spread over 385 hectares and has 15.4 km of walking paths, children's playgrounds, a park with 10,000 fruit trees, a cultural centre and a camel park – to reflect 'the region's natural heritage.'

The joint Oromo and Somali Region background and history of Jigjiga was not reflected. The words Oromo and Oromia were not mentioned in the inauguration of this planned new international tourist attraction.

Closure of Addis Standard office in Ethiopia

Human Rights Watch warned on 25 February that Ethiopia's Media Authority announced the revocation of the operating licence of *Addis Standard*, one of the last independent and important media outlets in Ethiopia.²³ Harassment, closures and detention of staff members have not succeeded in closing it down since it was established in 2011. Its editor, Yonas Kedir, is reviewing legal options for challenging the revocation of its licence.

Abuses in Moyale, Kenya

Human rights defender and lawyer KGD wrote to OSG on 12 February to report abuses by the Kenyan National Police Service in north Kenya in the last year. Operation Ondoa Jangli was launched at the beginning of February 2025 ostensibly to target cross-border criminal activity in Marsabit, Isiolo and Moyale counties.

KGD wrote that in this operation 'to restore peace and security' the Kenyan police have extra-judicially killed at least two people, abducted more than 40 innocent Kenyan Oromo and made to disappear at least three individuals. There were credible allegations that the officers had stolen goats, money and motorcycles from residents during their 'security operations.'

²² <https://addisinsight.net/2026/01/31/ethiopia-unveils-landmark-shebele-resort-in-push-for-regional-tourism-hub/>

²³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/25/ethiopia-shutters-key-news-outlet>

Finfinnee, Shaggar city and Oromo Special Zone

Detention and teachers protest

ONM reported on 31 January that many youngsters had been arrested in the town of Bule Bulbula in Shaggar city, accused of ‘supporting the Oromo Liberation War in the forest.’ At least 32 were taken. Some of these are known to have been detained and mistreated but many are unaccounted for and have not been found by their families.

Teachers attempted to gather in Burayu sub-city on 3 February to draw attention to the dire economic straits and lack of housing which they were experiencing. They had been promised land on which to build four years ago after paying 30,000 birr. They took out loans to make this payment but they still have no land or housing and are struggling to keep up interest payments on their loans.

The teachers stated they had no political agenda but merely wanted to draw attention to their problems. Their gathering was prevented by security forces.

North Showa

Killings

Most of the killings in North Showa were of young men – ‘qerroo’.

Roba Asefa, a young man from Dhaye Giorgis kebele, Jimate city, Warra Jarso district, was severely beaten and then shot dead with six shots by government security forces on 13 December (W1 and ONM). He had a small shop and was killed when going to the city to buy goods to sell.



W1 reported on 4 January that the photograph shown left was taken in Hidhabu Abote district. It shows ENDF soldiers posing by a young man they have just killed. His name is not known.

Five were killed in Hidhabu Abote district on 27 January. They were named by W1 as:

Baisa Yazo Gari

Tadelu Mesfin

Gadisa Sime Gari

Techane Ijare (all his cows were killed too)

Boja Sime

Amo Erana was wounded in the same incident.



Birhanu Mulu (shown left), a resident of Derba city, was taken from his family home on 3 February to Canco Sululta police station. He was killed next day and his body thrown on the road to Sululta (W1).

Chala Leta (pictured right) was arrested from his home in Mulo Fale village, Mulo district, about 21 January. He was killed on 7 February and his body thrown on the roadside in the Inxoxo hills in Sululta, north of Finfinnee (W1).



Burning of crops and forest

W1 reported the burning of crops and forest in Hidhabu Abote district on 23 February, as recorded on a Facebook video,²⁴ from which the images shown below were taken. He described the crops as maize and teff.



West Showa

Killings

On 24 November government soldiers killed a young man named **Dalasa Tarrafaa Dhaabasaa** in Qorroo Qarsaa village of Dirree Incinnii district. An older brother of his was killed earlier in 2025 (ONM).



W1 and ONM reported the killing of two men in Qarree Shankoori village, Gindeberet district on 27 December by ENDF shortly after engaging with OLA fighters in the district.

Lammii Naccoo (see above right) was a primary school teacher who was described as being non-political, despite being detained on several occasions previously and being threatened, beaten and tortured because he was suspected of having links to OLA. He was summarily executed in front of his home in the early morning.



Joonsee Danyee, in his seventies (shown as a younger man right) was taken from his home and shot dead because his son was suspected of belonging to OLA. Residents described him as being not political.



Two innocent civilians were killed in Gindeberet, West Showa, on 23 February (W1):

Gelana Terefa, a 35 year old university graduate (shown above left)

Mulusew Bikila, a 60 year old farmer (left).

On 26 February, government security forces killed **Dugasa Bayi** (pictured right) in Digo village, Cobi district. He was killed 'without any question' (W1).



²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/17dhetPjSr/>

Detention

W1 reported the detention of a medical doctor, Dr Eyob (pictured right) who worked in hospital and also had his own private clinic in the Ambo area, Jaldu district, on 29 November. He was accused of having links with OLA but W1's informants said this was untrue.



ONM reported detention and beating of residents of Gindeberet district on 30 December, Mida Qanyi district on 31 December, and Bako Tibe district on 2 January and 14 January, when the detainees included a wife and mother.

Three farmers – Lata Misgana, Lamma Gizu and Lamessa Dhiba – were detained in Sadan Qixxee village, Bako Tibe district on 31 January and were reportedly being tortured in the district police station (ONM).

An elder, a respected man of 'blessing and reconciliation', 68 year old Biranuu Shiffarraa, also from Sadan Qixxee village in Bako Tibe district, was reported by ONM on 4 February to have been detained and tortured in Bako town police station for two weeks. He was reported to be critically ill because of his mistreatment and was not related to any political party or group.

Looting, extortion and burning

W1 wrote that on 28 December, government forces looted cows and cash from Garbi Googile village, Abuna Gindeberet district. Eight cows were taken from Lamessa Irana; two 'homes' and seven cows were taken from Kefale Baressa; and 400,000 birr was stolen from Negassa Abdissa, who was detained and **disappeared** in detention.

Looting was also reported by ONM to have occurred in Gindeberet and Mida Qanyi districts on 30 and 31 December, when the above-reported arrests were made. Extortion was reported on 20 January in Ejersa Lafo district, where 50,000 to 100,000 birr was demanded from residents for 'tax, health insurance and uniforms for militia.' They were beaten, threatened and detained if unable to pay.

On 29 January, soldiers looted in the Sombo Disasa neighbourhood, Bako Tibe district, taking the only cow belonging to Ms Gonfee Dinqiisaa and 50,000 birr from Dereje Lamessa. The soldiers made off with the cow and cash to their base in Bako town, claiming (falsely) that the victims had children in OLA. ONM reported that the victims' families were destitute and had nothing to sustain themselves now.

ONM reported that on 19 January homes were burned and occupants severely beaten in Liban Gawo village, Liban Jawi district.

Southwest Showa

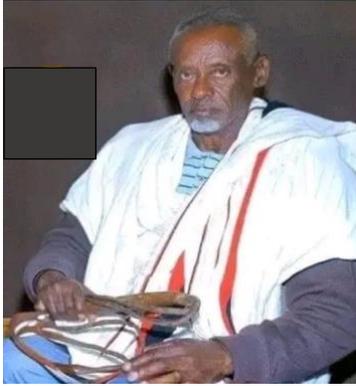
Killings, detention, torture, looting and extortion

On 22 November, W1 reported that there were killings in Dache town in Sodo Dache district, Southwest Showa, but was unable to provide details. He reported two weeks later that OLA had entered the town and stopped the killings on 25 November.

However, a drone attack was launched by the government shortly after the withdrawal of ENDF troops from Dache, killing **Temesgen Asaagee** (shown right) in the Awash Bank, where he worked.



On 27 December, **Nugusee Galaanaa**, a young man from Tulluu Tajii village, Tole district, was taken by government soldiers to Jawaro school in nearby Jawaro Kora village, where he was summarily executed. The body of the popular youngster was left where he fell. Residents described him as non-political. Government forces entered Basi Abukeku village in the same district early next day (28 December), looted many household items and cash, forcing some residents to flee into the forest and imprisoning others who were on their way to church.



W1 reported that a well-known figure in Qarsa Malima district, 72 year old **Kasaye Bulcha** (pictured left) of Baye Giche village, was killed on 9 February, after being detained for two months.

Galana Garomsa, Tole district, was reported by W1 on 27 December to have been tortured, leaving wounds as shown right.



On 31 December ONM reported that cattle had been looted from Tole district and that over 350 pack animals were taken by ENDF after they opened fire on the market in Adadi town, Qarsa Malima district.

Two innocent villagers, both without any political affiliation, were robbed of property in Haro Cari, Goro Gabreli kebele, Qarsa Malima district, on 12 January. An ox belonging to Mrs Geexee Boja, which had been bought from remittances sent from abroad by her daughter and was worth over 70,000 birr, and six quintals of wheat belonging to Dirriba Badhadha, a man in his seventies and renowned as a local settler of disputes, were taken by ENDF to their camp in Adadi town (ONM).

On 15 January, 7,000 – 8,000 birr was demanded from residents of Wanci district for ‘tax and health insurance’ and on 16 January residents of Tole district were threatened with eviction and dismissal from government jobs (ONM).

East Showa

Killings

ONM reported that **Danbal Bariso**, a resident of Maqii town and the brother of Tola Bariso, head of the Oromia Region Education Bureau, died in Maqii hospital on 16 November after being shot by government soldiers five days previously.

Saalaa Abbaa Boollee, a herdsman living near the border of East Showa with Afar Region, was shot dead by Argobba tribespeople and more than 100 of his cattle were stolen. In its 26 December report of the killing, ONM wrote that the Argobba people, armed and supplied by the Prosperity Party government, had traditionally lived in harmony with their Oromo neighbours in Fantale district. But they were now killing and looting property from Oromo who raised cattle, sheep and camels near the border in villages such as Ilaalaa, Haroo Qarsaa and Haroo Hoobaa.

Government soldiers shot dead **Arfaasaa Alii Abdallaa** in Saamaa village, Fantale district, on 7 January. Villagers told ONM that he was not involved in political activities.

W1 and ONM reported that three men were taken from prison in Saawaa Weebaa village, Fantale district, and summarily executed together on 29 January. They were named: **Adam Abdi Sayido, Mohammed Galmo Boru and Mohammed Ali Digo**

On 30 January, an innocent elderly man and father of four, **Jiloo Roba Addoo**, of Haroo Qarsaa village, Fantale district, was shot dead by government soldiers (ONM).

An innocent 15 year old girl, Adoo **Caalaa Bulaa Foollee**, from Malka Wata, Walda Qalina village, Dugda district, was shot and killed by government forces on 2 February and her body hidden in the forest. She was found by her family next day (ONM).

Rape

Five government soldiers operating out of a nearby military camp brutally gang-raped a respected woman and mother (**name withheld**) in Jara Nunu, Qobo village, Fantale district on 1 February (ONM). They prevented her children from escaping from her hut and terrorised other villagers with spears, injuring Hassan Abdi Dhadacho when he tried to intervene to save the woman.

Other abuses

ONM sent 15 reports of detention, beating, looting, extortion, burning, displacement and forced conscription, mostly during January and early February. The majority (nine) referred to abuses in Bosat district, toward the northeast of the zone.

Further northeast in Fantale district, bordering Afar Region, there were several reports of killings and summary executions of prisoners (see above) and one report of violence and looting by people from Afar Region (also above).

Forced conscription of young men in Adama, unless they paid 15,000 birr, was reported on 15 January, and on 3 February over 400 were taken from eight villages in Dugda district, in the south of the zone, for militia training.

Extortion of 8,800 birr and 50 kg of grain from households in several villages in Zeway Dugda district was reported in mid-January and up to twice those amounts of cash and grain at the end of the month. In the district of Adami Tullu and Jiddo Kombolcha in the middle of the zone, households were reported on 4 February to have been ordered to give 45 kg of grain and 'half of their daily food requirement' to local militia. Failure to comply was met with beating and detention.

Examples of abuses in Bosat district include the detention and beating of villagers arbitrarily accused of links to OLA, theft of cattle and cash from residents of several villages on 14 January; robbery of 300,000 birr, farmers' crops and the contents of shops on 15 January; amounts of up to 60,000 birr being demanded from residents of many villages, on threat of detention, on 16 January; robbery of 82,000 birr, looting and destruction of household property including from the elderly and blind in Qararu village on 1 February; and closure of roads to markets. An elderly farmer, a horse cart driver and a 12 year old goat herder were among 13 beaten severely on 1 February. Two adults were admitted to Bofa hospital.

Land taxes of 13,000 to 17,000 birr per hectare were demanded from residents of 40 villages on 3 February, again under threat of beating and detention.

Large numbers have been displaced and homes burned down. On 15 November, many residents of Nura Heera village were evicted by agents of the Upper Awash Agro Industrial Company, a branch of MEDROC (a large mining, oil and construction organisation owned by Saudi billionaire Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi).

Over 200 households were reported by ONM to have been displaced by Argobba tribespeople from the villages of Garsaa, Dabinee, Waasaroo, Qarsaa and other places on 25 December (see killings, above).

Burning and displacement were reported from the district on 14 January; from Qawa Hara Mirqasa village on 1 February; and from 12 looted villages on 3 February. In one of these, Sifa Battee, agents of the Upper Awash Agro Industrial Company were again implicated.

Over 1,000 households were forced off their land on 4 February. Residents told ONM that although they did not take part in any political activity the government was using OLA as an excuse to attack them.

Two reports included the burning down of traditionally managed forests around several villages by militia and government cadres on 12 January and of the forest at Battee, in the kebele of Sifa Battee on 1 February.

Clinics in Bosat district, including those concerned with maternal and child health, are understaffed, depleted and/or closed. A malaria outbreak has developed because of lack of treatment and cessation of mosquito prevention measures (ONM, 16 November).

