

### Human Rights Abuses in Ethiopia

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## **Abbreviations**

EEPA	Europe External Programme with Africa, Belgium
ENDF	Ethiopian National Defence Force
EPRDF	Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front
GERD	Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
NISS	National Intelligence and Security Service
OFC	Oromo Federalist Congress
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
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
TNH	The New Humanitarian
TPLF	Tigrayan Peoples Liberation Front
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
YHRL	Yale Humanitarian Research Lab

## **OSG total recorded killings of Oromo civilians since 2018**

OSG has now documented the killing of 7,724 Oromo civilians in Ethiopia since 2018. This represents only a small fraction of the real total.

### *Media Contact*

Dr Trevor Trueman +44 (0)7852 448337, [osg@talktalk.net](mailto:osg@talktalk.net)

## Introduction

### Egypt: Detention and refoulement

The global reluctance to accept refugees from areas of conflict and persecution has severely impacted the lives of refugees and asylum-seekers in the countries where they first seek asylum. Egypt is among the countries most hostile to those seeking refuge. In 2026, the authorities in Egypt have detained and deported hundreds of refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly to Sudan. They are being rounded up on the streets, in their homes and from their work places. At the time of writing, OSG is aware of hundreds of cases of refoulement to Sudan, at least one to Eritrea and 15 to Oromia Region in Ethiopia.



The list on pages 71-74 includes 99 detained Oromo, including 15 who have been subjected to refoulement to Ethiopia. Breast-feeding mothers have been separated from their children and among the detained are mandate-holding refugees on treatment for life-threatening conditions. The deportees so far have included at least two mothers, another married woman and a single young woman. Nine of the 15 deportations took place in May. Dar El Salam police station held at least 29, of whom two were deported. Basateen held 18, out of whom six have been deported. Although most of the detained refugees and asylum-seekers are being held in Cairo or nearby, several have been held in other parts of Egypt. There have been deportations from Alexandria, on the Mediterranean coast, and Ismailia, on the west bank of the Suez Canal.

Many detainees have been threatened, intimidated and beaten to make them sign papers 'agreeing' to their being sent back to Ethiopia.

Egypt now hosts more than one million refugees and asylum-seekers who are registered with UNHCR. In its May 2026 Factsheet on Egypt, UNHCR states it had 1,100,600 registered asylum-seekers and refugees on their books. This includes 849,000 (77%) Sudanese, 100,000 from Syria and 56,000 from South Sudan.

Because UNHCR came into being only after the 1948 Palestinian Nakba, the 100,000 or more refugees from Gaza are not included in the UNHCR figures. There are 45,000 from Eritrea but the Factsheet does not mention the smaller populations, including Oromo or others from Ethiopia. In 2022, there were 15,800 from Ethiopia, of whom at least 10,000 were Oromo.<sup>1</sup> In addition, there are unknown numbers who are not registered or have been refused refugee status in a flawed process which often relies on poorly translated interviews with prejudiced officials.

UNHCR is underfunded and overwhelmed. Since 2022, the number seeking protection in Egypt has increased more than three-fold but UNHCR has only achieved less than a quarter of its funding budget. It is the only UN agency which has to obtain its own funds. Per capita, the available income for each asylum-seeker or refugee has dropped from \$126 per year to only \$30.

The UNHCR Factsheet states 'Egypt enacted its first asylum law in December 2024, creating a national framework for refugee management and rights protection, with UNHCR supporting its state-owned implementation and transition.' But the performance of this

<sup>1</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Report-61-25-January-2023-Abuse-in-Ethiopia-and-abuse-in-Egypt-a-rock-and-a-hard-place-Accounts-from-83-Oromo-refugees-in-Cairo.pdf>

transition is very poor. From more than a million asylum-seekers, only a small fraction obtain refugee status decisions in a year. Out of 849,000 Sudanese, only about 22,000 determinations were finalised by April 2026. There have only been a pitifully small number of resettlements – only 2,328 submissions made by UNHCR and only 1,600 resettled last year (plus 2,176 via family reunion etc.).



Detained asylum-seekers at Dar El Salam Police Station

The, now Egyptian-owned, process of refugee determination is faltering. In an admission of this, Egypt extended the period for which current UNHCR registration papers will remain valid. The Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs announced at the beginning of June that UNHCR registrations valid up to August 2026 will be extended for six months before it takes over control of the process. However, the underlying problems of deep-seated racism and hostility to Sudanese, Eritrean, Oromo and other Ethiopians who have fled to seek safety in Egypt has not been addressed.

Those who seek asylum from Ethiopia are particularly at risk from the police and other officials, including some health professionals, because of the misconception of many Egyptians that the flow of the Nile, the lifeblood of the country, is threatened by the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia. This prejudice among local employees of UNHCR may or may not be responsible for the high refusal rate for Oromo in the Refugee Status Determination process.

One recent example of flawed decision-making is Murad Mustafa Mohammed, now aged 25. He was only 16 years old when he arrived in Cairo in 2017. He did not receive his notice of refusal of refugee status from UNHCR until 26 February this year. Despite his father having a history of detention and being detained himself on two occasions because of involvement in student demonstrations, he was refused on spurious credibility grounds.

Registration and renewal of documents which are meant to be a protection against detention and deportation are both difficult processes. Long queues are inhibiting, especially when travel around Cairo exposes migrants to being taken by police. Telephone hot-lines seem rarely effective. Appointments and decisions are subject to delays of three years or more.

Even those who carry up-to-date documents are not safe from police round-ups and deportation (see Jalata Hussein Mohammed, below). OSG's representative in Cairo (ISS) wrote that many Oromo were among refugees and asylum-seekers who were being detained and prepared for deportation and sent the following information about some of them:

Tufik Umer Muhammed, 32, has been a registered asylum-seeker since 2017. His last registration certificate was issued on 8 September 2025. The father of two was taken from his work place 'without reason' on 27 January to Qismul dar-Meydan Gesh camp in the embassy area of Cairo. His family is now destitute and vulnerable.

A young Eritrean, 17 year-old Kerlos Legsey Garanshal was arrested and taken to Kirdasah police station on 28 February because he was not carrying his asylum-seeker certificate, which had been issued on 19 February. His picture from that certificate is shown right. Although the certificate was presented to the police station next day, he remained in



detention and requested money to prevent guards beating him and to pay a bribe to have space to lie down to sleep. He was in poor health when visited in detention. OSG was informed on 5 May that Kerlos had been sent back to Eritrea.

Mrs Rozina Hassan Sharif, the wife of longstanding OLF detainee Kenassa Ayana (detained from 2020 to September 2024), was awaiting a medical and travel document for sponsored resettlement to Canada, when she was taken to Dar El Salam police station on 23 February.

Misbah Mohammed Amin Qasim is a UNHCR recognised refugee with a wife and 5 year-old daughter. He was taken from a taxi on 26 March in Tahrir Square because he did not have his documents with him and has remained in Qimil Sahil police station since then. He has therefore missed an appointment with UNHCR to renew his papers on 15 April, so his family is now at risk.

Jalata Hussein Mohammed, aged 29, was registered as an asylum-seeker by UNHCR on 10 September 2017, but did not yet have refugee status. Despite having an up-to-date certificate from UNHCR (issued 16 November 2025), he was taken from his work place on 29 March and detained at ‘Tagamma Taalit Axamiya’ police station. He was beaten and his registration certificate was taken from him and destroyed. He was made to sign a document to facilitate his deportation, despite his wife and young daughter being stranded without support in Cairo. OSG was informed on 13 May that Jalata had been deported back to Ethiopia. He reported having made several attempts while in detention to appeal to the Egyptian Red Cross, Amnesty International and UNHCR but received no help to avoid his deportation.

Bulto Itafa Sefu, on the file of her husband, Abebe Baqala Dandana was detained on 2 April in Dar El Salam Police Station. She has fluid and masses in her abdomen and is on treatment for TB but is receiving no treatment in prison.

Sultan Gamal Ahmed, aged 32, was registered as an asylum-seeker in 2021. His registration certificate was reportedly renewed in April but his family now only has an old certificate, issued on 7 March 2023. He was arrested on 29 April and taken to Dar El Salam Police Station, from where he was deported on 27 May.

Hassan Mohamed Ahmed Ali, who is receiving medical attention for his left leg was arrested and taken to Dar El Salam police station one day after renewing his registration with UNHCR on 13 May.

Jemal Oumer Ahmed, 33, a registered asylum-seeker since 2018, was detained by police just after taking his daughter to school on 19 May, while his wife was out at work. He was taken to Basateen police station, near to Maadii, where many Oromo refugees live. His UNHCR registration is due to expire in September.



Sartu Adam, a teenage girl (pictured left) on her mother’s file, came to Cairo in 2014. She went to work as a house maid on 17 February to support and help pay for medical expenses for her ailing mother, who is herself unable to work. She phoned her mother to say she had arrived safely. Several weeks later, her employer called the police who removed her from her place of work and took her away. In the week before 5 June, she phoned her mother to say she was being held in detention in Nasr City.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Cairo with added needs – medical problems for them or their children, domestic violence and psychiatric disorders – continue to be especially vulnerable.