Wollo and Amhara Region

Killings

ONM reported that **six members of one family** were killed together on 22 December in Dimbarroo village, Dawa Caffa district of Wollo, the Oromia Special Zone within Amhara Region. **Bakru Ahmed, Umar Ahmed** and **Ahimad Bakru** were killed together with **three other close relatives** by ENDF soldiers. They were murdered in reprisal for recent losses against OLA in the previous week and they were related to an OLA fighter. The family members included farmers, students and private sector workers.

Umar Aliyyii Gulluu, a farmer and father of a family in Dimtu Coqorsoo village, Artuma Furse district, Wollo, was killed in the early morning of 23 December while herding cattle on his farm (ONM). His assailants stole his cattle and his rifle.

In the early hours of 18 January, government militia killed **Sayyoo Idirisuu** in Hiddi village, Bate district, because of a personal dispute between him and a member of the militia, named Mohammed Sayyid. Militiamen, accompanied by ENDF soldiers, surrounded his home and threw in grenades, killing Sayyoo and destroying his house (ONM).

ONM reported that **two civilians** including a religious leader were killed in Bate town and surrounding district on 27 and 28 January by government security forces. Local administrators announced that outside forces were responsible and attempted to misinform the public by exhibiting clothing of the two who were killed.

Other abuses

A limited selection of reports from ONM demonstrates widespread abuses targeting Oromo residents in Wollo, with shootings, beatings, detention, discrimination, disarmament and displacement of Oromo merely because they are Oromo. Accusations of ties to OLA were frequently used to justify these actions.

Shooting, beatings and detention

On 22 December, Mohammed Nuura, a farmer in the village of Shakla in Dawa Caffa district, was shot in the leg by the village administrator because he had not sown summer wheat. Mohammed was denied medical treatment and was marched to the police station, where he was further mistreated, according to residents who spoke to ONM. Other farmers in Artuma Furse district were detained for refusing to dig up their crops in order to sow summer wheat on 1 January.

Youths were beaten and detained in Bate district on 31 December (W1) and ten were detained in Jille Dhumuga district on 2 January for using rifles to defend their cattle from hyenas (ONM). A bridegroom was detained in Bate district on 14 January (ONM).

More than 23 mothers and wives in Bishee Ededa village, Artuma Furse district, were reported on 29 December to have been detained after their husbands had fled (ONM).

A young long-distance lorry driver, Abduu Mahaammad-Yaasin, was brutally beaten and detained in the small town of Mootuma in Bate district on 25 January. He had travelled there with his parents from their village of Sallaxxee and was set upon by ENDF soldiers and local militia because he had long braided hair and was falsely accused of having links to OLA. He was publicly beaten unconscious in the town market place and taken to prison, where he was reported to be critically injured. The assailants then went on the rampage, beating with sticks any Oromo youths they encountered (ONM).

An elder and farmer with no political affiliation, Hussein Amadoya, was beaten and thrown into jail by Yesuf Umamo Guracho, the administrator of Jumate town, Artuma Furse district, on 29 January. He had refused to join local militia to fight OLA and was therefore accused of being an OLA supporter, beaten and imprisoned in the district police station in Caffa Robit (ONM).

Looting and extortion

ONM reported on 10 January that government forces were going around the towns and villages in Bate district demanding 2,000 – 2,500 birr from each resident at gunpoint for ‘health insurance’ and taking grain from them to feed local militia.

On 16 January, militia looted cattle belonging to residents in Tullu Abbaa Adee village in Dawe Harawa district and drove them away at gunpoint.

On the same day, it was reported by ONM that 50,000 birr or more had been demanded from all the shop-owners in Kemise town, the administrative centre of Wollo, the Oromia Special Zone. When the owners were unable to pay, their shops were looted of their goods and closed down. Over several days beginning on 13 January government forces expelled the owners of at least 80 shops and threatened them with fines of 80,000 birr if they attempted to re-open them. The shop-owners complained that these exorbitant demands came on top of smaller amounts demanded before with increasing frequency, leaving them destitute and unable to feed their families.

At the end of January, the local administrator in Ashawa kebele, Aruma Furse district, named Indiris Arbo, after forcing residents to contribute 4-5 kg of grain was taking 6-8 kg at gunpoint to feed his militia. He stated that more than 100 quintals of grain were needed from the kebele ‘for our militia’ (ONM).

Destruction, disarmament, displacement and discrimination

Government soldiers opened fire on villages in Bate district on the premise of searching for OLA fighters on 14 December forcing residents of the villages of Habilee, Gufuu Guddaa and Gufuu Xiqqaa, Mi'eessaa, Qurquraa, Hadhoo, Kolfee, Birreeyyii, Roggee and Beeyruu to flee to the forest (ONM).

On 28 December, the Artuma Furse district administrator, Ahimed Muhe, disarmed the villagers of Shasho under threat of beating them to death if they did not hand their weapons over, leaving them defenceless against Fano militia who they believed were on the offensive against them (ONM).

The whole support infrastructure of Wollo is collapsing for Oromo residents, including the schools, which were reported closed and under-resourced at least throughout Dawa Caffa district, according to ONM reporting on 31 December.

On 9 January, militants, including Oromo defectors, who have been armed and organised throughout Dawe Harawa district were deployed against villagers. In a pre-dawn raid, they opened fire on the village of Uranee, broke down doors and entered properties, terrorising the community and stealing cattle. They took the livestock to their base in Dirre for slaughter or sold them at Sanqallee Waataa market. Properties belonging to families of OLA fighters, from where the cattle were taken, were destroyed. This pattern has been repeated in nocturnal raids elsewhere in the district. Looting, intimidation and destruction of property is driving residents to abandon their homes and flee (ONM).

ONM wrote on 1 February that infighting between members of the administration and police forces at least in Bate district had intensified along ethnic lines, with insults, threats, beatings and dismissals. In Bate town, Oromo government employees and police have been sacked and their jobs taken over by less-qualified Amhara, who were thus dominating the administration and police force ‘from top to bottom.’ Oromo are being indiscriminately accused of aiding and abetting OLA by giving information. Oromo police officers are being beaten and dismissed or leaving their jobs because of harassment and discrimination.

Mutilation by Fano member

On 25 November, W1 sent a link to a gruesome video of a Fano militia member attempting to amputate the right hand of a civilian with repeated blows of an axe while the victim placed his hand on a stone.²⁵ The incident reportedly took place in the Warra Illu district in South Wollo zone of Amhara Region. The man finally runs off with his almost completely severed hand suspended from his wrist. Images from the video and a picture of the Fano member, posing for the camera, are shown below and right.



Arsi and West Arsi

ONM reported on 18 November that security officials and military commanders from ‘Southeast to Southwest, Salamoon Abaatee and Alamuu Simee’ had met with district officials from ‘Collee, Gunaa, Martii, Jajuu, Asakoo, Shanan Kooluuu, Gololchaa and other districts’ in Arsi and announced a concerted effort to rid those districts of support for OLA by displacing people from villages and rural areas to cities with the intention to ‘kill, arrest and torture suspected OLA supporters.’

The actions of federal forces in Arsi since that announcement are consistent with the ONM report. Killings and displacement were extensive in the zone before the meeting, as demonstrated in OSG Report 71 and the killings recorded earlier in 2025 and listed below. However, the rate of killings and summary executions of innocent civilians has doubled since November, as shown in the following pages.

²⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1525563212026423>

Killings

ONM sent a report on killings during 2025 including the following which were not previously recorded by OSG:

1 February 2025 (Martii District, Hella Akiya village): **Ifa Aman Fato**, a young man, was dragged from his home, tortured, and executed.

8 February 2025 (Martii District, Gaddo Araba village): A young man named **Daraje Abishu** was shot and killed by PP forces.

16 February 2025 (Heban District, Amba Goda Sade village): Two civilians, **Ukula Bona** and **Shumi Bude**, were executed.

11 March 2025 (Asako District, Biyyoo and Dirree Odaa villages): **Sultan Ibrahim** was killed and Ganna Haji seriously injured in a shooting by Ethiopian troops.

16 March 2025 (Shanan Kooluu District, Golagotaa town): Farmer **Mohammad Joora** was shot dead on his farm by regime forces.

18 March 2025 (Shanan Kooluu District, Qorii village): PP militia executed two Oromo youths, **Yuusufee Huseen Ahimadii** and **Jamaal Xaahiroo**.

16 April 2025 (Roobee Dilda'aa District, Jeena Hulul village): PP militia shot dead **Abdallaa Qaasoo Tolaa** and gravely wounded his 10-year-old son, Bilaal.

1 October 2025 (Roobee Didaa'a District, Qillisaa Dambal village): A young man, **Tasaffaa Gutamaa**, was abducted, detained at Hindatoo police station, and killed the following morning.

2 October 2025 (Shanan Kooluu District, Laftoo Rifeensoo village): An elderly man **Sultan Roba Tumuni** was shot dead inside his home.

6 October 2025 (Shanan Kooluu District): PP forces abducted three youths, **Abbaas Suleymaan Biloo**, **Mahaanmad Xaahir Idiris**, and **Murteessaa Huseen Jundii**, and executed them at a remote location.

6 October 2025 (Martii District): PP forces ambushed and shot elder **Adam Abboomsaa Danda'uu** in the head while he was travelling.

16 October 2025 (Shanan Kooluu District): **Mammado Abdallaa** was shot dead without questioning. Tajuu Ahimed was abducted from Qaxxee village and disappeared.

7 November 2025 (Roobee Dilda'a District, Qillisaa Dambalii village): An elderly man, **Amaan Xahaa**, was reportedly shot dead after arrest.

27 November 2025 (Robbee Dilda'aa District): PP-affiliated forces stormed the home of **Abdulfattaa Sheek Mahaammad Huseen Abdallaa**. They took him to the Gammoojjii River and summarily executed him.

7 December (Zuway Dugdaa District): PP-aligned troops, disguised as OLA fighters, executed 18-year-old **Abduramaan Fayisaa**.

Correspondent W2 reported another killing in 2025 which had not been recorded by OSG. **Umri Ciroo Kadir** was killed in Soolee, Negele district, West Arsi, on 25 June 2025. His torso and legs had been devoured by wild animals and is not pictured here.

The killing of two brothers 'Kalil and Kamil Gabi Xafa' and another man, Hirkiso Gishe, in Gujicha village, Munessa district, Arsi, on 6 November was recorded in OSG Report 71 (p.20). W1 and ONM sent a correction of the brothers' names together with their photograph

after Report 71 was published. The brothers were actually named Kalil and Quufa Gabi Xafa. They were both university graduates and were killed in their family home. They are shown together below.



The third man from Gujicha village who was killed that night was named Erkisoo Gishee Galgaluu in the subsequent ONM report.

ONM reported that two men were killed and others wounded by Fano or fighters masquerading as Fano on 11 November in Boqojjii Mirxii village, Honqooloo Waabee district, Arsi. Farmers were beaten to the ground while harvesting their crops. Others came to their rescue.

It was unclear from the report whether the killings and injuries took place at the scene or later at the village office. There was shooting and a grenade was detonated.

Farmers, **Sheikh Adam Mamme** and **Gishuu Ibroo**, were the two killed. At least 20 others were injured, including:

Mahaammad Xilaa
 Jamiilaa Amaan
 Misraa Xabboo
 Raabiyaa Hajjii
 Umar Tusaa,
 Heddo Aliyyii
 Kadijjaa Woliyyii
 Arabee Heddo
 Luuccoo Qumbii
 Mahaammad Umar

Ismaa'el Koree
 Turaa Aliyyii
 Dassaa Ayyuubaa
 Noottii Xabboo,
 Mahaammad Kaliil
 Abdurroo Husaa
 Tamiimaa Huusaa
 Huseen Kaliil
 Alamuuddiin Husaa

ONM reported that a father in the Waddeessa area of Majaa Shanan village, Zuway Dugda district, Arsi, was killed on 15 November. **Shaamashaa Shaalee Jiloo** was taken from his house and shot dead by ENDF soldiers ‘without any question.’

Ibrahim Deddefo (right), a young man also from Munessa district, Arsi, was killed during the night of 20 November (W1).



Two men were killed in Hexosa district, Arsi, on 22 November after complaining they were unable to pay money demanded by security forces ostensibly for building their mosque. They were **Sheik Ibrahim Jemal Husen** (left) and the bursar of the mosque, **Chala Bashir**. They were killed because they refused to hand over money which belonged to the mosque (ONM and W1).



Abdulnasir Junee Haji, a subsistence farmer supporting his family in Gamburra village, Robe district, Arsi, was shot dead by government soldiers on 1 December while working on his farm, for no apparent reason, according to local residents reporting to ONM.

A youth, **Abbatee Jaallatoo Badhaasoo**, aged 18, was taken by ENDF from his family home in Adare Leephoo village, Zuway Dugdaa district, Arsi, on 4 December and killed by a shot to his forehead (ONM). The popular young man was questioned and shot when unable to answer. His family and neighbours were ordered ‘not to cry.’ Villagers told ONM ‘soldiers beat and arrested civilians and looted many properties every time they came to the village.’

Four killings in three different villages in Arsi were reported by W1 on 6 December:

Birruu Baantuu (below left), a 71 year old father of eight from Qoma Ocha village, Munessa district, Arsi, was arrested and killed when going to a shop.

Gemeda Fayiso (not pictured), in Heban Laqicha kebele, Munessa district, was taken while tending to his cows and shot dead.

Also in Heban Laqicha, **Amaan Nageessoo** (below middle), was taken from his sick bed at home and killed.

Banata Wako (below right), a farmer from Boka village, Zuway Dugda district, was killed the same day.



W1 reported the killing of four young men (Qeerroo) together in a single incident in Kolbaa Hawas village, Sire district, Arsi, on 10 December, three of whom are pictured below:

Mame Aliyi Bobaso

Tola Jemal Fayo

Beshir Kemal Gemeda

Sulxan Hassen (not pictured)

They were taken from prison and summarily executed.



W1 wrote when reporting the above four executions that killings were happening not only in Arsi but ‘also in West Arsi and all Oromia.’

Hiisaa Qaadii Jaatoo, a young man from Abbas Goroba village, Martii district, Arsi, was called out of his family home and summarily executed by government soldiers on 22 December (ONM). Several other youths were beaten and taken from the village to Cilaaloo military camp in Abomsa town on the same day.

On 23 December, another young man, **Araarsoo Koroso Nagawoo**, was killed in his house in Heban Laqichaa, Munessa district, the scene of two other killings on 6 December (see above). ONM reported that he was recently married and that his body was dumped on the ground outside his home. Homes of at least 30 farmers in the kebele were burned down on the same day and their families scattered (see p.29).

ONM wrote that an elderly farmer, **Ahimad Haji Usiimaa**, of Aangoo Dachee village in Jajuu district, Arsi, was shot and killed on 24 December. Farmers in nearby Sooqee Boqicha village were beaten on the same day, their property stolen and homes burned down. The produce of the community from the last year was loaded into vehicles and taken away.

Father of four, **Abduraman Ahimad Hamido**, in Qaaciilee, Aleeluu Gaasala village, Siree district, and a young man, **Nuri Qaaso Galate** (right), from Dirree Qilxuu village, Dodota district, Arsi, were killed in front of their families on 26 December (W1 and ONM). Neighbours told ONM that neither had any political involvement and were merely working to support their families.



Mamush Getachew Habte (left), originally from Mittaana Hindhiyeessaa village, Sirka district, Arsi, made his living as a weaver in kebele 01, Gado town, in the same district. One soldier stood guard outside his home while another entered the property and shot him dead on the same day as the above killings, 26 December (ONM and W1). Other residents of the town reported to ONM that soldiers then **gang-raped** his fiancée.

Families and witnesses of the killings were warned and threatened with being themselves killed if they mourned or reported these killings.

On 13 January, at 10 pm, father of eight, **Milkeessoo Mi'eessoo Dassiisoo** (right) and his younger brother **Musxafaa** were ordered out of their homes in Heban Laqicha, Munessa district and summarily executed (ONM). In the same kebele, two men were killed on 6 December and another on 23 December (see above).



Dannaboo Duuchisoo Urgeessaa, originally from West Arsi, now living in Heban Dhuuboo kebele, Munessa district, was killed on 12 January in the town of Laqicha in Heban Laqicha kebele. The father of one had gone to the town to sell a sheep in order to buy goods for his family. Government soldiers approached him in the town, took the sheep from him and then shot him dead. He was a peaceful and popular farmer and the fifth man to be killed in Heban Laqicha since the beginning of December (ONM).

On 16 January, a young man named **Anas Musxafaa** was beaten to death by militiamen and district police from his village, Maanyaa Odaa, in Collee district, Arsi. The much-loved and respected youngster was 'beaten with a stick and killed like a snake in the name of calling the OLF' (ONM).

Edosa Morkama, a young man – qeerroo – was killed by government soldiers in Heban Laqicha, Munessa district on or just before 26 January (W1), the sixth man to be killed in Heban Laqicha since 6 December.

W1 reported that elder **Waaqoo Huseen** (right) was taken from prison and killed in Damu Dimbibba village, Munessa district on 27 January.

Five more young men – qeerroo – were killed together in a single incident in Biyyoo village, Asako district, Arsi, on 29 January (W1):

Ganna Hasan

Jibril Aliyi

Abdela Aman Qoomicha

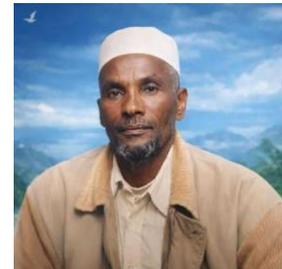
Abu Ademo Bedhaso

Ibrahim Geletu, a 12th grade student



ONM reported that **Tolaa Jamaal Adam**, a farmer in Jeena Ulul, Robe district, Arsi, was shot dead by ENDF soldiers on 1 February ‘in public’ at a place known as Kalchabaa. His neighbour, Kadir Amaan Abdulqaadir, also a farmer, was critically injured. Both were wrongly accused of supporting OLA.

Bunkari Bedasso (right), a 61 year old from Munessa district (but not Heban Laqicha) was detained on 25 January. He was taken from prison on 2 February and executed (W1).



ONM also reported at the beginning of February that a farmer named **Huseen Guraaroo** from Kojii Albasoo in Munessa district was shot dead for refusing to become a member of the local government militia.

Thus, no fewer than 30 men were extrajudicially killed in summary executions between 1 December and 2 February in Arsi, six in one kebele, Heban Laqicha.

Rape

ONM reported in December that government soldiers had been living off the people in Shanan Kooluu district, Arsi ‘for a long time,’ beating, arresting people and entering houses to loot and demand food and drink.

At least two married women, with families, were raped by soldiers on 5 December in Cabbii Qaammee village, despite ‘crying and begging them’ to stop. They were threatened at gunpoint to comply.

Torture

W1 reported the torture of two young men, as shown right, on 5 January, in Sadika town, Robe district, Arsi, despite their having no links to OLA fighters. They were named by W1 as Ahmed Billoo and Tuji Umar.



Other abuses

There were 18 ONM reports of abuses in Arsi and West Arsi between 30 December 2025 and 1 February 2026. Ten referred to detention of civilians, six to looting, five to extortion and excessive taxation and five to displacement due to burning of homes, crops and whole villages. Nine districts in Arsi (Munessa, Martii, Jaju, Robe [aka Robe Dida’a], Sirka, Collee, Asako, Dodota and Hexosa) and two districts in West Arsi (Heban and Negele) were affected.

In addition to these reports, W1 wrote on 8 December of the detention of youths including children aged 15 in military camps and prisons in Qoree and Negele districts of West Arsi.

Detention

Reasons, if any, given for detaining young and old were usually either false allegations of supporting OLA or being unable to pay extortionate ‘taxes’. For example, in Sirka district, Arsi, on 28 January, many were arrested in one village for failure to pay a second round of taxes within a short time. Villagers complained to ONM that the taxes exceeded the property which they possessed.

Beating commonly accompanied detention, including when women taking grain to a mill in Robe, Arsi, were detained on 31 December and also when six farmers in Jeena Ulul, also in Robe, were detained on 1 February, the day of Tola Jamal Adam’s execution (see above).

Looting and extortion

In some reports looting was mixed with extortion because property was stolen if villagers were unable to pay 'taxes'. For example, homes in eight villages in Negele district, West Arsi, were looted at the end of January when their owners could not pay the sums demanded.

Beating and detention often accompanied looting, as when farmers in Sirka district, Arsi, were beaten, detained and looted on 16 January. Sometimes there was simply looting, as in Sire, Asako and Jaju districts on 30 December or when stock was taken from Jaju district next day.

On 21 January in Asako district, in one village three quintals of grain were taken from one farmer and four quintals from another. On the same day in a different Asako village, a total of 30 cattle and 94 goats were taken from five farmers. On 27 January in Robe district, in Walta'i village, among many farmers who were robbed, one lost ten cows and a donkey, another had a donkey stolen and a third had 35 cows taken. In nearby Walta'ii Hindatoo village another nine cows were looted that day.

In Dodota district, on 13 January, villagers were made to pay 7,500 birr and give 3 kg of teff and 5 kg of corn. In Hexosa district, taxes, crops and money were demanded on 27 January.

Extortionate taxes had been demanded in Negele district, West Arsi, on 30 December. At the end of January in the same district, payments for tax, health insurance, food and clothing for militia and contributions 'for the party' were demanded in eight villages. Residents were ordered to give up to 43 kg of grain, and a total of 450,000 birr for clothing militia. Failure to comply led to homes being broken into and property looted. Villagers were warned they would be taken to 'federal prisons where your family cannot find you.'

Burning and displacement

ONM, in its report of the killing of recently married Araarsoo Koroso Nagawoo in Heban Laqicha, Munessa district, on 23 December (see above), described the displacement of 30 families from the kebele when their homes were burned down, as shown below.



One village in Munessa district, Arsi, and two villages in Heban, West Arsi, were razed and occupants displaced on 31 December. Eight farmers' homes in Jaju district were burned down on 31 December. On 14 January, all homes and 20 quintals of grain were torched in one village in Sirka district; on 21 January, villagers in Asako district were fired upon, beaten and evicted when their homes and contents were destroyed; and on 27 January, 25 homes and three stores were burned with their contents in Walta'ii Hindato village, Roba district.

Hararge and Bale

Killings

Ibrahim Sadan Sheikal, OSG's correspondent in Cairo and himself a former detainee and torture survivor from East Hararge, compiled the following list of individuals killed in Cinaaksan and Makanisa districts of East Hararge during 2024 and 2025. They were killed by Ethiopian security forces or by Somali Region forces, the Liyyu police.

OSG had previously only recorded 19 killings in Hararge and Bale zones during 2024 and 44 in 2025. These included only 6 in Cinaaksan and 22 elsewhere in Hararge and Bale killed by Liyyu police in 2025. The order and name spelling are as recorded by Ibrahim in a document sent to OSG on 2 December 2025. **There are 238 names:**

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aadam Usmaa'il Ahmad | Abdinasir Indoo Buur |
| Abdeeq Mahamud Abdulahi | Abdinur Adam Hassan |
| Abdi Ali | Abdinur Mahamad Hassan |
| Abdi Kalif | Abdi Nuur Abdi Doon |
| Abdi Xahir | Abdinuur Mahmad Hassan |
| Abdi Adam Ali | Abdirashiid Abdullahi Asgar |
| Abdi Adam Yuusuf | Abdu Naasir Hashim Yusuf |
| Abdi Ahmad | Abdu Razaq Ahmad |
| Abdi Ahmad Adam | Abdu Razaq Ahmadee Muhu Mad |
| Abdi Ibrahim Abdi | Abdulfata Abdullah |
| Abdi Ibrahim Adam | Abiib Ahmad Iggee |
| Abdi Iseemuhumad | Abiib Geedi Yuusuf |
| Abdi Mahamud Ahmad | Abrahiim Ahmad Gu Reey |
| Abdi Samatar Muhumad | Abshiir Ali Usmaan |
| Abdi Feeyisal Ibrahim | Abshir Ha/Ahmad |
| Abdii Jibriil | Adam Abdii Usmaan |
| Abdii Issee | Adam Imaan Farah |
| Abdii Aadam Jamal | Adam Mahamud Alii |
| Abdii Abtidoon Huseen | Adam Mussaa |
| Abdii Adam Ow Issee | Adam Shun Mahamad |
| Abdii Ahmad Abdii | Ahamad Ibrahim Abdullahi |
| Abdii Ahmad Mu Mad | Ahmad Yuuyaa |
| Abdii Ahmad Xahiir | Ahmad Abdii Abiib |
| Abdii Ahmadee | Ahmad Abdii Adam |
| Abdii Farah Hassan | Ahmad Idiris Soodan |
| Abdii Ibroo Abdulle | Ahmadnur Mahamad Idlee |
| Abdii Issee Ow Abdii | Ali Abdii Mahamad |
| Abdii Kadar Ahmad Gu Reey | Ali Abdulahi Ahmad |
| Abdii Mahamad Ow Muyadiin | Ali Abdurahman Hussein |
| Abdii Mu Humad Mahamud | Ali Habanee |
| Abdii Muhumad Mahamud | Ali Imaan Dukalee |
| Abdii Mussaa Gu Reey | Ali Isaaq Muhumad |
| Abdii Nuur Adam Hassan | Ali Sheek Mussaa |
| Abdii Ow Issaa | Alii Issaaq |
| Abdii Umaar | Alii Abdu Rahman Yusuf |
| Abdii Xahiir | Alii Habbanee Aammee |
| Abdii Yuusuf Mu Mad | Amadee Muussaa |
| Abdii Alii Faraah | Araab Muhu Mad |

Aydiid Adoosh Ahmaad
Badee Abdi Abdulahi
Basassoo Abdii Ahmad
Bashiir Ali Xahiir
Buduul Xahir Usmaail
Daawwee Abdullaah
Faraah Mussaa Ahmad
Faraah Abdi Yusuf
Faraah Dhagoolee
Farahaan Abdulaahi
Farahan Abdu Nasir
Farahan Ahmad Issee
Farahan Harreed
Farahan Mahamud Ahmad
Farahan Rashid Abdullahi
Farhaan Ahmad
Farhaan Hareed
Fu'aad Abdullah Yusuf
Guddon Adam Mahamad (Shun)
Haawaa Abdii
Habiib Abadiir Ali
Habsa Hussein Amad
Hannaa Hussen Ahmad
Hasan Abdii Xahiir
Hasan Farah Adam
Hasan Mahamade Muhumad
Hasan Xayib Mahamad Abdi
Hashi Aleel
Hassaan Faraah Adam
Hassan Abdi Ibrahim
Hassan Abib
Hassan Adam
Hassan Ali Ahmad
Hassan Alii Nuur
Hassan Dawid
Hassan Dayib Mahmmad Abdi
Hassan Farah
Hassan Ibrahim Ali
Hassan Mahamad
Hassan Mahamad Bidaar
Hassan Mahamad Muhumad
Hassan Qaasim Muhumad
Hassan Umar Ali
Hassan Yusuf Ibrahiim
Hassannur Hilin
Hassn Usma'il Gu Reey
Huseen Adam Bahadoon
Hussein Jibril
Hussein Abdii Xahiir
Hussein Ali Bariis