Insecurity in their country of origin is not taken into account. Mandate-holding refugees from Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Eritrea and Ethiopia are being detained. Amnesty International has documented refoulement to Sudan and Syria.<sup>2</sup>

Amnesty wrote in February that since the end of 2025, plain-clothed police officers have been arbitrarily rounding up foreign nationals, even if they have been carrying UNHCR documents, and taking them away in unmarked vans. Migrants, including women and children, have been taken.

Court orders for their release have been ignored. Amnesty wrote that the Ambassador from Sudan reported that 207 individuals were returned to Sudan in December 2025 and another 371 were returned in January 2026. Four hundred Sudanese were detained in Egypt at the end of January, he said.

In May, *Sudan Tribune* reported that over 2,000 had voluntarily returned to Sudan from Egypt in a convoy of 50 buses, with another 20 buses arriving daily. The publication stated that, in all, over 420,000 had chosen to return from Egypt.<sup>3</sup>

Hostility in Egypt has had a serious effect on the ability of refugees and asylum-seekers to work or attend school. Children are being kept in hiding at home to avoid them being seized. Adults are afraid to go to work and sit, terrified, in their apartments. Amnesty International reported that police have been confiscating valid documents and warning legal migrants that when they are picked up next time, without their documents, they will be detained and deported. One of the cases reported above (Jalata Hussein Mohammed) had his documents destroyed and was deported.

Oromo people in Cairo are too scared to go out to meet, attend school or go to work. Entire families have been detained. Some families have been parted from each other. Parents have been detained, leaving their children behind, including some breast-feeding infants.

They have reached out to Oromo who have been resettled in Canada and Belgium asking for their plight to be brought to the attention of human rights bodies, refugee agencies and the UN.

Letters from OSG to UNHCR have not been acknowledged or answered.

### **The 120 Mafia: A new Shifta in West Showa**

Reports by *Oromia Today*,<sup>4</sup> *Addis Standard*,<sup>5</sup> ONM, Facebook posts by Jawar Mohammed,<sup>6,7</sup> other social media and information from OSG informants in several countries including Ethiopia, all describe a violent criminal network, known as the ‘120 Group’ or ‘120 Mafia’ which operates with impunity in and around Ambo city in West Showa, under the protection of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS).

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<sup>2</sup> Press Release, 16 February 2026. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2026/02/egypt-refugees-in-hiding-amid-crackdown-involving-arbitrary-arrests-and-unlawful-deportations/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://sudantribune.com/article/314013>

<sup>4</sup> <https://oromia.today/ambo-cruelty-in-plain-sight-violence-impunity-and-the-political-crisis-in-oromia/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/residents-of-ambo-recount-a-city-under-siege-by-criminal-gangs-after-social-media-revelations-expose-disturbing-abuses/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10108729450982053&id=215693&rdid=x6MQsWGgasHOzFI5#](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10108729450982053&id=215693&rdid=x6MQsWGgasHOzFI5#), 18 April.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10108733469798313&id=215693&rdid=1RAaX64QIctUS0f8#](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10108733469798313&id=215693&rdid=1RAaX64QIctUS0f8#), 20 April.

The group’s connections with local government (including the mayor of Ambo, see below), ensure that if its members are arrested, they are released shortly afterwards. They behave as though privileged and above the law.

Its members are guilty of rape, murder, robbery and beating. ‘They even beat policemen’ OSG is told. If a farmer from outside of town, who doesn’t ‘know the rules,’ does not stand out of respect when a ‘120’ member enters a bar, he is severely beaten to show him his place in the new social pecking order. Such lack of respect is punished with detention and charges of up to 300,000 birr for release. ‘They take wives for sex, whenever they want, ordering women to wash their feet.’

Several illustrations below show one individual reputed to have 17 million birr in a single bank account and to be responsible for the rape and murder of a young girl. He is pictured slapping, beating and kicking another man. The mayor of Ambo is said to be his close friend.



In the photograph above left, he is seen with other members of the group. The pictures below include one member on a motorcycle brandishing a handgun. The man pictured below right is Ebisa Gelaye Chibsa, reported by Jawar Mohammed to be a former member of a NISS assassin squad who was released shortly after killing his wife in 2018. He continues to work as a hired assassin and to kill on behalf of the ‘120 group.’ He boasts about the number of people he has killed.



The group operates with the cooperation of the West Showa *Koree Nageenya* which is overseen by government, police and security chiefs. They extort money from relatives of those they have illegally detained. Complaints against them lead to the arrest of the complainant.

The existence of the 120 group is symptomatic of the lack of law and order under the chaotic rule of the Prosperity Party and is comparable to the dog-eat-dog insecurity of the rule of robber barons in the 19<sup>th</sup> century ‘wild west’ of the USA.

According to Jawar Mohammed, members of a NISS task force who carried out a six-month investigation into the activities of the 120 group have been killed or detained. Their findings have not resulted in any government action.

### **RSF bases, UAE and risk of regional conflict**

The establishment of a UAE-backed base for the rebel Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Ethiopia was reported by *Reuters* and summarised by OSG in Report 72.<sup>8</sup> This training base, established during 2025 in the Menge district of Asosa zone in Benishangul-Gumuz Region, began to be operational in November when several thousand recruits arrived. The

<sup>8</sup> OSG Report 72, pp.9-10. <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/OSG-Report-72-3-March-2026.pdf>

camp has a capacity of 10,000 and 4,300 troops were reportedly trained there by early January. It is about 32 km from the border with Sudan and South Sudan, 53 km from the newly expanded Asosa airport, drone base and control centre, and is about 100 km from the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

As noted in OSG Report 72, Ethiopia and the RSF are heavily dependent on the UAE. The Emirati economic support to Ethiopia, with a billion dollars to shore up Ethiopia's central bank in 2018 and its funding of Abiy Ahmed's vanity development projects, is being repaid with access to Ethiopia's land, gold and grain. The UAE has invested in Somaliland's port of Berbera, and in Puntland's airport and its sea port of Bosaso.

The UAE has been sending weapons and vehicles for the RSF's genocidal war in Sudan via Berbera, South Sudan, Libya and other routes. A huge A300 cargo plane was reported by *Middle East Eye* to have flown between UAE, Israel, Bahrain and Bishoftu airport in Ethiopia. Six fighter jets have been obtained by RSF from a UAE arms contractor.

More information has emerged since the March OSG report. *Le Monde* reported on 22 March that an A300 cargo plane flew on 17 March from UAE to Addis Ababa, just before an Iranian missile and drone attack hit UAE. This was the tenth trip for the plane from UAE to East and Central Africa within a month.<sup>9</sup> *The Continent* wrote on 25 April that Colombian mercenaries, trained in UAE, were sent to Sudan and helped in the genocidal campaign to capture El Fasher last year.<sup>10</sup> On 2 May, the publication revealed the extent of RSF leaders' secret wealth in property within UAE.<sup>11</sup>

The most significant new report was published by the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab (YHRL) on 8 April after five months of scrutiny of satellite imagery and open source documentation.<sup>12</sup> As well as increased activity at an ENDF military base in Asosa town, the YHRL described air activity, expansion of airport facilities at Asosa airport, including a new hangar and concrete pad, and new defensive fighting positions.

YHRL concluded that RSF was basing its attacks in Blue Nile province of Sudan from this base inside Ethiopia, with the collusion of ENDF, in defiance of a UN Security Council resolution prohibiting arms shipments to the RSF in Darfur.

YHRL reported that vehicles were being sent to the Asosa base, where they were equipped with heavy machine guns and that there was capacity for large scale refuelling at the base, unlike at the Menge training camp investigated by *Reuters*. Shipping containers came to Asosa from Berbera, Djibouti and Kenya, confirming that Asosa was a 'key logistics node' for supplying the RSF.

Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned Ethiopia on 2 March that it had detected drones which had been launched against Sudanese targets from within Ethiopian territory during the previous four weeks and that Sudan was entitled to respond.<sup>13</sup> Escalation in fighting between SAF and RSF near the border with Ethiopia was reported in May, causing another 30,000

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/en/le-monde-africa/article/2026/03/22/the-uae-is-reorganizing-its-arms-supply-network-for-sudanese-paramilitaries\\_6751682\\_124.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/le-monde-africa/article/2026/03/22/the-uae-is-reorganizing-its-arms-supply-network-for-sudanese-paramilitaries_6751682_124.html)

<sup>10</sup> [https://6555a27a-21bd-45eb-b287-1c28900211e3.filesusr.com/ugd/505b4a\\_c5690ea0bb48491e8bca3f1990111ec9.pdf](https://6555a27a-21bd-45eb-b287-1c28900211e3.filesusr.com/ugd/505b4a_c5690ea0bb48491e8bca3f1990111ec9.pdf)

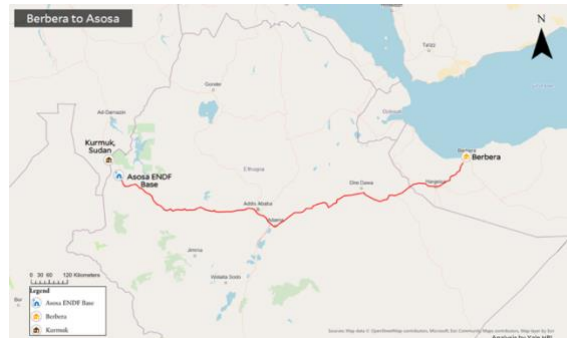
<sup>11</sup> [https://6555a27a-21bd-45eb-b287-1c28900211e3.filesusr.com/ugd/73a7e6\\_56f43447421a441798e7651201dc18e7.pdf](https://6555a27a-21bd-45eb-b287-1c28900211e3.filesusr.com/ugd/73a7e6_56f43447421a441798e7651201dc18e7.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://medicine.yale.edu/download-file/9d7098ab-23b8-419a-9987-56c1835eafed/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://sudantribune.com/article/311282>

civilians to be displaced,<sup>14</sup> in addition to the 15 million already displaced by conflict in Sudan.<sup>15</sup>

Three of the figures from the Yale report and one from *The New Humanitarian* (see below) are copied below.



*The New Humanitarian* wrote on 23 March that the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) were formalising ties with Tigrayan forces and Eritrea to oppose Ethiopia in case of war.<sup>16</sup> The reconstituted TPLF under Debretsion Gebremichael, which controls much of Tigray, has patched up its longstanding bitter relationship with Eritrea.

Thousands of well-trained TPLF fighters, those still in Gedaref state in Sudan after serving as UN peacekeepers and those who fled during the 2020-2022 war in Tigray, will no doubt join the fray. Beni Amer and Habab communities in Eastern Sudan who share their language with Eritrea's Tigre people (30% of Eritrea's population) will most likely also overlook their differences with Isaias Afewerki and oppose Ethiopia in alliance with SAF, TPLF and Eritrea. Egypt too would likely back the opposition to Abiy Ahmed because of the threat to its Nile lifeline perceived to be posed by the GERD.

Meanwhile, the UAE continues to throw money at Africa. Because of its heavy dependence on imported food, its companies are reported to have 56 agricultural projects over millions of

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/AddisstandardEng/photos/sudan-army-says-it-recaptured-strategic-blue\\_nile-town-near-ethiopian-borderaddi/1402021571963075/](https://www.facebook.com/AddisstandardEng/photos/sudan-army-says-it-recaptured-strategic-blue_nile-town-near-ethiopian-borderaddi/1402021571963075/)

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2026/03/23/regional-mega-war-renewed-conflict-ethiopia-sudan?utm\\_source=The+New+Humanitarian&utm\\_campaign=c4832ce860-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2025\\_11\\_19\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d842d98289-c4832ce860-76060632](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2026/03/23/regional-mega-war-renewed-conflict-ethiopia-sudan?utm_source=The+New+Humanitarian&utm_campaign=c4832ce860-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_11_19_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-c4832ce860-76060632)

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

acres from Sudan to Mauritania. It has invested \$11.9 billion in East African agriculture since 2009, according to the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies. One of its companies, Jenaan, owns 250,000 acres in Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. Many of these projects are the stuff of fiction, like the doomed attempt to grow blueberries in Mauritania.<sup>17</sup>

The UAE greed for gold has had more success. Illegal export of gold from Sudan was worth more than \$1 billion in 2023,<sup>18</sup> and over 90% of Cameroon's illegally exported 15,194 kg of gold in that year went to the UAE.<sup>19</sup>

UAE major investments, however, have been to secure control of Africa's trade. Two of its national companies manage over a dozen ports in Africa.<sup>20</sup>

The UAE has also been using its immense wealth to buy influence in the USA. Simple internet searches show that the Emirates support the National Basketball Association, New York University, Cornell University, Georgetown University, Texas A&M University, Carnegie Mellon University, Northwestern and Harvard Universities, Microsoft, Disney, the Cleveland Clinic and many other organisations and institutions.

*Blood on the Ball* (<https://bloodontheball.org/>) campaigns against the 'sportswashing' by UAE in its sponsorship of the National Basketball Association and Women's National Basketball Association. The organisation states that the UAE has spent \$4.5 billion on sportswashing, of which \$3.4 billion was spent on soccer teams (Manchester City, Real Madrid and Arsenal), over \$640 million on Formula One car racing (hosting the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix), \$380 million on basketball and over \$100 million on sponsoring other sports.



### **Biased reporting by Amnesty International**

The pro-Amhara and anti-Oromo bias of the leading human rights organisation, Amnesty International, is most unfortunate. It was with great reluctance that OSG Chairman Dr Trevor Trueman wrote to complain about this bias following the release of the organisation's

<sup>17</sup> [https://newlinesmag.com/spotlight/the-limits-of-the-uaes-push-for-food-security/?mc\\_cid=7c71ef3a33&mc\\_eid=665a446658](https://newlinesmag.com/spotlight/the-limits-of-the-uaes-push-for-food-security/?mc_cid=7c71ef3a33&mc_eid=665a446658)

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *The Continent* Issue 241, 30 May. [https://6555a27a-21bd-45eb-b287-1c28900211e3.filesusr.com/ugd/73a7e6\\_c3003f6a370a4c32987e0c2f9d04cbbe.pdf](https://6555a27a-21bd-45eb-b287-1c28900211e3.filesusr.com/ugd/73a7e6_c3003f6a370a4c32987e0c2f9d04cbbe.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> *The New Humanitarian*, 23 March, Op. cit.

misleading report on sexual violence in Qellem Wallega on 5 March, in which it claimed that OLA was responsible for raping Oromo girls and women. This was not merely a baseless claim, but Amnesty singled out OLA as the main perpetrator of such abuses in Oromia.

One point which was not made in the letter, which is reproduced below, is the biased reporting against the TPLF compared to Fano and Amhara regional forces in Amnesty's reporting about the atrocities committed in the Tigray war, 2020-2022. It is noteworthy that the report by Amnesty International on 16 February 2022, '*Ethiopia: Tigrayan forces murder, rape and pillage in attacks on civilians in Amhara towns*,'<sup>21</sup> put the blame for atrocities solely on the TPLF. This contrasts sharply with the joint report researched and written by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, '*We will erase you from this land*,'<sup>22</sup> which was released on 6 April 2022, in which the organisations jointly condemn Amhara as well as Tigrayan and Eritrean forces.

The letter below was sent to Amnesty International on 10 March and published as an open letter on 15 March after receiving no response.

Re: Accusing the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) of war crimes in Research Briefing '*No one came to my rescue*' 5 March 2026.

Dear Secretary General,

I write as a devotee, activist, campaigner and member of Amnesty International to complain about the publication of the misinformed and misleading Research Briefing '*No one came to my rescue*' on 5 March by the Nairobi hub of the International Secretariat.

I have been an active member of Amnesty International since 2007 and continue to act as a speaker in schools about Amnesty International, human rights and the unfair treatment of refugees in the UK and elsewhere.

I am also the author of 72 reports on human rights abuses in Ethiopia published by the Oromia Support Group.<sup>23</sup> Reports 50-72 have been written since the Prosperity Party government of Ethiopia was established by Abiy Ahmed in 2018.

In September 2022, I complained about the under-reporting by Amnesty International of abuses in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia to Fisseha Tekle, researcher for Ethiopia at the International Secretariat Nairobi hub (copy attached). Since then, I have remained disappointed in Amnesty's reportage. I was pleased to learn of the publication of the above report when advanced notice was given on 4 March.

When it was released next day, I was horrified when I read it. As the chairman of a human rights organisation, I have always looked up to Amnesty International. After reading the Research Briefing, I felt that I had been stabbed in the back by an older sister.

The Research Briefing was not only poorly researched, its reckless publication is, at best, evidence of anti-Oromo bias within the International Secretariat. At worst, it reads as a deliberate attempt to single out the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) as the major perpetrator of abuses in Oromia Region. This is a gross misrepresentation.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/02/ethiopia-tigrayan-forces-murder-rape-and-pillage-in-attacks-on-civilians-in-amhara-towns/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr25/5444/2022/en/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/osg-reports/>

As I pointed out to Fisseha Tekle in 2022, the Oromo youth (*Qeerroo*), whose pro-democracy demonstrations opened up the political space which gave Abiy Ahmed the opportunity to seize power, were by his own admission the prime target for the new prime minister. Abiy's intent was documented by former minister, Milkessa Gemechu,<sup>24</sup> and is evident in Reports 50-72 from the Oromia Support Group, all of which have been sent to Fisseha. However, there has been no documentation of this targeting of Oromo youth by Amnesty International.