Hussein Arab
Hussein Jibril Ahmad
Hussein Yuusuf Hassan
Hussen Abdu Lee
Ibraahim Abdii Aammee
Ibraahim Ali
Ibraahim Gu Reey
Ibrahiim Abdii
Ibrahiim Hussein
Ibrahiim Adam Keeysee
Iliyaas Mahamad Mussaa
Jamaal Abdulle Muussee
Jamal Ahmad Hashii
Kadar Hassan Faraah
Kadar Jigree
Kadar Mowliid
Kadarmahamad Jibriil
Kadiire Qeebe
Kadiir Muktar
Kaliif Ibraahim Mader
Kon/Abdii Adam Yk (Yaree)
Kon/Kadiir Abdurahaman
Mahadi Ali Heydar
Mahadii Abdii Haajii
Mahad Mahamad Hassan
Mahamad Habib
Mahamad Hassan Adam
Mahamad Hassan Ibrahim
Mahamad Abdulahi Hassan
Mahamad Abdulahi Bilal
Mahamad Abdulahi Doolal
Mahamad Ahmad Hashii
Mahamad Arab Ahmad
Mahamad Mahamud Mussa
Mahamad Nu Re Adam
Mahamad She/Mussaa
Mahamad Usmaa'il
Mahamad Usmaa'il (Indabur)
Mahamad Usmaan
Mahamad Xahiir Amad
Mahamad Adam Usmaa'il
Mahamad Ali Habiib
Mahamad Alii Abdullaah
Mahamad Amad Kabiroo
Mahamad Musse Ibrahim
Mahammad Abrahimee
Mahammad Nuuree Adam
Mahammad Yuyaa
Mahamud Artee Amad
Mamadin

Mowlud Mahamud Amboo
 Muhumad Hassan Abdulahi
 Mursal Ahmadnuur
 Musadhre Ahmad
 Mussa Adam Abdii
 Mussa Ow Abdiumar
 Muussa Awo Abdiumar
 Muyyaddiin Adam Xahir
 Nasir Usmaanee
 Nimaan Askaar
 Qasiim Abdii Adam
 Rashid Ahmad Ali
 Rashid Ahmad Hassan
 Rashiid Adam Igee
 Rashiid Usmaan Alisho
 Rudwaan Abdii Hassan
 Shamshadin Abdusalam
 Sharaf Mahamad Ukash
 Shu'eeb Faysal Muhumad
 Shu'eebi Abdii Mahamad
 Siyaad Ahmadiftin
 Siyad Abdi Karee
 Toofiq Umaar Faxansaa
 Umaar Mahamad Abduulahi
 Umar Abdullah Habiib
 Umar Abdullah
 Umar Abdullahi
 Umar Abraham
 Umar Ahmad
 Umar Ahmad Mussa
 Umar Farah

Umar Mahamad Hussen
 Usma'iil Ahmad
 Usma'iil Ahmad Muhu Mad
 Usmaa'iil Abdulaahi Xahiir
 Usmaa'iil Farah Hassan
 Usmaa'il Amad Adam
 Usmaa'il Yusuf Umar
 Usmaa'il Ahmad Adam
 Usmaan Mahamad Hassan
 Usmaan Mussa Umaar
 Xahiir Abdii Ahmaad
 Xayib Geellee Askar
 Xayib Umar Filfil
 Xayib Usma'il Muhumad
 Xayyib Ahmad Ibro
 Xayyib Musaaa
 Xayyib Hassan Alii
 Yaayee Aliyyi Abdulahi
 Yahayaa Ahmad
 Yasiin Usmaan
 Yasinee Ahamad
 Yoniis Yuyaa Adam
 Yusuf Aadam Usmaan
 Yusuf Farah Ali
 Yusuf Alimuhumad
 Yuusuf Ahmad
 Yuusuf Jamaa Ashuur
 Zakariyaa Abrahiim Adam
 Ziyaad Ahmadiftin
 Ziyad Abdii Karee
 Ziyad Ahmad

Six youths were taken from their family homes in Dansee village, Habro district, West Hararge, and shot dead in one place a few days before ONM reported their killing on 17 November. One of the victims is pictured right.

Their names were:

Nuuree Abdurraamaan Mohaammed

Dursaa Mohaammad Sheekaa

Najiib Huseen

Naasir Haamidoo

Muktaar Mohaammed

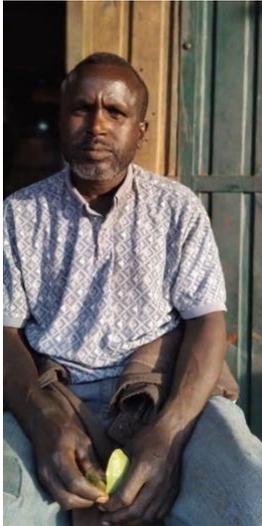
Zeeynii (father's name not known)

Their families were prevented from collecting their bodies by government forces.



Correspondent E1 reported that **Mohamed Hussein Abdulla (Daakaa)** was shot dead by local government militia on his farm in Madhicho village, Chiro district, West Hararge on 21 November.

Father of ten **Mohammed Hussien Yusuf** (below left) was killed by militia in Wenee Qalloo village, Habro district, West Hararge on 21 December. He was harvesting grain when militia



demanded payment for spurious ‘taxes’. He was bound with his arms behind his back and severely beaten before being shot and killed (W1, W2 and ONM).

Another farmer from the village, father of five **Najjo Adam** was shot dead for attempting to help Mohammed (W1, ONM).

On 24 December, **Tajuddin Mahammad Abdulle** (below right), a young man from Xiniqe kebele, Maya city, East Hararge, was also shot dead for refusing to pay ‘taxes’ to local militia (W1, ONM). (Maya city consists of three sub-cities, including Haro Maya.) Unable to pay, he repeatedly asked to be spared before being killed, according to ONM.



Badiri Mahammad Adare, a farmer living in Bookee town, Bookee district, West Hararge,

was taken from his home, shot dead and dumped in a field on 30 January. Residents informed ONM that he had no connections to OLA.

Rape

On 27 January, at 5.00 a.m., several members of government security forces entered the home of a mother (**name withheld**) in Bokkoo Jalaalaa, Malkaa Bal’oo district, East Hararge, and brutally raped her, leaving her critically ill. ONM wrote that ‘throughout the district similar acts are being repeatedly committed by the regime’s soldiers against unarmed Oromo children.’

Disappearance

Aliyi Mohammed was detained among many in Badessa town and surrounding Badessa district in West Hararge. ONM reported on 18 January that he had disappeared after being released from detention.

On 27 January, Adam Abdurramaan was badly beaten by government militia in Sabbaaqaa kebele of Gumbii Bordode district, West Hararge, and ran into the forest while militia members were discussing killing him. He had not been found or heard from by 1 February, when his disappearance was reported by ONM.

Shot and injured

ONM reported in November that Ahimad Abdullahi, an innocent farmer in Gabbis village, Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, was shot and wounded by militia member Ibrahim Xahir on 25 October 2025 (previously not recorded by OSG).

Detention, beating, bribery and theft

There were at least seven reports of detention of innocent civilians within the three months since Report 71, including the report by W1 on 22 November that ‘Mushe’ (right) a student at Madda Walabu university in Robe, Bale, had been imprisoned.



ONM reported multiple episodes of detention including from Malka Bal’oo district, East Hararge on 8 January; from Gumbi Bordode district, West Hararge, on 13 January, where payments of 500 birr could secure release; from Badessa town, West Hararge, on 18 January; Haro Maya town, East Hararge, where two youngsters had been detained for six months by 19 January; and from Doba district, West Hararge on 20 January.

Beating at the time of arrest is standard procedure, so much so that it is usually not reported. Nonetheless, in Daro Labu district, West Hararge, when residents were detained on 10 January for 'not paying taxes and insurance' their being beaten was noted by ONM.

Similarly, when residents of Qalicha neighbourhood in Dire Dawa, East Hararge, complained to the authorities after their solar panels were stolen by local militia during a door-to-door operation on 28 January, they were reportedly beaten and detained after being told they had no right to complain (ONM).

Beating may also occur for no apparent reason. A young mother reported taking tomatoes for sale in Harar on 9 January. She was resting to breastfeed her hungry baby outside Adare police station when Harari policemen came out of the police station and beat her unconscious. She regained consciousness next day in hospital (ONM).

Spurious reasons, if any, may be given for detention and robbery by local forces. These are usually false accusations of supporting OLA. For example, Mohammed Ahmed, 02 kebele, Haro Maya, East Hararge, was robbed of his TV, farming machinery, a bajaj scooter taxi and other household goods (ONM, 19 January). His two sons, Magarsa and Faran, had been detained for more than six months, accused of supporting OLA.

Another example is the confiscation of the belongings of Jabir Yuya Xiqa in Eela Hamare in Dire Dawa, East Hararge. He had returned after many years in Yemen with a significant amount of property. This was confiscated and he had been detained for over one month, accused of supporting OLA, by the time his detention was reported by ONM on 4 February.

Similarly, district administrator Diinee Aliyyii Hasan stole oxen from farmers Dhugoomsaa Kaamiil and Haadii Muusaa in Qu'ee Bareedaa village, Haqaan Jiraataa kebele, Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, in the first week of February under the false pretext of their supporting OLA (ONM).

Extortion

There were numerous reports of extortion, commonly but not always under the guise of taxation. Not only are frequent and repeated payments demanded by local militia but food, building materials and free labour are extorted by them and by local officials. Security forces also often prey on commuters taking goods to local town markets.

For example, in Dirre Xiyara district, Adare town, Harari militia demanded 2,500 birr from residents for health insurance on 9 January, only days after taking 1,500 birr for the same purpose. The road to Harar market was blocked, where more money for arming militia was ordered to be paid. Those reluctant to pay were threatened with being killed.

In Bookkoo village, Malka Bal'oo district, East Hararge, 9,000 birr was demanded from every resident for tax and buying clothing for militia members on 8 January. Four were arrested for non-payment including heavily pregnant Hamdiya Ibrahim Umar. Despite delivering her baby without assistance two days later, she was released only after 'much dispute.' Ten days later, residents of three villages, including Bookkoo, were again demanded to pay 5,000 for guns and give up to 80 kg of grain to feed militia. Residents told ONM that they did not have enough to feed their own families.

Every household in Walda Gamachu, Metta district, West Hararge, was ordered on 26 January to give 2,500 birr to build the village school and another 500 birr to build the kebele office. Failure to contribute led to their being unable to move freely or work and some were driven from the village.

In Gumbi Bordode district, West Hararge, on 1 February, each home in Bareeda village was made to give 30 kg of grain to support the local militia.

Mume Sani, the government security head in Lugo Bacessa village, Ciro district, East Hararge, had already demanded half the earnings from residents, under threat of assault, when on 26 January he ordered villagers to supply wood, stone and free labour to build a house for himself. They were threatened with dire consequences if they failed to comply (ONM).

Demolition, displacement and land grab

Civilians who had been displaced by Somali Region Liyyu forces from border villages to safer areas in East Hararge were again displaced to the Koye Fiche area of Shaggar city in the Oromia Special Zone around Finfinnee, from where W1 sent the photograph shown above right on 26 November.



ONM reported on 30 December that large areas of land had been taken from Gamora and Salqa kebeles in Sinana district, West Bale. Farmers' land was taken at gunpoint without compensation, especially in 'convenient and strategic locations, including urban sites as well as fertile land, stripping the Oromo people of their means of survival.' ONM wrote that large swathes of Bale zone were being sold to 'foreign forces such as the United Arab Emirates' to fund the purchase of weapons.

Other examples of forced displacement followed the burning of 14 farmers' homes in Hancaar, West Hararge, on 31 December; and the burning of the home and property of a farmer in Bedeno district, East Hararge, on 9 January.

Homes in Gamora, Salqa, Hobora, Maliyu and other villages in Sinana district, West Bale, had been demolished during the week following 28 December for 'corridor development' leaving residents without shelter.

Properties belonging to residents in Goro Gutu district, East Hararge, who had established themselves over the last three years in Kara Mille town after being displaced from villages bordering Somali Region, were demolished on 29 January and the occupants ordered by security forces to leave (ONM).

Corridor development resulted in the destruction of homes, businesses and public buildings around Dire Dawa, East Hararge, in the first few days of February – similar to corridor schemes affecting towns across Oromia Region.

Wallega: Horo Guduru and East Wallega

Correction In Report 71 (p.34) it was stated that the villagers of Homa Galesa in Abee Dongoroo had been resettled there about 15 years ago from Arsi zone. E1 has written to correct this: the village was established between 2001 and 2005, when Juneidin Sado was President of Oromia Region, by people resettled from Hararge.

Killings

ONM reported the following killings in 2024 and 2025 which have not been recorded previously by OSG:

On 15 October 2024, in the Ababo Guduru district of Horo Guduru, government security forces killed farmer, **Garama Motumma**, and left his body at the roadside. He was killed because his son was suspected of belonging to OLA.

Tamire Oliqa, a young man in Jardega Jarte district, Horo Guduru, was killed on 19 October 2024.

In Abee Dongoro district, Horo Guduru, killings by Fano militia included **Aliyi Eliyas** on 4 March 2025; **Bonsa Malkamu** in March or April 2025; **Dassale Abomma** and **Gutame Kumsa** in May 2025; and farmer **Shambal Girma** in July.

Fano militia were also reportedly responsible for the killing of a five year old child, **Mikii Habtaamuu Sambatoo** in Lugo town, Guto Gida district, East Wallega on 19 September 2025.

Killings by ENDF included:

Grade 11 student **Guddataa Tolu Gaddafaa** in Burqituu Oborraa village, Horo district, Horo Guduru on 15 March 2025;

Mammo Gamada Galan, a farmer in Ebantu district, East Wallega on 16 July 2025;

A man named **Dalasa** in Warsu, Limmu district, East Wallega, on 28 August; and

A farmer, **Biratu Burayu**, in Bareeda Sooromaa village, Diga district, East Wallega, on 28 October 2025.

Killings which were recently reported by ONM include that of **Asaba Abdo**, reportedly by Fano militia, on 31 October in Sidan village, Amuru district, Horo Guduru. He was herding his four cattle, which were taken by the militants.

Addis Standard reported the killing of an Oromia Region prosecutor and the abduction of three others on 26 November.²⁶ **Negasse Kebede** was shot dead and prosecutors Alemayehu Mesele, Addisu Legesse and Yirgalem Mitiku were kidnapped when an armed group, presumed to be Fano or a government sponsored group masquerading as Fano, stopped their vehicle in Hara kebele, Jimma Arjo district, East Wallega, as they were traveling from Jimma city to Nekemte.

Gerremo Ararso (also known as Aba Fite, pictured right) was reported by W1 to have been abducted by Fano militants on 30 November, when going to church in Gara Dichu village, Gida Ayana district, East Wallega. The Amhara insurgents demanded two million birr for his release but his family was unable to pay. He was killed on 1 December.