The massacre of 14 *Gadaa* leaders of the Karrayyu Oromo on 1 December 2021,<sup>25</sup> an event of immense significance to all Oromo people, was not reported by Amnesty International. The killing of Oromo civilians by government forces and Amhara Fano militants in Horo Guduru and East Wallega zones, which has proceeded since 2021 and been reported by the Oromia Support Group in almost every report since then,<sup>26</sup> has likewise gone unreported by Amnesty International. Indeed, the killing by Amhara Fano militia of dozens of villagers in Abee Dongoroo district of Horo Guduru has continued over the last week, in March of 2026, without a murmur from Amnesty International.

The well-publicised intention of Amhara Fano forces to rid Wallega and Showa zones of Oromo civilians has never been reported by Amnesty International, nor have massacres of Oromo such as that of more than 100 in Agamsa, Horo Guduru, by Fano on 30 August 2022.<sup>27</sup>

There has been no acknowledgement by Amnesty International of the false flag operations of Ethiopian government forces in Ethiopia. Fighters, sponsored and supported by federal and Oromia Region governments, have been known to masquerade as OLA to commit atrocities against Amhara and Oromo civilians for the purpose of tarnishing the name of OLA and to instigate hatred and hostility between Amhara and Oromo people. Similar forces masquerading as Fano militants are believed to have been responsible for some of the worst atrocities in North Showa, but these 'Government-Fano' attack Oromo civilians in common cause with regular Fano forces.<sup>28</sup>

Government forces which masquerade as OLA, so called 'Government -Shane', were responsible for massacres of Amhara people at Guliso in November 2020<sup>29</sup> and in Qellem Wallega<sup>30</sup> and Tole,<sup>31,32</sup> in Southwest Showa, in June 2022. Shortly afterwards, OLA published a video of Amhara residents testifying to their being protected by OLA

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<sup>24</sup> Milkessa Midega Gemechu, *How Abiy Ahmed Betrayed Oromia and Endangered Ethiopia*. Foreign Policy, 25 January 2022; Also at the mid-term [Oromo Studies Association conference, on 27 March 2022](#) (from 1hr 4m to 1hr 31m of the 2 hr recording) *Catastrophic Victory: How politics of betrayal against the Oromo youth thwarted democratic transition in Ethiopia*.

<sup>25</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Karrayyu-Massacre-Report-14-January-22.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> See for example OSG Report 69, pp.22-23; Report 70, pp.33-35; Report 71, pp.29 and 32-35; Report 72, p.36.

<sup>27</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/The-facts-behind-the-Agamsa-massacre-30-August-2022.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> OSG Report 68, pp.3-10.

<sup>29</sup> OSG Report 54, p.17

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/05/villagers-massacred-western-ethiopia-says-state-appointed-body>

<sup>31</sup> [https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Tole-Massacre-Reporting-on-Ethiopia\\_6-July-2022.pdf](https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Tole-Massacre-Reporting-on-Ethiopia_6-July-2022.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Press-Release-Slaughter-and-Slander-of-OLA-5-July-2022.pdf>

rather than being in fear from them in Qellem Wallega.<sup>33</sup> The existence of these clandestine government forces which masquerade both as OLA and as Fano has been reported by a government whistle-blower in June 2024,<sup>34</sup> and on several occasions by the Oromia Support Group (OSG).<sup>35</sup> For example, in OSG Report 71, it is reported that residents in three villages in Dandi district, West Showa, were terrorised by fighters with braided hair and ostentatiously shouting ‘Jaal, jaal’ to each other (‘comrade’ in *Afaan Oromo*) in September 2025.<sup>36</sup> Yet the well-known and widely-acknowledged existence of these impersonators is not even mentioned in Amnesty reporting.

The apportioning of blame to OLA, accepting false claims made for the purpose of propaganda against OLA is damaging and irresponsible. The first line of the report by Amnesty International on the Guliso massacre in November 2020, for example, reads ‘Amnesty International can reveal that at least 54 people from the Amhara ethnic group were killed in an attack late on 1 November by suspected members of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) armed group.’<sup>37</sup> The subtitle of the report by Amnesty International on the massacre in Tole, Southwest Showa, on 18 June 2022,<sup>38</sup> is a quote from Regional Director Deprose Muchena: ‘These horrific killings in Tole, allegedly at the hands of the Oromo Liberation Army, reveal its perpetrators’ utter disregard for human life.’ Throughout the report it is claimed that OLA fighters killed Amhara civilians. The implications of ‘suspected’ and ‘allegedly’ are never followed up by Amnesty, whose officials assume certainty.

It is shocking to see that today when entering on Google ‘Amnesty International Ethiopia’, the second highlighted article, concerning this Research Briefing, reads ‘4 days ago — Since 2019, members of Ethiopia’s Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) have subjected women and girls to sexual violence in the Oromia region.’

Thus, without any caveat or qualification, OLA is repeatedly singled out and portrayed as if it is the major perpetrator of abuses in Ethiopia.

This is unjustified and indicative of institutional bias within the International Secretariat of Amnesty. This appears intentional. The organisation’s report on the Guliso killings was published within 24 hours of the atrocity, which was in fact perpetrated by ‘Government-Shane’. The immediacy of the issuance of the Amnesty report indicates a premeditated plan to attack the reputation of OLA, premeditation which involved Amnesty International staff.

Not only is OLA tarred with the same brush as Fano and Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF), OLA is singled out as the worst perpetrator of human rights abuses in Ethiopia – despite no active pursuit of evidence that the genuine organisation has been involved in any atrocities at all.

Amnesty International does not understand the basic concept of *Safuu* which is the moral and ethical code engrained in Oromo society from the *gadaa* system. OLA

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<sup>33</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Amhara-Testimonials-Eng-subtitle.mp4>

<sup>34</sup> OSG Report 67, p.11-13.

<sup>35</sup> For example, OSG Report 60, pp.14-17.

<sup>36</sup> p.13, OSG Report 71. <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/OSG-Report-71-20-November-2025.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2020/11/ethiopia-over-50-ethnic-amhara-killed-in-attack-on-village-by-armed-group/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/ethiopia-authorities-must-investigate-massacre-of-ethnic-amhara-in-tole/>

fighters are expected to adhere strictly to this and any diversion from this strict code would be severely punished.

Thus, the Research Briefing *'No one came to my rescue'* fits a well-rehearsed pattern of blaming OLA for atrocities committed by other forces, especially those perpetrated by 'Government-Shane', the clandestine force which masquerades as OLA.

The International Commission of Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) carefully interviewed victims of abuses in Ethiopia using meticulously orchestrated security protocols before the enquiry was prematurely terminated at the request of the Ethiopian government. It was not their conclusion that OLA fighters were perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence. Admittedly, there are many pitfalls and difficulties in obtaining reliable testimony in an environment which is not safe for victims and human rights defenders. But, this does not excuse the blanket and vague description of 'interlocutors,' nine 'experts' (not identified nor described according to credentials or selection criteria) and the ten victims in the recent report, which does not allay our suspicions that the report was designed and executed without concern about smearing the reputation of OLA.

The report contains factual inaccuracies which were pointed out in OLA's response (attached). The ability of 'nine experts' to comment on the research, given the inaccessibility of Qellem Wallega zone, casts serious doubt on the report's veracity. The report does not state language(s) utilized in the telephone interviews – *Afaan Oromo* or Amharic or some other.

The report is biased and inaccurate. It should not have been released without asking for comments from OLA. It should be withdrawn. At the very least it should be accompanied by a caveat stating that its conclusions are robustly challenged by OLA and at least one human rights defender. I doubt that I will be the only one to object to this careless release.

Amnesty International should be part of the solution to the atrocious human rights abuses in Ethiopia, not part of the problem. It should not be a mouthpiece which amplifies and gives credibility to propoganda from the Ethiopian government and Amhara Fano forces.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Trevor Trueman, Chair, Oromia Support Group

### **Election and political reform**

*We attended the meeting. They told us to vote for the wheat sheaf. That should be easy because there are no other signs.*

Elderly woman voter quoted in *Oromia Today*, 27 May 2026.<sup>39</sup>



No-one is fooled by the pretence of democracy which the Ethiopian election is intended to affirm. Ethiopia experts and commentators are unanimous in condemning the futile exercise. The handling of the process by Prosperity Party affiliates and the security forces has merely illustrated and confirmed the abusive nature of its rule.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://oromia.today/the-election-of-the-wheat-sheaf/>

The elderly woman voter, quoted by *Oromia Today* above, eloquently describes the coercion employed to vote for the Prosperity Party and the lack of democratic choice in Ethiopia's elections on 1 June.

Quite apart from the insecurity, which has prevented campaigning, voting and counting, and the flagrant persecution of opposition candidates, abuses related to the election have been reported across Oromia Region and elsewhere.

Professor Merera Gudina, head of the Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) party, would not be drawn on the matter of deals with the government in his *Standard Signal* interview with Tsedale Lemma 16 May,<sup>40</sup> but it is rumoured that the OFC and OLF would be allocated some seats in the House of People's Representatives, if they preserved the registration of their parties by standing in a token number of constituencies. The OFC and OLF would have been de-registered if they had boycotted this election, as they did last time around. Two boycotts and you are out, according to rules of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia.

Abuses reported by ONM include artificial inflation of voter registration figures by including those under voting age and even names of dead constituents. Force, threats, intimidation, detention and denial of access to fertiliser and health care have all been reported.

In East Wallega zone, ONM reported the arrest of farmers in Gudaya Bila district for refusing voter registration cards on 8 March; house to house visits by party cadres in Nekemte city on 10 March with threats of detention if registration cards were not presented next day; threats of denial of access to fertiliser and health insurance to residents of Kiramu, Gida Ayana, Ebantu, Limmu Galila and Haro Limmu districts on 28 March if they did not register to vote and violence if they did not vote for the Prosperity Party; and the imprisonment of residents in urban and rural areas of Haro Limmu district who were found without registration cards on 6 April.

In zones of southwest Oromia, ONM named two administrators and the party head in Aira district of West Wallega who falsely claimed that the number of registered voters was 40,000, double the actual number of 20,000. Grade six school children in Qaqee town and villages in Dale Wabara district of Qellem Wallega were told they would not be allowed into classrooms without a voter card. Lists of voters in Nejo, West Wallega, were reported on 15 April to be artificially inflated by the inclusion of students from grade five upwards. In Jimma zone, as well as registering under-age children, government officials agreed in a party meeting on 3 April to inflate voter numbers by using the names of people who had died (ONM).

Minors have also been coerced into accepting cards in Buno Bedele zone, where they were also told that if they voted for any other party than the Prosperity Party, they 'would regret it.' To reinforce this, many youths were reported on 9 April to have been detained in Dabo Hanna district police station, Buno Bedele.

On 15 April, ONM reported in Agaro town, Jimma zone, that as well as extorting money for the election, party cadres were 'demanding voter cards from the public as if they were identity documents, beating those who do not have them and throwing them into prison, forcibly issuing voter cards to them, and coercing them to vote for Prosperity.'

Registration cards were being used instead of ID cards in Qellem Wallega, where any movement requires an ID. Bajaj drivers and those accessing hospital treatment were ordered to carry voter registration cards.

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZi0jO77yjg>

In Southwest Showa zone, ONM reported on 2 April that, following indoctrination sessions in army and militia camps in Qarsaa Malima, Tole, Sodo Dacci, Sadeen Sodo, Bacho and other districts on 31 March, government security forces were moving through villages intimidating residents to vote only for the wheat sheaf symbol of the Prosperity Party.

Grade 8 students in Abuna Gindeberet district, West Showa, were told on 7 April that they would not be allowed to sit the national exam unless they accepted a voter registration card. If they refused, they were accused of having links to OLA and detained. In Bako town in the same zone, non-party residents were told on 26 March that access to drinking water was contingent on their acceptance of voter registration.

In Chiro district, East Hararge, two young men were arrested on 27 April for refusing to wear Prosperity Party T-shirts. Throughout East Showa, Hararge, Bale and Arsi, voter cards have been forced on school children amid other electoral abuses (see pp.31, 39 and 64).

*Addis Standard* reported on 22 April that a coalition of parties representing Agew, Gamo, Gambella, Tigrayan, Kaffa and Mocha peoples had threatened to withdraw from the election because of abuses,<sup>41</sup> including threats to remove promotional T-shirts, sacking from government positions and denial of health services to opposition supporters, artificial inflation of voter numbers and ballot-rigging in Amhara Region, South and South West Ethiopia Regions.

In his interview with Tsedale Lemma, Professor Merera stated that the Prosperity Party government's control of all institutions was even tighter than in the EPRDF era. This election is 'only playing a false game,' he said. Whereas the OFC could mobilise millions of supporters in the past, restrictions meant they could barely muster hundreds to support their six candidates this year – reduced from 270 in 2015.

He said that a caucus of opposition parties, including the OFC and OLF, approached the government last year suggesting reforms of the National Election Board and calling for peace negotiations with OLA and Fano, but the government refused.

When Oromo parties, leaders of faith groups, academics and traditional Oromo leaders – the Abbaa Gadaas – met at the Elilly Hotel in Finfinnee last year for four days of talks and deliberation, they made six proposals for an Interim National Unity Government for Oromia which were presented to the Prosperity Party government. Although the talks were initially supported by the government, their proposals were refused because they 'would have undermined their monopoly of power' Professor Merera said.

The National Dialogue Commission, which has sat for over four years, is 'dead on arrival' because its members are hand-picked by the government, are not independent and do not include major actors such as OLA and the TPLF and it has been therefore boycotted by the OLF and OFC. It is merely part of the government's game to appeal to foreign audiences and stands no chance of addressing the two main fundamental problems of Ethiopia – how to establish durable peace and stable democratic governance.

### **Religious leaders instructed to abet forced conscription**

Prosperity Party plans to engage religious institutions in the forced conscription of young men and women into the armed forces were revealed to ONM in March.

On 22 March, the government issued instructions to religious leaders, religious institution committees, elders, and Gadaa leaders in the zones of Qellem Wallega, West Wallega, East

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<sup>41</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/coalition-of-eight-political-parties-warns-it-will-withdraw-from-elections-unless-widespread-violations-against-members-are-immediately-addressed/>

Wallega, and Horro Guduru to send members of their congregations for military training. The leaders of Mosques, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and of Waaqeffannaa Galmas were told to each send seven young men and three young women for training, according to an ONM report next day.

The instructions were issued with threats that failure to comply would result in these faith leaders being themselves recruited for military training.

Religious leaders were also urged, using meetings with the Mayor of Finfinnee, Ms. Adanech Abebe, to pray for their own forces and officials and to condemn opposing armed forces.

### **Bishoftu Airport and Koysha Hydropower Project**

On or just before 11 March, the Oromia Media Network posted a video of a crowd protesting against the displacement of about 15,000 Oromo to make way for the new Aabbuu Seeraa Airport near Bishoftu (see pp.10-13, OSG Report 72). The filmed protest is posted on Facebook and shows several hundred demonstrators (two images from the video are shown right).<sup>42</sup> Some of the displaced have been allocated substandard housing, but there has been no compensation and there is no plan to enable farmers to resume their livelihood elsewhere.



On 14 May, disabled ENDF soldiers demonstrated in Bishoftu because they had not been given land for housing, which had been promised to them (ONM).

The airport and a second large dam to generate hydroelectricity are projects for which Ethiopia is seeking financial backing from Italy.<sup>43</sup> The Koysha dam, under construction on the Omo river in Ethiopia's South West Region, will be the second largest dam in Ethiopia, not quite as large as the GERD in Benishangul-Gumuz Region.

### **Food aid corruption – again**

The Office of the Inspector General of USAID warned of corruption in the distribution of food aid in central and northwestern Ethiopia in February, according to a report in *Addis Standard* on 11 March.<sup>44</sup>

The Inspector General said that beneficiaries of USAID's humanitarian assistance were being charged by Ethiopian local authorities in order to access aid. Numerous community leaders were accused of this extortion, which was falsely presented to recipients of humanitarian aid as a contribution to 'political or holiday funds.'

Eligible recipients were removed from distribution lists while those who paid bribes to local authorities fraudulently obtained assistance. Those who attempted to report the fraud were threatened with removal from distribution lists.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1558112395517155>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.fanamc.com/english/ethiopia-consults-italys-mattei-plan-task-force-on-strategic-infrastructure-projects/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/usaaid-inspector-general-warns-of-ongoing-fraud-schemes-targeting-food-aid-beneficiaries-in-central-northwestern-ethiopia/>

Ethiopian government authorities signed an agreement in late 2023 to ensure that such corruption would cease, after they were found to be abusing the food aid distribution system causing it to be discontinued for six months from June of that year.

USAID discovered a country-wide ‘co-ordinated and criminal’ scheme to divert aid, involving military personnel and local government administrators, and the misdirection of wheat donated by France, Ukraine and Japan through the World Food Program. Those in need were left without while government fraudsters pocketed profits from its illegal sale.

*Addis Standard* pointed out that the renewed warning came as more than 260,000 displaced people required urgent help and Ethiopia was among the top five countries in need of food in the estimation of the Famine Early Warning Systems Network in January.

## Finfinnee, Shaggar City and Finfinnee Special Zone

### Killings

W1 and ONM reported on 3 April that Addis Ababa University teacher **Mokonnaa Badhuu Siidaa**, known as ‘**Bayisa**’ (pictured right), was murdered at his home in the Maryam district of the Bole Bulbula area of Finfinnee on 31 March. He was a well-known Oromo nationalist from Bule Hora district, West Guji, and had taught at Bula Hora and Salale Universities before moving to the capital. ONM reported that the 38 year-old’s killing was staged to make his death appear to have been due to suicide.