On about 10 December, **Mardaasa Mandida** was killed in Gudatu village, Jimma Ganati district, Horo Guduru, by Shambu security chief Garramuu Itichaa Fayyisaa, according to ONM.

A young singer in Sibuu Sire Evangelical Church, East Wallega, named **Teshome** (shown right), was reportedly killed by Fano militia a day or two before W1 informed OSG of his killing on 15 December.



Two men were abducted and killed by Fano militia on or shortly before 21 December in Gida Ayana district, East Wallega, according to W1. They were named **Kebede Gonfa** and **Baisa Fufa** (pictured left).



ENDF soldiers broke into the home of father of three **Hailu Tassaye** in 02 kebele, Horo town, on 21 December and shot him dead. His wife, Geexee Dheressa, was shot and wounded and was taken to Shambu hospital (ONM).

²⁶ <https://addisstandard.com/oromia-regional-prosecutor-killed-three-abducted-in-alleged-armed-group-attack-in-east-wollega/>

The photograph shown right was taken in East Wallega and sent by W1 on 28 January. It shows a young man cowering before government soldiers. His subsequent fate is not known.



Shallamaa Ayyaanaa, a young man in Butuji Qarso village, Wama Hagalo district, East Wallega, was killed by ENDF on 11 January after spurious allegations that he was a supporter of OLA. Two others from the village, Misgana Addunya and Nagash Lammessa were badly beaten and detained in the district police station on the same day (ONM).



Demise Mosisa (left) was detained in the Kumsa Moroda palace (museum turned detention centre) in Nekemte city, East Wallega, for about six months before being taken to the nearby Dhidhesa detention camp where he was reported by W1 on 26 January to have been killed.

In the evening of 30 January, two youths, **Getacho Alamu** and **Fayisa Dabala**, were taken by ENDF from their family homes in Akka Feete in Arjo kebele, Guto Gida district, East Wallega. Next day, they were taken to Adare in Fayisa kebele in the same district and shot dead. Their bodies were left on the ground (ONM).



Getu Qano (pictured right) a mathematics teacher living in Adare Tiksa village, Gobu Sayo district, East Wallega, was killed by government security forces on 14 February (W1).

Disappeared, presumed killed

On 20 December ENDF soldiers abducted a medical professional, **Ababe Gonfa**, in Dangee village, Haro Limmu district, East Wallega, falsely accusing him of treating OLA fighters. Residents told ONM that he has disappeared in detention and is presumed killed.

Dirriba Dhaaba, a young man from Reef-Gudane village, Coomman Guduruu district, Horo Guduru was arrested on 25 December and his whereabouts remained unknown two days later when his disappearance was reported by ONM. He was abducted because an older brother was suspected of having joined OLA.

Hirka Mul'ata, a young father of one, was abducted during a spate of attacks ('killing, raping, looting, displacing and detaining') in Guto Gida district, East Wallega. He was taken from Motee village on 28 December and his location was still unknown two days later, when ONM made its report. He was accused of giving information to OLA.

Rape

Schoolgirls in Horo district of Horo Guduru are dropping out of school because of the high incidence of rape by security forces. Large numbers report being raped and threatened with violence if they tell anyone. ONM reported from the district on 30 December that teenage boys were being beaten by the same soldiers.

Similarly, ONM reported that girls on their way to school and mothers on their way to market or in their homes were being raped by ENDF soldiers in Wayu Tuka district, East Wallega. One mother, named by ONM, was taken from her home in Bonaya Molo village and raped on 6 January. Victims and their husbands are threatened to keep quiet about the abuses.

Detention and other abuses

Detention of civilians has been reported particularly often and from many districts in Horo Guduru and East Wallega since the last report. There were 18 reports of detention, mostly from ONM, between 31 December and the end of January alone. Affected districts in Horo Guduru included Horo, Horo Bulluq, Jimma Raree, Guduru and Jimma Ganati. In East Wallega zone, detention was reported from the districts of Haro Limu, Guto Gida, Sasiga, Gobu Sayo, Wayu Tuqa, Sibu Sire and Gida Ayana, and from Galila town and Nekemte city.

Reasons for detention included being related to suspected members of OLA. For example, Tirfee Dastaa, a mother of two sons under two years old from Balbal'aa village, was detained in Wayu town police station, Jimma Raree district, on 13 January because her husband had joined OLA.



Detainees included youngsters, for example Motile Dinsa (pictured right) a student at Wallega University in Nekemte, originally from Gorba Gudina village, Haro Limu district, detained and mistreated in 07 kebele Police Station in Nekemte city from mid-January (W1).

Suspected ties with OLA was the usual reason given for detention of youngsters, including four children in Bonaya Moloo village, Wayu Tuqa district, on 30 January. Three youths were among those detained in Nekemte city on 11 January. ONM reported that if two or more people were seen together in the city during the evening they were liable to be arrested for 'conspiring against the government.'

Detention as an income stream for corrupt officials is common. For example, in Kombolcha town in Guduru district, ONM reported on 13 January that release from detention could be bought for 50,000 to 150,000 birr.

Forced conscription, unless large sums are paid for release, was one of the reasons for detaining and beating five youths in Guto Gida district on 8 January, followed by their transfer to the district police station three days later.

Male and female heads of large families were also among those detained, for example in Galila town and in Sasiga district, where a mother of seven was detained on 12 January. A woman aged 65 or more, Daadhituu Gammachuu Jaaluu, from Tullu Cali in Addileqa kebele, was beaten and badly injured when arrested and taken to Jimma Ganati district police station on 31 January 'for supporting OLA.'

As elsewhere, beating of detainees is standard practice, at least at the time of arrest, as reported above and when two innocent farmers were detained in Horo Bulluq district on 12 January. Four farmers were beaten when detained in Jimma Ganati district on 29 January, because they had planted maize instead of wheat as instructed, despite poor yields of the latter on their land.

Some are beaten and detained in reprisal for failed actions by ENDF against OLA. For example, three farmers under the Jangir town administration in Gida Ayana district, were detained on 27 January after government forces had been unsuccessful in fighting OLA.

Looting, extortion and displacement

ONM maintains that there is cooperation between Fano militia and government forces, whereby attacks on Oromo communities in Horo Guduru and East Wallega are intended to drive them from the zones to make way for the increasing number of Amhara settlers.

For example, all the residents of Baqqoo Jimma village in Sibu Sire district, East Wallega, were driven from their homes on 31 January by forces which self-identified as Fano.

It is often difficult to distinguish between extortion by punitive ‘taxation’ and looting by government forces. Looting and arrests were reported in Sibu Sire district on 30 December. Cash and cattle were taken by government forces from residents in Wama Hagaloo district and Galila town area on 2 January ‘in place of taxes.’ Property and more than six quintals of coffee were taken in Sasiga district on 12 January.

In Kiramu district, on 26 January, 4,000 and 6,000 birr was demanded at gunpoint from two farmers in Caffee Gudina village. This could be interpreted as extortion, looting or plain theft.

The deliberate burning of several hectares of crops and homes in Sasiga district on 14 January and the burning of property, a grain store and surrounding forest in Bonaya Moloo village, Wayu Tuqa district, on 26 January are presumed to be acts designed to displace residents.

Fano militants were reportedly responsible for burning this farmer’s home, grain and tractor in Caru, Abee Dongoro district, Horo Guduru, on 26 February.²⁷



Qellem and West Wallega, Illubabor, Buno Bedele and Jimma

Killings and other abuses in these five zones of western Oromia occupy a large section of this OSG report, as they have in previous reports.

Killings

ONM shared its roundup of reports of killings during 2025 with OSG, of which the following had not been recorded by OSG previously:

Mohammad Banti, a young man in the Begi district, West Wallega, was killed by government forces on 23 February 2025.

Firomsa Tarfaasa, also a young man, was pursued and shot by security forces after being found bathing in a river in Qellem Wallega on 28 February.

Daani’eel Girmoosaa Galataa was shot dead by government militia in Lalisa Soyoma village, Qiltu Kara district, West Wallega, on 22 February 2025.

Duula Sirriqa, an elderly man in Babo Gambel district, West Wallega, was killed by government forces on 16 April.

Ayyaantuu Abarraa, a young woman, was dragged from her home in Homa district, West Wallega, and shot dead on 22 May 2025.

²⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1CVwhpsyRL/>

Tolashee Leencaa, a 40 year old woman, was dragged from a vehicle and shot dead in Gimbi district, West Wallega, on 24 May 2025.

Abdii Misgaanuu Baril, a 12th grade student in Mana Sibuu district, West Wallega was killed by government militia on 8 July.

Bal'inaa Saaqqataa, a 30 year old, was shot and killed at his father's home in Mana Sibuu district, West Wallega, on 11 August 2025.

Abdata Cala was killed by government forces in Anfiloo district, Qellem, on 27 August.

Warquu Kennessaa, a young man in Haruu district, West Wallega, was killed while he was harvesting grain on 8 September.

Margaa Fayyisaa was killed by government forces in Sayoo district, Qellem, on 5 November.

Harun Wama, aged 14, and **an unnamed 65 year old man** were taken from their homes in Sichallo town, Gawoo Qebe district, Qellem, on 18 November 2025 and later shot dead.

Ayyaane Wandimmuu was killed in a hit and run accident involving a federal military vehicle on 20 December 2025 in Gidami town, Qellem. The driver fled.

Faqqada Gutamma, father of four in Mana Sibuu district, West Wallega, was detained and tortured. He died from his injuries on 28 December 2025.

W1 reported the killing of **Teshome Gudeta** (pictured right), a young civilian in Qaaqee city, Qellem, on 21 November. The photograph on the far right shows his body and his grieving mother.



On 25 November, five young men – qeerroo – were taken from Maruu village, Gulisoo district, West Wallega, and shot dead in Jarso Badeso, according to informants W1 and E1. They are pictured below and are named, from left to right:

Magarsa Abdi, **Bona Emame**, **Obsi Karasa** (top row), **Dawit Daraje** and **Firoomsa Malkamu** (bottom row). Their bodies are shown furthest right, bottom row.



Another victim, as reported by Finfinnee News Network (FNN), was named **Damee Sambata**. FNN reported that Dawit Daraje and Firomsa Malkamu were from Homi Suchi, Ayra district and that the others, including Damee Sambata, were from Maru in Guliso district, as reported by W1 and E1.

Abram Tesfaye (shown right), from Dini Huwa, Lalo Asabi district, West Wallega, was detained and tortured for two days before being killed and his body thrown in Tore Tarara, before the report by W1 on 28 November.



W1 and ONM reported that another five men, belonging to one family, were killed on 5 December. Four were taken, like four of the above victims, from Maru village in Guliso district. They included a 70 year old elder, **Bulcha**



Obbo Bulchaa Raggaasaa!!



Ragassa Reebu (shown far left), **Mazgabuu Abshalee** (near left), **Fiqiru Yadessa** and **one unnamed individual**. Another family member, **Hamba Ragassa**, named as head of the family by W1, was taken from Kuree village, Ayra district. The five were taken from their homes by ENDF soldiers and shot dead in one place by the Suchi river, according to W1.

On 10 December, two qeerroo were killed in Gida Dale village, Lata Sibu district, West Wallega, named by W1 as **Mamush Dilboo** and **Gadissa Dirbaba**. W1 stated they had no relationship to OLA.

ONM reported that **Malkamu Gazzaany**, a resident of Nopha district, Illubabor, was shot and killed by ENDF soldiers on 20 December because he refused to hand over his children for conscription into the army.

Two youths were killed by ENDF on 23 December in Sayo district, Qellem. **Musa Ibrahim** from Alaku Abbo village and **Ebissa** (father's name not known) from Burqitu in Kalala kebele, were taken to a place called Abba Jarrah and shot together in the early morning (ONM).

Qaasim Mahaammud Adam, a non-political man working only to support his family, was shot dead by ENDF in the village of Lalistu Lophi, Begi district, West Wallega, on 25 December. (ONM).



Thirteen year old **Carraa Hunduma Nagari** (shown left) from Badesso Kasho village, Dale Sadi district, Qellem, was intercepted when walking home from work with his father on 29 December, beaten badly and shot dead. His body was found later in a remote forest area and his funeral was held on 30 December (W1 and ONM).

On 1 January, three residents of Mura Boroka village, Babo Gambel district, West Wallega, were killed. They were named by W1:

Tolera Gamta

Ayu Waktola

Nimona (father's name not stated).

A young man who was preparing to get married, **Musxafaa Tamiru Tolaa**, was reported by ONM to have been killed by government soldiers in Suli village, Nopha district, Illubabor, on 10 January.

Two days later, in the same district, **Dawit Tamiru** was shot dead in front of his family and neighbours in Cabal village. It was not stated by ONM whether he and the earlier victim, Musxafaa Tamiru Tolaa, were related. Their names indicate they were brothers.

On 13 January, ENDF shot two youths in Bonaya Asabi kebele, Gimbi district, West Wallega, falsely accusing them of having connections with OLA. They were attacked in the vicinity of the Catholic Church according to ONM. **Kinfu Ifaa** died instantly but Ifaa Shuma survived with serious neck injuries for which he is being treated in the Adventist Hospital in Gimbi. The soldiers took mobile phones from the parents of Ifaa Shuma according to the report.

ENDF soldiers shot and killed a 9 month old baby, **Yakim Bashuraa Baqqalee** (pictured right) in Kellayii Birbir village, Lalo Asabi district, West Wallega on 14 January (W1 and ONM). Yakim's sister Sandabo, who was carrying the infant, was badly injured in the shooting, receiving wounds to her liver and one hand. She is reportedly severely ill and being treated in the Adventist Hospital in Gimbi. The children's father is the owner of a bar where soldiers were drinking heavily. The soldiers shot the children when Sandabo refused their sexual advances.



The children's father is the owner of a bar where soldiers were drinking heavily. The soldiers shot the children when Sandabo refused their sexual advances.

On 17 January, 17 year old 12th grade student **Misgana Ebissa Barude** (pictured left) was killed at a place known as Dachaa Haphalaa in 02 kebele, Mandi city, Mana Sibu district, West Wallega. He was from Toggir Aroo Gombii village and was attending school in Mandi (W1 and ONM).