**Moke Tsega** (shown left), a resident of Darba village, Sululta, in the north of Oromia Special Zone around Finfinnee (named Keteri city by W1) was kidnapped by forces reportedly related to the government Prosperity Party and held hostage for 1 million birr. He was killed and his body thrown on the street when this money was not paid (reported by W1 on 8 April).

**Mitiku Ayana Aliko** (shown right) was killed in Burayu (sub-city to west of Finfinnee) on Saturday 16 May after being detained there for one or two weeks (W1).



### Failing judicial system

A legal professional wrote the following from Ethiopia on 4 June.

#### No Rule of Law, No One is Safe: Rethinking Justice in Uncertain Ethiopia

We are hearing a dreadful calamity shook Holeta town in the Oromia Region today, where an angry litigant murdered both the presiding judge and the opposing party moments after a ruling. This is not an isolated act of criminal greed. It is one of the blatant indications of a collapsing judiciary. When the judiciary rots, the rule of law dies, exposing three systemic failures.

1. The loss of trust. A functional justice system is the bedrock of societal order. Having entirely lost faith in the courts, citizens are reverting to vigilante justice. When individuals must enforce their own rights by force, absolute chaos follows, and survival becomes a matter of time.

2. Corruption and incompetent judges. The system is plagued by incompetent and corrupt judges whose unfair verdicts actively provoke desperate victims. Compounding this, the judicial administrative council remains entirely unresponsive, offering no oversight or accountability.

3. Vulnerable Jurists. In a lawless state, the few disciplined, independent, and capable judges left are abandoned without protection, left entirely vulnerable to violence. Without the rule of law, security is an illusion. Kudos to the brave individuals who continue to make immense sacrifices for the cause of true justice. To make everyone safe, it needs to restore the rule of law where the justice system works.

### Detention, disappearance and discrimination

W1 reported on 9 March that a young woman, Nanati Gudisa (pictured right) was abducted by government forces on 5 March from Holeta, Shaggar City, and made to disappear in detention, at least up to the time of reporting four days later.



Amanu Hinkosa (illustrated left), a young man originally from Ababo Guduru in Horo Guduru zone and a graduate of Bula Hora University in West Guji zone, has disappeared in detention since being abducted in Burayu during 2025 (W1, reporting on 18 April).

Geda Mecca (pictured right), an Oromo with Australian citizenship who had been in Ethiopia for about six months, was reported on 18 April to have been detained in Nifas Silk Police Station, Finfinnee, and 4 million birr demanded for his release (W1).



Residents of Burayu, Shaggar City, told ONM that from 29 March Oromo people were being denied Identity Cards and as a result were being denied employment and were subjected to harassment and detention by security forces

### Beating

The man shown right was reported in April by W1 to have been beaten in Burayu prison by ‘Commander Bayisa.’ OSG has chosen not to publish his name.



Jawar Mohammed posted a video on Facebook on 16 April, which shows members of the security forces beating a young man.<sup>45</sup>

The incident occurred in the kitchen of a Chinese restaurant in Dukem, a town in the Finfinnee Special Zone, about 35 km southeast of the capital. Two images from the 15 second video are reproduced to the right.

One non-uniformed and one uniformed officer slap the young man on the face and beat his legs with a stick. The uniformed officer then taunts the youngster while holding his nose.



<sup>45</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/14dQHwEWDCM/>

### Extortion: Land tax

ONM reported on 30 April that arbitrary land taxes were being imposed on residents in Shaggar City. People who have paid the city administration land office for building plots have been ordered to pay a year's land tax set at 633 birr per square metre, so a 200 m<sup>2</sup> plot costs 126,600 birr.

The charge is laid even if no building has taken place, leaving residents unable to afford to build and therefore being forced to sell back their land.

Farmers whose families have owned land for generations are also being forced to sell up and leave.

### Forced conscription, killing of police officer

According to ONM, government militias gathered in Gafarsa Gujee, Shaggar City, on 9 March, to plan recruitment of under-age minors, farmers, students and unemployed youth for national defence forces and 'weak and powerless' elderly residents are being taken from their families to military camps for training in local militia.

On 25 March, a policeman (named Tashale) who was harassing elderly people and forcing them to undertake training in a military camp in the town of Chancho, Sululta district, Finfinnee Special Zone, was shot and killed by government militia men because of his brutal treatment of elderly residents (ONM).

## North Showa

### Killings



W2 informed OSG on 11 May of the killing last year of **Obsii Firdisa** (shown left). He was a Grade 10 school student living in Warree Gabroo village, Darra district, and was not involved in any political activity. He was killed by ENDF soldiers on 8 March 2025.

In the same report, W2 informed OSG of the killing of **five** civilians by forces which self-identified as Fano on 12 August 2025.

They were killed at a place called Daaka in Dhahee Willincoo village, Kuyyu district.

Four of the victims (pictured right) were named **Abarraa Jimaa Garradoo, Kidaanuu Tafarii Mokkonen, Adimaasuu Dooyoo Dhugaasaa** and **Toleraa Tottobaati**. It was not possible to name the **fifth victim** because his remains had been eaten by wild animals. The Fano forces made a video recording of the bodies and sent it to the victims' families. The two images shown right were taken from that recording.



W1 and ONM reported the killing by ENDF of the **young man** shown left. They were unable to name him. He was killed in Gerba Guracha town, Kuyu district, on 2 April. ONM wrote that the unnamed young man was executed after being taken from prison, accused of having an association with OLA.

## Disappearance

Abbabaa Goshuu, a farmer from Dabalaa Boqqolloo, Hidhabuu Abootee district, was taken by government forces to an unknown location one week before his disappearance was reported by ONM on 6 April. He was taken at night and accused of having links to OLA.

## Detention

Many young men and women from the village of Dubbannaa Hagaloo, Kuyyu district, were detained at Kuyyu district police station and were reportedly mistreated for four months before their detention was reported by ONM on 15 April. Among the young women who were detained are Burtukee Tasfaayee, Burtukee Ijaaraa, Ayyalee Ijaara (sisters), and a 15 year-old girl whose name was not given. They were accused, falsely, of having links to OLA.

Next day, 16 April, ONM reported that young men and women from Dirre Bantu in Hidhabu Abootee district had also been held and mistreated for four months or more in the district police station, including young girls Daasii Taaddasaa and Loomii Gaaroo and Loomi's young brother Birree Gaaroo. They too were falsely accused of being linked to OLA.

## Artillery attacks

At least four residents of Wuye Cabare village, Kuyyu district, were wounded and their animals – sheep, cows and goats – killed or wounded on 7 April when fired upon by ENDF using mortars and Zu 23 artillery pieces. Three women named Tigiste Ayane, Chaltu Faxane and Galitu Sori, and a man named Waaqoo Biratu were among those wounded (W1).

ONM reported two artillery attacks in North Showa. On 28 April, the home of farmer Gaddafaa Tolaa Sambee in Ada'aa Bonaya village, Hidhabuu Abootee district, was destroyed by fire after being hit by a mortar shell. On 30 April, properties in and around Dagaam town were destroyed by heavy weapons including tanks, mortars and Zu 23 weapons.

## Burning and displacement

A video of a burnt out hamlet in Salale district was posted on Facebook and relayed to OSG on 24 March. The following images are taken from that video.



ONM reported that 'Fano' forces displaced Oromo farmers from many villages in Warra Jarso district in actions beginning on 25 March. Looting and destruction was reported from Daga Boorsuu Goljee, Qoree, and 'many other' areas in the district.

## Looting

Government soldiers were active in Sululta district during May. They burned houses and looted over 300 quintals of grain from farmers in the district on 6 May (ONM).

W1 reported on 20 May that the cattle depicted on the right had been looted by government forces from farmers in Wezero village, Sululta district.



## Coercion to obtain ID cards

In districts of North Showa, including Garba Gurracha, Girar Jarso, Hidhabuu Abootee, Dagaam, Warra Jarso and Darra, Prosperity Party cadres and militias were reported on 9 April to have been threatening residents that they would be unable to access bank accounts, visit health facilities or travel on public roads unless they had National ID cards. ONM wrote that this was merely another method of extortion.

## West Showa

### Killings

The deadly drone attacks which killed 86 and wounded at least 120 in Chobi district, West Showa, in October 2022, were investigated by W2, who sent further information about victims of the attacks on 11 May. As reported by OSG following the incident, there were descriptions by *Kush Media*, *New Lines Magazine* and *Reuters* of ordnance being fired by drones on 22, 23 and 24 October with casualties in the localities of Hofu, Digo and Qoricha Koticha in Chobi (Cobii) district and Hidhabu Sandi in Ifata district. Of those killed, 24 were named in the OSG report.<sup>46</sup> The apparent targets were recently trained OLA recruits, although almost all of the victims were students and other civilians.