Fiqiree Akkuma was taken by government soldiers from a place known as Kobaree in Gaanqaa Icoo village, Gawo Qebe district, Qellem, and shot dead on 18 January. His home and the homes of his three brothers Tarfa, Lamata and one other, unnamed, had been burned down on 1 January (ONM). The forest surrounding their village was set alight and burned for two days, 18 and 19 January.

In the West Wallega district surrounding Nejo town, **Meskeram Tujuba Wayessa** (pictured right) was killed by government security forces in 04 kebele on 27 January (W1).



Also on 27 January, **Dagafa Tarfasa**, a highly respected man in Gumaa Gaara Arba village, Qondala district, West Wallega, was shot dead in public in the Konsa area of the village by ENDF soldiers (ONM). Two men in the village, named Habib and Umar, were critically injured when severely beaten on the same occasion.

Bokkaa Tarrafaa, a resident of Axosi Sibani village, Lalo Asabi district, West Wallega, was shot dead by government soldiers 'with seven bullets' on 29 January for no apparent reason according to ONM.

An innocent man described as elderly by ONM, **Ismaa'il Abdallaa**, was summarily executed by ENDF in Ashunfa village, Qondala district, West Wallega, on 30 January.

A youngster named **Gadisa Tasfa Ragassa** was also summarily executed in Uchee, Darimu district, Illubabor, on 1 February. Residents told ONM that he was not involved with politics and was simply working to support his family. He was accused of supporting OLA.



A 15 year old girl, **Iftu Lamessa** (pictured right), was killed by government forces on 7 February in Yukkur, a place in Gaazi village, Gimbi district, West Wallega (W1).



Three youngsters were killed in Guliso district, West Wallega, on 17 February according to information obtained by informant W1. One of the youths was named **Lalisa Gutama** but the names of the other two youths and the kebele in which they lived was not known.

Informant W1 reported that **Kuma Hora** (shown left), a youth from Mandi city, West Wallega, was taken as a forced conscript on 17 February but shot dead next day when he tried to run away from his place of detention.

A farmer, **Gudeta Bacha**, and a woman named **Simbat Ayana**, residents of Dale Wabera district, Qellem, were killed by government security forces on 20 February (W1).



Another young man – qeerroo – named **Dame Asmera** was killed in Chalia Kusaye village, Guliso district, West Wallega, on 24 February. Also on that day, **Tekalegne Mengesha** (shown right), a young teenager, was killed in Jajo Akaki village, Dale Sadi district, Qellem (W1).

Rape

ONM reported on 17 December that over 30 girls and women in villages in Darimu district of Illubabor had been raped in the previous month alone. The group named six, including three sisters, who were taken to a military camp where they were injured when raped for four days and then ‘thrown outside.’

Three girls, in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades at school, were named by ONM as having been raped and injured by ENDF soldiers after being abducted from Caagee village, in Nopha district, Illubabor, on 24 December. On the same day, two mothers and two young girls from Carfoo village in the same district were raped by soldiers.

Disappearances

When individuals are detained in police stations or military camps there is justifiable concern for their safety. The number of summary executions of those imprisoned, even if accusations of links to OLA are false, means that when detainees are untraceable for more than 24 hours, the possibility of their being killed is significant.

ONM reported on 23 December the disappearance in detention of two individuals in Warra Kuraa kebele, also referred to as Boondawoo town, in Ayra district, West Wallega. Prominent property owner Galgal Damise and the administrator of the town health centre, Waqshuma Kitila, were abducted by government forces from their homes in the middle of the night of 18 December and were not to be found at least for the next five days, when ONM made its report. Both were known as highly respected community members.

Many of the episodes of detention recorded below fit in the category of ‘disappeared in detention.’

Injuries from beating and shooting

Almost all of those detained are beaten during their arrest or abduction. Only a very small fraction of such beatings are recorded below. These include for example the beating of many who were detained during the episode of detention and looting in Ayra district, West Wallega, on 5 December; in Yamalogi Walal district, Qellem, on 30 December; and the spate of looting, destruction of homes and detentions in Mexi Guda village, Darimu district, Illubabor on 12 January.

Other examples include the beating and stabbing of men in four villages in Gawo Qebbe district, Qellem, when they were being forced to identify homes of relatives of OLA fighters on 15 January.

A young coffee shop owner in West Wallega was badly beaten in December by the commander of the local military post and one of his soldiers. His injuries are shown in the images shown right. The two soldiers pursued a civilian to and fro through the coffee shop but were unable to catch him. They blamed the owner of the coffee shop for not stopping the fugitive and beat him with the butt of a gun on his back and left forearm, as shown.



There is promiscuous use of firearms by the security forces. For example, government soldiers opened fire on the community of Soonxa town, Humuru district, Illbabor on 28 December, while they were trading, causing them to scatter in terror. The soldiers then looted the market and took the goods to the district police station. In the same report, ONM stated that many youths were being beaten and accused of having links to OLA, for which some were detained and mistreated.

A young man, Sambata Amanu, was shot and wounded for no apparent reason while he was walking along the road in Guyo Sacci village, Qiltu Kara district, West Wallega, on 24 December. He needed to be transferred from Mandi hospital to the city hospital in Nekemte because of the severity of his injuries (ONM).

Allaamuddiin Shifaa was shot and injured in Cammoo kebele, Haro Sabu district, Qellem, on 3 February, falsely accused of having an association with OLA. ONM reported that many were being shot and killed in the neighbourhood, to terrorise the community.

Other abuses

In collating reports of the many abuses meted out to innocent civilians it is often impossible to categorise them into detention, beating, looting, extortion etc., because they are interrelated. For example, in the report of the shooting and injuring of Sambata Amanu on 24 December (above), ONM wrote that soldiers in the military camp in Sacci village in Qiltu Kara district hide in the surrounding forest and coffee farms during the night threatening and raping women going to harvest coffee. They enter homes demanding food, ‘arresting fathers for militia training and recruiting young men for imperial defense forces.’

Frequently, detention, beating and looting accompany each other, as in the report of looting in Ari’aa Dambi kebele, Mana Sibru district, West wallega on 12 January (see below), when father and son, Badhasa Oljira and Bulti Badhasa, were abducted and disappeared in detention.

Detention

There were ten reports from ONM and three from W1 during December and January in which detention was the predominant abuse. These were mostly from West Wallega zone (eight reports) and Qellem Wallega (three reports), with single reports from Nopha district, Illubabor and Bedele town, Buno Bedele zone.

W1 named Hailu Idosa (teacher), Adam Tamiru (farmer), Agitu Sori (church bursar) and Tolera Asmera among those detained in Bodji district, West Wallega, on 10 December, and Dase Wake from Bodji Cokorsa and Merga Sasaba (teacher), Baisa Gerbi, Masku Isayas and Ababe Mulgeta from Guliso district on 25 December. Ababe Mulgeta was described as being between 'life and death' after severe beating.

An elderly woman, Jatane Wakwaya (pictured right), was reported by W1 to be among detainees in Bedele town, Buno Bedele, on 13 January.



ONM reported many detained and beaten when there was looting in Ayra district, West Wallega, on 5 December; and named some among detainees in Nopha district, Illubabor on 29 December and Gawo Qebbe district, Qellem, on 1 January.

Many were described by ONM as disappeared in detention in Gidami district, Qellem, on 10 January after being detained as hostages for the return of their children who had joined OLA. Ayantu Bal'ina had been detained in Mana Sibru district for three weeks because her husband 'was in the forest' when her detention was reported by ONM on 16 January.

ONM wrote on 13 January that Tsaayee Tokkaashii was detained with her two children in Guliso district, West Wallega, as hostages for the return of her husband, who had joined OLA.

Other episodes of detention in West Wallega included youths being taken in Mana Sibru when on the road to Mandi on 13 January; three teachers and several elderly people in Haru Sibru also on 13 January; and a teacher and two other civilians severely beaten and taken to the Jarso district police station on 24 January, falsely accused of feeding information to OLA.

Finally, W1 reported that Geleta Yadessa, a teacher, was arrested from Geba Sembata in West Wallega on 23 February.

Looting

Not including accounts of extortion for spurious 'taxes' (see below) there were 18 reports of looting between 5 December and 30 January. Nine of these were in Qellem Wallega, five in West Wallega and four in Illubabor.

In West Wallega, five cows and a donkey were looted from Kuree village, Ayra district, when Hamba Ragassa was killed and many detained on 5 December (see above); 27 cows were taken and held at the Ayra district police station on 23 December; cash and household items were taken in lieu of 'taxes' in Mana Sibru district on 1 January; and 12 sacks of coffee beans and one ox were taken from families of suspected OLA members in Ari'aa Dambii kebele, Mana Sibru district, on 12 January.

In Malka Ebicha village, Babo Gambel district, West Wallega, over 20 quintals of grain were taken from Faqada Waqtola on 27 January.

In Qellem Wallega zone, there was looting by government forces in Yamalogi Walal district on 30 December; crops and money were taken from villagers in Sayo district on 31 December; cattle and cash were looted from Qebbe town and a village in Gawo Qebbe district on 1 January; shop contents and cash were taken from Yamalogi Walal district on 7 January; there was looting in Gidami district on 10 January; and on 11 January, a farmer in Jimma Horo district was robbed of 300,000 birr after selling his pigs at market.

Looting continued in Qellem Wallega with an ox taken and slaughtered in Dale Wabara district on 14 January; 100,000 birr taken from one motorbike taxi driver in Gawo Qebbe district on 15 January followed by 680,000 birr taken from motorbike taxi drivers in four other villages in the same district on the same day, especially if they belonged to families of OLA members. Finally, cattle were stolen from Jimma Horo district on 30 January.

In Illubabor zone, on 29 December five sheep and five goats were taken from an unsupported mother of seven children, Abbabu Shifarra, in Nopha district. Addee Abbabu was driven from her property despite being innocent of any political involvement, according to ONM.

The looting of Soonxa market in Humuru district after troops fired their guns to disperse traders on 30 December is reported above. On 9 January, in Mexi Guda village, Darimu district, government soldiers broke into the home of Habtamu Tammame and robbed him of 200,000 birr at gunpoint. In the last week of January, ONM reported that ENDF soldiers looted a shop and a bar in Wabeko village, Darimu district, and took property worth over 200,000 birr, forcing the bar owner to close his business.

Extortion

Unreasonable demands continue to be made on impoverished villagers and townspeople. A selection of reports by ONM follow.

The selected reports include 3,500 birr being demanded from residents in Limmu Saqqa district, Jimma zone, imposed on 6 January to pay for arms and the decoration of a village office.

On 20 January, it was reported that 2,000 birr was demanded from residents of at least three villages in Lalo Asebi district, West Wallega, for tax and insurance. Payments were taken from villagers as they travelled to Inango town, probably because the security forces were anxious to avoid OLA fighters in the countryside. On the same day, the Tea and Coffee Administration Office for Gimbi district, West Wallega, demanded 20,000 birr from all coffee traders because it was in debt.

Also in West Wallega, villages and 'neighbouring areas' in Qiltu Kara district – Agamsa Bal'aa, Buukee Akkachee, Wandii Daallee and Baabboo Buundi townships – were each demanded to give 20 kg of coffee and 10 kg of corn for 'militia support' on 23 January.

During the last week of January, according to ONM, in Darimu district, Illubabor, soldiers were laying in wait at roadsides to demand payment at gunpoint for villagers on their way to market, 'under the pretext of tax collection.'

ONM reported on 4 February that every village in Gawo Qebbe district in Qellem Wallega was ordered to pay 10,000 birr and one quintal of grain. When residents were unable to contribute, they were beaten and detained.

Burning and displacement

The eviction of Abbabu Shifarra and her seven children from Carfoo village, Nopha district, Illubabor, on 29 December, after her animals were looted, was recorded above. During January, over ten homesteads were removed from Nejo district, West Wallega, for the mining

of minerals (see below). The remainder of relevant selected reports involve burning of property in the second half of January.

In Qellem Wallega on 14 January; the home and produce, including grain and coffee, of a farmer in Dale Wabara district were destroyed by fire and he was hospitalised with burns; and the home of another farmer in Yamalogi Walal district was burned down because his son was in OLA. When neighbours came to help, they were threatened with having their homes destroyed too.

The home of the wife of a suspected OLA member was burnt down in Mana Sibbu district on 17 January before she was detained. In two days of destruction, 17 and 18 January, ten homes in Tuli village, Nopha district, Illubabor, were razed, displacing 40 residents because of suspected family ties to OLA.

Property, crops and surrounding forest were burned and livestock taken from Mexi Qerebe village, Darimu district, Illubabor, on 29 January.

Mining in Nejo district

Investors in the mining industry cleared more than ten homes and farms from the area of Ka'iitii in Gute Dila kebele, near Nejo town, in January. They lost their livelihoods due to the illegal mining of minerals from the site, which went ahead without local consultation and without any compensation. The mine is protected by men armed with eight Kalashnikovs, a Bren gun, a machine gun and four grenades, according to ONM's local informant.

Anti- Oromo corrupt practice in Jimma

ONM reported that from 11 January, Prosperity Party functionaries in Sokoru district, Jimma began dismissing Oromo professionals from their posts, merely because they are Oromo. Health professionals, teachers, development specialists and other Oromo who came to the district after being assigned from all over Oromia Region are being sacked, under the instructions of the District Governor, Mammad-Amin Sheikh Sharafu.

Oromo businessmen are being harassed, detained and subjected to looting of their property.

Guji and Borana

Killings

Two killings in 2025 which have not previously been recorded by OSG were reported by ONM in a podcast which reviewed 2025, the text of which was made available to OSG: **Daraje Abishu**, a young man in Gaddo Araba village, Qarca district, West Guji, was shot dead by government forces on 5 February 2025.

Muktar Gobana, a civilian from Qararo village, Goro Dola district, Guji, was detained and then shot dead on 9 February 2025 for refusing to undergo training for local government militia.

Abuses in Guji and Borana zones are poorly documented and under reported. Nevertheless, ONM and others reported the following killings in Guji, West Guji, Borana and East Borana zones from 15 November 2025 onwards.

Somali Region Special Forces, the 'Liyyu police,' were stated by ONM to have 'taken over the duty' of ENDF and other government forces in Oromia Region and were responsible for **killing one farmer** and seriously wounding another who were herding their cattle in an area known as Dhaati in Raro kebele, Dhaas district, East Borana, on 15 November. Residents reported looting and displacement in the area by these militants and the **killing of three young girls** in Raro kebele in the past.

Six men were taken from prison in Negele town, Nagele Borana district, Borana, in November 2025 and executed. The photograph of their bodies (right) was sent by E1 on 23 November. Their names were not reported.



In a crackdown on civilians protesting about deforestation by ‘investors’ in Raya Boda kebele, (in Uruga district according to E1 and ‘Sora’ district according to ONM), Guji zone, many were detained and **four were killed** on 23 November according to W1, E1 and ONM.

Names of 17 among the many students and civilians detained were sent by W1 and ONM but it was unclear if those who were killed were among the 17 named (see Detentions, below). Two of the four who were killed are shown, (two photographs of a young man, right, and one of a young woman, below left).



W1 and E1 sent photographs of a crowd (below centre), believed to be of demonstrators in Raya Boda. E1 also sent a picture of a man who was forced to parade naked with official notices attached front and back (below right) believed to have been taken in the area at the same time.



W1 reported on 28 January the killing of a herder and livestock trader, **Liban Boru**, (pictured left) in Odda, near the border town of Moyale, Borana zone. The father of two had lived in Odda for seven years after moving from Badan Rero in Marsabit, Kenya.

Disappearance

An elder, **Qoratti Dukalle** (shown right), reported to be 95 years old or more, from Dida Gudda village, Girja district, Guji, was detained on 20 January. W1 reported on 25 February that his family have still not been able to locate him since his arrest and are seriously concerned for his safety.



Shooting injuries

ONM wrote that farmer, Abbush Bariisoo Dooyyoo, was shot and seriously wounded on 14 November in Hardotii village, Liban

district, East Borana. The father of three was shot because he had refused to become a local militia member after being forced to undertake training.

On 5 December, Bulluluu Gammadaa was shot and injured by a local militia member, Dukkalee Maxalee, in Laadoo village, Abaya district, West Guji (ONM).

Rape of young girls

A 12 year old girl, named by ONM, was raped by members of the security forces in Heemma Kinshoo village, Dugda Dawa district, West Guji, and was recovering from her injuries in Bula Hora hospital when the incident was reported by ONM on 16 December.

On 1 February, a ten year old girl (also named by ONM) was raped by ENDF soldiers in Dhuqqoo village, Goro Dola district, (in Guji zone but reported as in East Borana zone). She was admitted and said to be in a 'worrying condition' in Negele Borana hospital.

Detention, looting, extortion, displacement and forced conscription

When demonstrations against deforestation led to four killings (see above) in Raya Boda in Uraga district, West Guji, on 23 November, the following were among the many who were beaten and mistreated in detention (W1, E1 and ONM):

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Taganyii Haayilee | Udoo Guduree |
| Baqqalaa Aduulaa | Ximootiwoos Mangashaa |
| Yohaanis Magashaa | Tasamaa Bulushee |
| Ayyaalaa Goobaana | Waree Ayya'aa |
| Fiqiruu Warrasaa | Waaqoo udoo |
| Samu'eel Gadaa | Hayiluu Gadaachoo |
| Maatoos Goodana | Yooseef Gudurree |
| Dukkallee Magaashaa | Irgaa Guduree |
| Marqoos Damisee | |

Across the four zones of Guji, West Guji, Borana and East Borana, there have been widespread abuses including detention and looting, especially targeting families of suspected OLA members, and massive forced conscription. A selection of ONM reports included the following incidents.

Youths were arrested *en masse* and property, especially coffee, was looted from Bule Hora, Qarcaa, Birbirsa Kojowa and 'many other districts' in West Guji zone in mid-November. Residents reported losing their means of living in villages such as Soorilee Waaccuu, Gaalessa Nageessoo, Bunqoo Guduba, Abdii Boruu, Baddeessaa Funyaan Qaawwaa and many others in Bule Hora district alone.

Public buildings were demolished in Sooraa district and five villages displaced in Suro Barguda and Dugda Dawa districts of West Guji on 30 and 31 December.

On 14 January, extortionate tax payments of 4,000 birr were demanded from residents in villages including Chorkaasaa, Dhaddiimii and others in Yabelo district, Borana zone, for the 'second phase of construction of village buildings.' Those unable to pay, including several women, were arrested.

Government cadres and soldiers forced residents of Algee village, Liban district, East Borana zone, to publicly denounce and 'curse' OLA on 30 January. Many were detained and mistreated for refusing. Also on 30 January, more were detained in Korma detention centre in Makkala village, Suro Barguda district, West Guji, and their property looted, because they were 'families of fighters'. Four quintals of coffee and 11,250 birr were taken from an elderly woman, Shoree Dambi, and she was taken away by police.

In West Guji, large scale forced conscription of youngsters over several days following 31 January was reported from the villages of Robi Magada, Kalaltu Sawa, Kalacha Hache, Qidiste and Murtu Xilisa in Bule Hora district and from Cabita Magada, Gelede, Dogo Dhuqisa, Doya and Medano in Dugda Dawa district. In Borana zone, large numbers of forced conscripts were taken from the districts of Dillo, Elwaye, Taltale and Mega town. They were taken at night to different military training bases.

Beatings of innocent civilians included the severe beating of an elder, Galgalaa Guyyee Gumii, in Makkala kebele, Suro Barguda district, West Guji, on 31 January. He was taken away after being beaten at a place called Qoree, accused of supporting OLA. His family, concerned about his health following the beating, were not allowed to see him.

Looting in the villages of Algee, Hardoti and Mugayo in Liban district, East Borana, included the stealing of all the property, including cattle and camels, from an elder, Anole Dhiba, in Algee village, on 2 February. His cattle were consumed at the nearby military camp.

Serious damage to child health around Lega Dembi gold mine

Residents have long complained about the health impacts of the Lega Dembi gold mine in Guji zone. Human Rights Watch wrote on 22 January about these concerns to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.²⁸

Serious health problems affecting people living nearby included miscarriages, still births and long-term illnesses affecting children. They were believed to be due to high levels of toxic chemicals such as cadmium, mercury, lead, cyanide and arsenic in the area around Lega Dembi. It is Ethiopia's largest gold mine, in the Adola gold belt, and belongs to the Midroc Investment Group, owned by Ethiopia's richest man, Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi.

The Ethiopian government suspended work at the mine from 2018 to 2021 because of pollution and promised to continue the suspension until it was safe. However, the government prevented the publication of its health study, reopened the mine and kept secret its memorandum of understanding with Midroc. The company reported in 2023 and 2025 that the health issues had been addressed but Human Rights Watch has called for suspension of mining until an independent environmental health assessment has been undertaken and also called for victims to be provided 'effective remedy, including compensation, medical care and access to justice.'

Benishangul-Gumuz Region

Killings

Addis Standard reported that **at least 40 residents** of Bakuji kebele, Bulan district, Metekel zone were killed on 22 November.²⁹ Within a few hours, militants masquerading as OLA fighters ('Shane' - a local derogatory term for OLA and OLF) massacred civilians, including children, as they went from door to door in the village, killing with guns and knives. Labourers from Awi zone in Amhara Region fled back home, while members of the local Shinashi community fled to the forest. Only government militias, which masquerade as Fano or OLA fighters, are known to commit such atrocities (see OSG Report 67, pp.11-12), in order to demonise the authentic forces and increase hostility between Oromo, Amhara and other communities.

²⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/22/children-affected-by-ethiopia-mine-pollution-need-justice>

²⁹ <https://addisstandard.com/over-40-civilians-including-children-killed-in-latest-attack-in-troubled-metekel-zone-benishangul-gumuz-region/>

Temesgen Gammachuu, the father of a family in Wagdii village, Wanbara district, Metekel, was killed by government soldiers during the clearance and looting of the village around 19 December, because he was suspected of links to OLA (ONM).

ONM reported the killing of **Argataa Abbabaa**, living in the Sayido area of Galessa town, Dibaate district, Metekel, on 14 January. The



farmer had no political connections but was nonetheless arrested and then shot dead. Next day, 15 January, father of six, **Lamu Abbabaa**, was killed and seven houses in Gondo village in the same area were burned down.



On 16 January, W1 reported that a 75 year old man named **Dojaa** (pictured right) was killed and his home in Metekel zone was burned down. Named in the same report was Ababa Dibaba (left), aged 80, who was imprisoned and his home in the same zone was destroyed by fire.

Burning and displacement

ONM wrote on 28 December that residents of Gochor village in Wanbara district, Metekel, were forced from their homes and their crops were scattered in their fields. Two weeks later, on 13 January, ONM reported that civilians from several districts in Metekel, were gathered together on their way to market and ordered to sell up and move out within ten days, taking their crops and animals with them. They were threatened with being killed if they remained.

Homes in Dibaate district were reportedly burned every day between 12 and 16 January and residents were threatened and told to leave. On 15 January, they were forced to join demonstrations against OLA, according to ONM reports.

On 14 January, residents and students in Dammaddas village, Dibaate district, were beaten and injured by security forces from Bulan district. They were again threatened and asked why they had not left yet. Ten homes in Bulan district were torched that day while at least one of the owners was tied up. Many more were burned later with all their property. Oromo villagers were separated from the others and accused of ‘feeding OLA.’

All districts of Asosa zone were reported by ONM on 17 January to have been subjected to ‘arrests, looting and secret killing.’ On 20 January, Oromo residents in Bulan and Dibaate districts of Metekel zone were separated from Gumuz and other non-Oromo and forced off their land, leaving homes, livestock and crops, according to ONM.

W1 reported that the burning of properties in Bulan district on 15 January was under the orders of Prosperity Party officials Fikadu Dabalo and Mola Maru (pictured right). Burnt homes in the district are shown below.



On 1 February, W1 sent a video recording posted on Facebook of properties being torched in Dibaate district.³⁰ The recording, lasting 1 minute 50 seconds, shows ENDF soldiers setting fire to homes and filming themselves while doing so. The caption is translated as ‘Under the PP government, the life of rural people looks like this. No media. No one to speak out. The people die in secret like this, being killed from the ground up.’



Heavy artillery ‘such as mortars’ was used on 2 February to attack the village of Shonkora in Wanbara district, Metekel, destroying ‘crops such as coffee, avocado, banana, mango, and various grains’ in the fields and damaging surrounding forest. Heavy weapons were also used against civilians in Gila’ee, Goongo village, Bulan district, in reprisal for military losses against OLA forces on 1 February (ONM).

Refugees in Asosa zone

Reporting from Asosa on 19 January, *Sudan Tribune* highlighted difficulties faced by Sudanese refugees who had entered via Kurmuk and others who had responded to attacks endured in Amhara Region by walking overland to the Sudan border north of Kurmuk. Camps near Asosa, Kumer 5 and Aura, were 150% over capacity.³¹ Refugees ‘found themselves in rainforests inside torn tents that turn into swamps with the rain, where six out of every ten children contract malaria, alongside the danger of local militias practicing killing and kidnapping for ransom in the Olala and Kumer areas.’

WFP and UNHCR funding cuts had left refugees short of food, with deaths from starvation recorded even near the capital, Finfinnee. Belligerent announcements from the Sudanese Foreign Minister in 2024 had resulted in withdrawal of exemption from visa fees of up to \$10 per day or \$100 per month for urban refugees in Ethiopia.

South Ethiopia Region

Gamo and Gardula zones

Fifteen civilians were killed in Gamo zone, South Ethiopia Region, on Sunday 15 February, after ENDF withdrew from the area for redeployment in Amhara Region and the border with Eritrea.

The violence was committed against Zeysse people, whose community desires separate status from the rest of Gamo zone. The road between Arba Minch and Konso remained closed next day due to ongoing unrest. There was also disturbance in neighbouring Gardula zone, affecting three kebeles in Dirashe district. *Borkena* wrote that the killings occurred when government security forces opened fire on civilians.³²

³⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1738097764242104>

³¹ <https://sudantribune.com/article/309564>

³² <https://borkena.com/2026/02/17/ethiopia-15-civilians-reportedly-killed-in-gamo-gardula-zones/>

Gambella Region

Malevolent outside forces, inter-ethnic hostility and severe deprivation, affecting residents and over 430,000 refugees, have contributed to the killing of **more than 50 individuals** in Gambella Region in December 2025 and January 2026. The death toll is likely to have been much higher. Hundreds have been wounded in shootings and communal violence which has included the burning of homes with their occupants inside.

Tension between Anuak and Nuer communities over land, resources and political representation has existed for many years in the region, exacerbated by the influx of refugees from South Sudan and more recently Sudan.

The hostility has included members of the security forces which are responsible for maintaining law and order. *Addis Standard* reported on 11 December that a curfew was imposed in Gambella city after a series of shootings in or near the city over the preceding four days, mostly in attacks on buses or bajaj taxis, had left four dead and many wounded. Two police officers were among those killed. Sporadic attacks in 2023, 2024 and in May 2025 had killed at least 14.³³

The Chief of Police in Gambella city, a member of the Anuak community, was shot dead by fellow police officers on 16 December as the security forces became embroiled in the inter-ethnic violence.³⁴ Armed groups entering from South Sudan, named later by *The Reporter* as SPLM-IO (Sudanese People's Liberation Movement In Opposition),³⁵ were blamed for the increased violence in Itang Special district of Gambella City and Ware district.