Information obtained by W2 concerned two strikes on 24 October on Bakkee Oofuu village. One was on a Protestant Church congregation, returning home after a day of prayer and fasting. The other was on a public meeting called by the government. W2 was able to gather information about the identity of seven of the victims, some of whom had been photographed previously but not identified in the OSG report. **Fiqaaduu Abarraa** and his son **Abdi** are pictured right.



Below are **Birhanu Amsalu** and his sons **Abdii** (left) and **Ayinalem** (right)



<sup>46</sup> OSG Report 62, pp.9-10. <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/OSG-Report-62-24-April-2023.pdf>

## Dilbii Wakwayya



## Robe Jalata



On about 15 March 2026, **Mengesha Misgana**, a teacher at Ambo Global College (pictured right) was taken from his home in Ambo city by government security forces and summarily executed (W1).



**Fayo Biranu** (shown left), a young man from Goda Sandabo village in Chobi district was killed by ENDF soldiers while working on the irrigation system in his village on 28 March, according to W1. ONM wrote that he was first detained and tortured in the town of

Kaachisi. His body was left in the bush and his family were prevented from taking him for burial. He was falsely accused of having links to OLA.

ONM reported on 30 March that 17 year-old 5<sup>th</sup> grade student **Mokee Bojaa Dibaabaa** was killed when sleeping in his home in Qalaatee, Abuna Gindeberet district. Government soldiers entered his family home, accusing his parents of housing OLA fighters. Finding nothing, they shot Mokee in his head.

In Dasee Maaramii in Ula Gora kebele (also reported later to have been in Warra Iluu village), Ada'a Barga district, militia member **Biraanuu Dirribaa** was shot dead while alone on duty on 30 March. He was killed by another militia member and his cattle were driven away. The victim had previously been detained and tortured 'without any wrongdoing' according to ONM.

ONM reported that on 3 April, **Zawudee Badhaasaa**, also a government militia member, was killed at night in Incinni town, Ada'a Barga district, and his AKM rifle taken by unidentified assailants.

**Baqqalaa Dhaabaa Badhiyee**, an 80 year old Saba Oromo farmer and father of eight in Osolee village, Jaldu district, was murdered by government soldiers at his farm in the early morning of 4 April (ONM). His family were prevented from collecting his body.

Another local militia member, named **Dhaabaa**, originally from Biyo Wagidi village, was killed in Incinni town on 17 April, according to ONM. Apparently, a dispute between militia members over who should go on duty led to a shoot-out during which he was shot in the head and killed.



**Kumasaa Olli** (shown right), father of three, was killed by ENDF on 3 June in Buyama village, Dire Incinni district (W1).

A 15 year-old girl, **Burte Girma** (pictured left), was shot dead by ENDF when helping her father on their farm in Meta Walqite district on 4 June (W1).



## **Rape**

ONM reported on 29 April that ten women (of whom six were named in the report) from Gatira Nabee village, Ada'a Barga district, were detained after their husbands had fled the village. They were gang-raped by the village administrator, Olana Mekonnen, and by Amanu Hundessa, Sefu Asafa and Abara Gonfa while in detention before being each charged 10,000 birr for their release.

## **Youth shot**

On 17 May, Afirika Badhadha Gonfa, a sixth grade school student was shot in the leg by government soldiers while tending his cattle in Abuna Gindeberet district (ONM).

## **Disappearance**

Two teenagers, Buzaayyoo Gasheree and Daansoo Tashoomaa, from Alii Oossoo village, Jibaat district were detained on 31 March when they went to fill in forms to sit the national 8<sup>th</sup> grade exam because 'OLA was active in their area.' They were made to disappear in detention at least until ONM reported their disappearance on 4 April. ONM wrote that rural schools were often turned into military camps in rural areas.

## **Detention and attacks**

During March and April, OSG received 16 reports of detention in West Showa, 14 of which were from ONM. They were almost all on the basis of suspected support for OLA or non-compliance with demands by the regime. There were two or three reports from the districts of Ada'a Barga, Liban Jawi, Jibaat, Jaldu and Bako Tibe and single reports from Chobi and Ilu Galan districts. (Two reports did not identify the district.)

Wives and mothers were detained because husbands and sons were suspected of joining OLA or had refused to become local militia members. For example, Alamitu Dhaabaa, a mother from Siree Barga in Ada'a Barga district was imprisoned on 7 March because her husband 'disappeared from the militia' and was accused of 'surrendering' to OLA.

Six were named by ONM of over 20 villagers imprisoned in the first week of March from Gatira, also in Ada'a Barga district, because they had refused militia training. They were so badly beaten when detained in the local police station that they were unable to walk.

In the same report, ONM named three women from Warra Illu village in the same district who were mothers of twelve, eight and five children, respectively They had been detained for over three months, separated from their younger children, because older ones were suspected of joining OLA.

Many followers of the traditional Oromo religion, *Waaqefataa*, were detained when worshippers had gathered at a place called Obbol in Kuyyuu Arreeree village, Jibaat district. They were attacked and robbed by security forces on Sunday 29 March (ONM, see below).

W1 wrote on 2 April about the detention of teacher Waga Addisu, farmer Boshi Admasu, housewife Jalane Iyasu and others who had been taken to prison in Chobi district. On the same day, father of eight, Tasammaa Dhaabaa, from Alii Oossoo, Jibaat district, was badly beaten and put in prison because one of his sons was suspected of joining OLA (ONM). Several others from the Alii Oossoo were detained that day.

Many from rural villages in Jibaat district had been detained for over one month before ONM reported their detention on 4 April. Over 150 were reported by ONM on 5 April to have been detained for a prolonged period in Bako town, Bako Tibe district, where they were tortured and denied adequate food, water and treatment for illnesses.

Among many detained in early April in Agalgobboo Basaallee village, Liban Jawi district, was Faanos Zanaba, together with her one year old baby, 'because her husband is hiding in the forest.' Daggafaa Dajanuu, from the same village, was detained despite being released only recently from a one year spell in the district police station for being a suspected OLA sympathiser and informant.

On 6 April, innocent teenager and 12<sup>th</sup> grade student Dembobe Midega Gemechu (pictured right) was taken with other girls from her school into police custody and had not appeared in court two weeks later (W3).



ONM reported on 16 April that government authorities in Bako Tibe town were planning to detain more women because their husbands had been deserting from militia training in large numbers. Three days later they reported that mass arrests were taking place in the district and detainees were being held and mistreated in dire conditions in the district police station.

More mass arrest of farmers was reported by ONM in Jaldu district on 24 April. The administrator of Abuna Gindeberet district, Marsi Idosa, was also arrested on the same day.

Farmer and father of eight, Nagash Gutama, was taken from Abaku Aannoo village, Ilu Galan district, because his son 'was in the bush' on 27 April and four (three men and one woman) were taken from Edensa Galan village, Jaldu district, on the same day, falsely accused of supporting OLA (ONM).

### **Looting, extortion and corruption**

Government security forces, party officials and local militia continue to prey on the population, causing increasing hardship. A few examples are given below, all of which were reported to OSG by ONM.

On 8 March, security forces went from door to door in Meettaa Kidaana Miratii village, Ilu Galan district, collecting 10 quintals of sorghum and 15 kg of other grains, 'to feed local militia.'

Residents of Gammada kebele in Gindeberet district were given a water pump by an NGO to enable them to irrigate their crops. They were forced at gunpoint to carry the pump to Culluxee town on 9 March, where it was commandeered by party officials.

In Bako town, the water supply was cut off from 23 March onwards for all households. Party officials in the town have since had water delivered every night at 8.00 pm free of charge. Other residents are having to pay 50 birr for every jerrycan of water. They have been told that water will be available if they accept voter registration cards for the election (see p.14).

Mul'ataa Abbabuu, an armed member of the Prosperity Party, was reported on 28 March to have accumulated 4 million birr and a cache of weapons from looting in Bako Tibe district.

During the crackdown and arrests of villagers in Oossoo, Jibaat district, on 29 March (see above), mother of two, Alamitu Didhaa, was robbed of 4 goats, a donkey, 3 sheep, 10 chickens and 16 quintals of grain because 'her husband was in the forest.' Father of eight, Tashoomaa Taammiruu, was robbed of 6 quintals of barley.

When security forces attacked and detained *Waaqefataa* worshippers in Kuyyuu Arreeree village, Jibaat district, on 29 March (see above) they broke down the doors to the *galma* (worship hall), forced everyone to kneel, beat them and stole all their possessions including mobile phones and a quintal of grain belonging to the *galma*.

Using a new excuse for extorting money from the residents of Bako Tibe district, government forces looted villagers of Walqixummaa Bakkee Reeree under the pretext of ‘grazing cattle damage’ on 31 March, taking 5,800 birr from each of four farmers and large amounts of money from another three.

Taking advantage of the increased fuel prices, on 5 April, the Chief of Police in Bako Tibe district, Margaa Tafarraa, with the district party Finance Officer, named Abbabee, and the head of the district Trade Office, were helped by an employee at Taaff Fuel depot in Bako town to steal 600 litres of fuel from the depot and take it to Abbabee’s home near Bako Tibe District Court. ONM wrote that public transport was ordered to be cut off in the district on 24 March.