Over 200 were wounded between 17 and 24 December and, in a single day – 24 December – at least 47 were killed in Itang Special district of the city in attacks which were coordinated by cross border forces.³⁶

Cuts to aid, especially by USAID, Ethiopia's destructive economic tailspin, high unemployment and the burden of nearly half a million refugees have resulted in severely limited access to food, water, sanitation and health care in the region, especially in refugee camps in Jewi, Pugindo, Tierkidi, Kule, Nguenyiel, and Akula.³⁷

The withdrawal of WFP assistance due to ongoing violence has exacerbated difficulties.³⁸ Sporadic killings in Gambella city continued at least up to 24 January.³⁹

³³ <https://addisstandard.com/gambella-city-imposes-curfew-after-gunfire-attacks-kill-four-injure-eight/>

³⁴ <https://addisstandard.com/news-conflict-escalates-following-killing-of-gambella-city-police-chief-as-security-structure-fractures-along-ethnic-lines/>

³⁵ <https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/48478/>

³⁶ <https://addisstandard.com/at-least-47-killed-in-a-single-day-sources-say-msf-treats-over-100-weapon-wounded-as-gambella-imposes-new-curfew/>

³⁷ <https://addisstandard.com/shooting-near-gambella-grand-hotel-leaves-one-dead-injures-another-city-administration-imposes-movement-restrictions/>

³⁸ <https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/48478/>

³⁹ <https://addisstandard.com/shooting-near-gambella-grand-hotel-leaves-one-dead-injures-another-city-administration-imposes-movement-restrictions/>

Persecution of and within the Ethiopian Orthodox Church

Detention of Abuna Gabriel



The detention of Abuna (Archbishop) Gabriel (left), an outspoken critic of anti-Oromo discrimination within the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, was described by Oromo followers of the religion in North America as ‘part of a broader system of oppression that fears an awakened, conscious Oromo faith community.’ Members of the Oromia Orthodox Waloma (Tewahido) Church wrote ‘Once again, the nation’s Orthodox Tewahedo Church works in partnership with political power to suppress the Oromo voice just as it has done in generations past.’⁴⁰

Abuna Gabriel was arrested from his home in Shaggar City, Finfinnee, on 18 October 2025, shortly after attending the traditional Oromo *Irreechaa* festival. He was held in Burayu Police Station for nearly four months before being released.

Because of his insistence on holding services in *Afaan Oromoo*, he had been banned from holding public services and was restricted to online services for almost two years by the time of his arrest.

Abuna Gabriel’s niece, newly qualified pharmacist, Marartu Garbaba Kaba (a devout follower of the Church, right), was detained in Burayu 9-10 days later because she had been protesting about his detention on social media. From Mandi, West Wallega, she had been living with her uncle while studying for three years at Rift Valley University Ashawaa Meda Branch. She was about to sit her pharmacy licensing exam when arrested.



Abuna Gabriel was forced to remove his priestly clothes in detention. He was verbally abused and spat upon by his captors. According to Oromia Orthodox Church followers in North America, he was denied treatment for a medical condition.

On 26 January 2026, Abuna Gabriel and his niece were ordered by the court to be released on bail, 60,000 birr for the Archbishop and 50,000 birr for Marartu. The police refused to release them but did not return the bail money. They were not released until 7 February.

Killing and detention of Ethiopian Orthodox Bishops, Priests and followers

The arrest and mistreatment of Abuna Gabriel is consistent with the persecution of Oromo clerics promoting equality for Oromo within the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church (EOTC) and follows a pattern of such persecution. However, not all of the EOTC clerics and followers who have been killed or detained in recent years were Oromo or proponents of equality for Oromo.

⁴⁰ Statement by Oromia Orthodox Waloma (Tewahido) Church in North America, received by OSG, 9 January 2026.

Oromo EOTC followers believe that the beating to death of Luba (Reverend) Petros Tesfaye (below left and middle) in the Sabata area of Shaggar City on 24 October 2020 was because he had been teaching and holding services in *Afaan Oromoo*.

However, the public execution of young Deacon Amanuel Wondimu (below right) on a traffic island in Dembi Dollo, Qellem Wallega, on 11 May 2021,⁴¹ was a deliberate show of strength to demonstrate the omnipotence of government security forces and to show that being a 17 year old devout EOTC follower was no protection against false accusation of involvement with the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). This was a very public warning for those entertaining ideas of supporting OLA. Amanuel's junior position in the EOTC was not the reason for his execution but a manifestation that innocence was no protection against state power.



The murder of 36 EOTC members, including women and children, in Shirka district, Arsi, in November 2023, and of Luba Belayneh Mamo and five others in Telaltu St. Gabriel Church, Aseko, Arsi, on 13 August 2024,⁴² was committed by unknown armed men and bore the hallmarks of shadowy government forces masquerading as OLA (although, predictably, blamed on OLA by the Amhara press). Again, these were not examples of discrimination against Oromo within the EOTC.

Press reports of the detention of senior EOTC clergyman Luba Belay Mekonnen (right),⁴³ include his being sentenced to five years detention by the Federal High Court Lideta Branch on 15 January 2025 for embezzlement of Church funds. However, Oromo EOTC followers remain convinced that 'the true reason behind his arrest is . . . his unwavering effort to promote Oromo values and cultural inclusion within the Orthodox Church.'⁴⁴



An attack on the Mount Zequala monastery in East Showa on 20 June 2025 resulted in the mistreatment and killing of Father Haile Michael, a monk who lived there in religious

⁴¹ OSG Report 56, p.19. <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Report-56-June-2021.pdf>

⁴² OSG Report 68, p.24. <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/OSG-Report-68-7-January-2025.pdf>

⁴³ <https://addisstandard.com/court-sentences-kesis-belay-mekonnen-to-five-years-in-prison-over-au-fraud-case/>

⁴⁴ Statement by Oromia Orthodox Waloma (Tewahido) Church in North America, received by OSG, 9 January 2026.

seclusion for over a decade. Government forces intent on provoking discord between Oromo and Amhara communities threw the monk from a cliff.⁴⁵



Fano militia were responsible for the abduction of EOTC Priest Melake Mihret (left) from his Church in North Gojjam on 8 July 2025 and for his mistreatment and murder at their stronghold in Dahna Mariam on 12 August. He had been publicly urging Fano to engage in peace negotiations.⁴⁶

The slaughter of EOTC Deacon Genene Negarge in Gimbuchi district, East Showa, on 28 August 2025,⁴⁷ and of 25 EOTC followers in Arsi during October 2025,⁴⁸ was by unknown assailants, but likely to have been by forces acting for the government, and unrelated to disputes within the Orthodox Church.

However, the murder of two Oromo EOTC Priests, Luba Dhuguma Dhufa (top right), the head of the Horo Guduru Diocese, and Desalegn Namomsa (below right) on 13 December 2025, fits the pattern of persecution within the EOTC, although most likely to have been committed by government forces masquerading as either Fano or OLA. They were both advocates of Oromo equality in the Church and were killed near Shambu, Horo Guduru, as they were returning from an event at Hareto St. Mary's Church.



Oromumma and discrimination in the Orthodox Church

As written by Oromia EOTC,⁴⁹ 'Among many Oromos, there exists a perception that if an Oromo person identifies as Orthodox, they have somehow lost their Oromummaa—their sense of Oromo identity and belonging.'

This view reflects the role of the Orthodox Church in the conquest and subjugation of the Oromo in the 19th century. Orthodox priests blessed the soldiers and weapons which wiped out hundreds of thousands of poorly-armed Oromo. EOTC priests were then beneficiaries of the *neftenya* system whereby Amhara settler-colonists exacted tributes and produce from their Oromo serfs, *gabbar*, whom they owned along with their newly-acquired land.

Indeed, Oromo believers are still subject to discrimination. Oromo bishops and archbishops are expelled from their churches or demoted to being monks. Proponents of equality within the Church are detained, as witnessed above. 'The poor are exploited through religious manipulation, and believers are told to be silent and stay out of public affairs' wrote Oromia EOTC members.

⁴⁵ <https://addisstandard.com/mount-ziquala-monastery-attack-sparks-conflicting-claims-as-ola-denies-involvement-blames-govt-strategy-to-rekindle-tensions/>

⁴⁶ <https://addisstandard.com/amhara-region-peace-council-says-member-killed-by-armed-groups-in-north-gojjam/>

⁴⁷ <https://borkena.com/2025/08/29/three-civilians-reportedly-killed-in-the-ormia-region-of-ethiopia/>

⁴⁸ <https://apanews.net/over-25-civilians-massacred-in-ormia-ethiopian-church-group/>

⁴⁹ Statement by Oromia Orthodox Waloma (Tewahido) Church in North America, received by OSG, 9 January 2026.



But this need not be the case. Oromo and Amhara can fight injustice together. An Oromo Bishop, Abuna Petros (Magarsa Badhasa – left), faced an Italian firing squad in 1936 for condemning the colonisation and massacres by Mussolini’s invading forces.⁵⁰

Long before his martyrdom, the EOTC ‘struggled to free their church from Coptic (Egyptian) domination. For over 1,600 years, Coptic-appointed Abunas (111 in total) ruled over the Abyssinian/Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Through this control of faith, the Coptic Church of Egypt also shaped the nation’s political direction. These foreign-appointed Abunas translated and enforced the *Fetha Negest* (Law of the Kings) and the *Kibre Negest* (Glory of the Kings) into Ge’ez, turning spiritual guidance into an instrument of political power.’

‘The *Fetha Negest* became the empire’s theocratic legal code, while the *Kibre Negest* advanced a myth of royal descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba – narratives that sanctified monarchy and justified the dominance of one culture, language, and lineage over others. Through these texts, the Coptic clergy not only shaped Ethiopia’s religion but also imposed foreign traditions and languages, restricting the voice and participation of native peoples, including the Oromo.’⁵¹

Fetha Negest is still EOTC law: its discriminatory and derogatory language, aimed at Oromo and other non-Amhara peoples, is still used in official Orthodox texts, which is one of the criticisms voiced by Abuna Gabriel and other Oromia EOTC clerics (see below).

Breaking the barriers to unity within EOTC

Oromia EOTC maintains that ‘For generations, the structures of the Orthodox Church were used as tools of cultural dominance and political exclusion, rather than spiritual unity. As a result, faith became entangled with oppression, and trust was broken between the institution and the people it should have served.’

In order to break down the barriers for full participation of Oromo believers in the Orthodox Church, the Oromo language must be used in sermons and services: there must be fair representation of Oromo in its clergy and administration: and the wealth of the Church should be used to support the most marginalised in society.

Language

‘Clergy who attempt to preach in *Afaan Oromoo* or advocate for linguistic and cultural inclusion within the EOTC have faced intimidation, prosecution, imprisonment, and exclusion from religious, social, and economic life. Many have been barred from entering churches, while congregations worshiping in *Afaan Oromoo* have been repeatedly harassed and disrupted.’

‘Teaching religion in a language people truly understand . . . is not merely a matter of communication, but a deeply biblical, pastoral, and faithful expression of God’s intent.’

Resistance by some priests to the use of *Afaan Oromoo* is rooted in incompetence and fear of accountability. When an intelligible language is used, instead of inaccurate mumblings in Ge’ez, priests can be held to account for their words. ‘Language should function as a bridge

⁵⁰ <https://advocacy4oromia.org/goals/magarsa-badhasa-1892-1936/>

⁵¹ Statement by Oromia Orthodox Waloma (Tewahido) Church in North America, received by OSG, 9 January 2026.

between clergy and congregation – not as a shield to conceal weakness or avoid responsibility.’

Representation

There is inadequate representation of Oromo within the clergy and the EOTC’s administrative structures and decision-making bodies. ‘Although Oromo believers constitute a substantial portion of the church’s membership, their voices remain marginalized in leadership, governance, and theological discourse. This imbalance reinforces systemic inequality and undermines the church’s claim to represent all its faithful equally.’

Corruption and disconnection

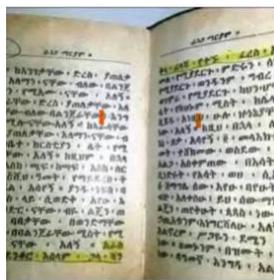
‘Resources intended for spiritual growth, social support, and community development are often perceived as being concentrated among a small elite, while many believers struggle with poverty, displacement, and lack of access to basic services.’

The EOTC is ‘perceived as being disconnected from the everyday struggles of its communities in Oromia, focusing more on institutional preservation than on pastoral care, social justice, and human dignity.’ The ‘lack of justice, equality, and respect for human dignity within the church’s structures and practices . . . stands in stark contrast to the gospel’s call to defend the oppressed, welcome the marginalized, and affirm the worth of every person created in the image of God.’

Racist abuse in EOTC texts

In response to OSG’s enquiries, representatives of the Oromia Orthodox Waloma (Tewahido) Church in North America sent the following examples of the use of abusive and derogatory language in religious texts used by the EOTC. The use of the derogatory term ‘Galla’ in these texts is as shocking to an Oromo as would be the inclusion of the taboo ‘n’ word in the Book of Common Prayer used by the Church of England.

Three examples were given:



Raih Mariam (Revelation of St. Mary), from 1965 or before.

‘I saw a deep valley of death where sinners such as those who sleep with the Galla, Muslim, Shankilla,⁵² etc., and those who practice bestiality are destined to be hanged.’

Thus, the immorality of Sodom and Gomorrah is associated with Oromo and Gumuz people.

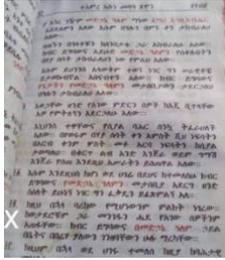


Mezmure Dawit (Psalms of David).

Excerpt 1: ‘Those who drink the blood of cows and goats, the Galla and Shankilla.’

Excerpt 2: (Again referring to Sodom and Gomorrah) ‘They gang-raped her the entire night just like the Galla and Shankilla’

⁵² Derogatory term for Gumuz and other dark-skinned people of southwest Ethiopia.



Te'amire Abune Me'abe Tsion (Miracles of Abune Me'abe Tsion)

'The blessed leader left with his soldiers and completely destroyed the Agaw people and took all their property, with the help of Jesus Christ, the Saviour.'

There are also many references in EOTC texts to 'Galla' being the equivalent of 'slave'.

It is surely about time that the Ethiopian Orthodox Church demonstrates the Christian practice of welcoming and treating all of its followers equally and justly.