On 6 April, ENDF soldiers drove away 6 cattle belonging to two villagers in Waradii Somboo Disaasaa, Bako Tibe district.

ONM reported on 9 April that government party cadres in Abuna Gindeberet district were selling fertiliser to party members and sympathisers after telling farmers who applied at the district office that it was finished and no longer available.

On 26 April, party militia stole nine cattle from Nagash Mustafa in Habaqu Aannoo village, Ilu Galan district, and arrested his son Ahimadin.

On 29 April, government officials in Gatira Nabee village took the community-owned grinding mill and sold it for 1,580,000 birr. Villagers who questioned the sale were detained.

On 24 May, government security forces robbed residents in Meta Walqite district on their way to market (ONM).

### **Forced conscription**

Three reports from ONM illustrate how forced conscription into the ENDF and government militia is disrupting livelihoods and the local economy in West Showa.

On 11 March, residents of Abakuu Aannoo village, Gindeberet district, ‘regardless of age or gender were chased into the forest like animals’ abandoning their homes, in order to avoid involuntary conscription.

In Ejere district, the ‘entire peaceful community’ of Dabalaa Boqqolloo village were rounded up on 22 March. Over 115 villagers were taken for training, including all the youngsters, leaving homes empty and farms unworked. ONM wrote that this pattern was being repeated ‘across Oromia.’

On 29 March, residents in Jaldu district were reported being rounded up *en masse* and taken involuntarily to ‘Kooluu’ military camp, leaving their homes and workplaces. Many fled to towns to avoid conscription.

## **Southwest Showa**

### **Killings and injuries**

W1 reported on 11 April that **Biraanuu Bayessa** (shown right), a young farmer in Awash Bune village, Bacho district, who had no relationship to OLA, was nonetheless killed by ENDF.

Mrs **Imuunashee Badhaadhaa**, a teacher in Batu town, Tole district, was killed by party member Siya Abdisa on 25 April (ONM).

On 26 April, farmer, Bayisa Dandana was shot and wounded and two other villagers from Goolaa in Dawo district were detained. Getu



Dabali, in his sixties, and his wife, Alami Urgessa, were accused of ‘having a son in the bush’ (ONM).

**Mosisa Soressa**, a youth in Kura Luku village, Tole district, was shot and killed by government forces on 28 April, falsely accused of having links to OLA (ONM).

Ten year old Shuna Daguma was shot and wounded by government forces while tending his family cattle in Ajo Jidu village, Amaya district, on 1 May (ONM).

**Magarsa Caalaa Guluma** was killed by government security forces in Qarsa Malima district on 25 May (ONM).

### **Detention, extortion and looting**

ONM reported that government militia raided the home of Kumala Jifar in Amaya district on 9 May, abducted his son, Akililu, and seized his livestock.

In April, ONM wrote of detention and extortion in Tole district. Among civilians who were detained for over one year and mistreated in the district police station in Bantu town, were Kusaa Baqqalaa, Abarraa Haayiluu, Geetuu Galaanaa and Gazzuu Tuchii from Tumeë Yaayyaa village; and Naanesaa Ejjataa and Addunyaa Guutamaa from Koocee Maaramii village.

They were all farmers who were falsely accused of having links to OLA in order to extort money from their families. They were released on 8 April after payments of up to 100,000 birr were made for each of them. Their families were forced to sell land, livestock and property in order to secure their release, ‘exposing them to long term hardship.’

Sums of 1,000 birr from merchants and 500 birr from farmers were extorted by government forces in Shankur Xaraqo village, Bacho district, on 27 April. Those who refused to pay were beaten and imprisoned (ONM).

## **East Showa**

### **Killings, disappearance and injury**

On 9 September 2023, several detainees in Dugda district were executed. OSG (Report 63, p.14) stated that five young men (Qajeelaa ?, Boonsaa ?, Daalee Gunjoo, Bulloo Jimaa and Geetaachoo Gunjoo) were killed and included a photograph of the five, bound and seated on the ground. On 11 May, W2 sent further details of the incident and identified each of the five, of whom four were killed and one survived.



The atrocity occurred at a place called Baatuu. Each is named on the photograph shown right. The four who were executed were:

Jaarraa Qajeelaa Bulbuula

Boonsaa Machii Abbosee

Daalee Gunjoo Tufaa and

Geetaachoo Gunjoo (presumably his brother).

Bulloo Jimaa Baalchaa (far left) was not killed. He survived the incident.

**Nato Mecha** (pictured right), a pasta maker in Bishoftu city, was abducted by security forces on 2 February. His family have been unable to locate him and fear that his disappearance means he has been killed (W1).



**Desale Siyum**, a young man, was killed by government soldiers in Bishoftu on 6 February (W1).

**Hussein Asaboot Muluu**, a young man who had been detained for ‘an extended period’ in a military camp in Fantale district under suspicion of affiliation with OLA, was taken from a village detention facility in the evening of 7 March and executed by gunfire in the presence of local officials (ONM).

On 7 April, drone strikes hit the community in Dagla Galaa, in a locality named Jiddaa, in Liban Cuqqaalaa district at about 3.40 pm and again at around 7.00 pm. The villages of Gora Lama and Doyo Lama were named in one report. At least nine were named among those killed, including farmers and students, according to reports from W1, Jawar Mohammed (on Facebook) and ONM. Up to 20 may have died. According to one report, the first strike only damaged property. Other reports stated that some of those killed in the second strike were attending to those killed and injured in the first attack. The young man pictured below right was among the dead, who were named:

**Nugusu Darse**  
**Firisa Boru**  
**Beshada Bulfato**  
**Wari Bulfato**  
**Guracho Bulfato**  
**Tariku Abe**  
**Tolera Dago**  
**Gemeda Tolera**  
**Dima Chala**



ONM later reported that some of those injured were arrested when seeking treatment. Drone flights ‘day and night’ were reported over Bosat district for several days, at least up to 11 April. They were apparently concentrated over villages near the main road to Djibouti, such as Nura Alaga, Sifa Bate, and Qawwa Hara Mirqasa. They were also reported over Rukecha Boqore, close to the town of Olanciti, and the villages of Ararso Bero, Nura Hera, Batto Dagaaga and others. In other districts of East Showa; Dugda, Bora, Liban Cuqqaalaa and others; and along the Awash river and over into Sodo Dachi district of Southwest Showa, drones were reported to be ‘creating great fear in the community.’

Near the city of Adama, drones were repeatedly seen over Araarsoo Beeroo and Callee villages. Previously, ONM stated that drones and helicopters were used to attack civilians and their property in Waldaa Maqidallaa village, Dugda district.



**Abduljebar Bakari** (pictured left) was killed at Walanciti, near Adama, when travelling from Hararge, on 9 May (W1).

**Sadiqo Aliyi** (right), a driver, was also arrested and then killed by government forces in the vicinity of Walanciti, about 25 km east of Adama, when driving from Galamso district in West Hararge to Finfinnee, on 15 May (W1).



On 18 May, **Hiwote Mulatu** was killed in Bora district ‘during a violent crackdown on mandatory militia training’ (ONM).

**Waqjira Waqshum** was killed by government forces in Adama city on 20 May (ONM).

W1 reported that another driver was killed near Adama on 30 May. **Ibsa Shukur** (shown right) was on his way from West Hararge to Finfinnee when he was killed. W1 believed he was killed by government security forces.



Ahmedin (pictured left) was shot in his right arm when driving between Matahara and Adama on the main road from Hararge to Finfinnee on 1 June. Again, W1 believed the assailants were government soldiers.

On 6 June, another car driver, **Ibsa Aliyi** (shown right) was killed on the same road in Matahara district (W1).



### **Attacks, looting and killing**

Government armed forces attacked the villages of Saaraaf Araddaa, Qacaacullee Gujaa, Sifa Bate, Golboo Bitimittii, Callee, and others in Bosat district on 28 March (ONM). In Qombe Gugsaa village, at a place called Tuqaa, heavy weapons – Dishka machine guns – were reportedly employed, ostensibly against OLA forces. The ENDF attacked and looted villagers in Camp 04 (Upper Awash fruit and vegetable farm), Nura Hera village, Bosat district, on 5 April. Dishka machine guns were also fired on towns of Boolee and Doonii, once again where the government claimed OLA fighters were present (ONM).

The Prosperity Party has supported and armed Argoba people to take over 100 cattle, money and goods in shops from Oromo in Qaawwaa Hara Mirqaasaa village along the Ethio-Djibouti road at a place called Haroo Adii. Herder Adam Haji and Mustafa Robale were beaten to force them to surrender animals and the goods from Mustafa's shop on 28 March. Other pastoralists, Bashir Nabii, Jamal Nabii, and Murteessaa Irkichoo, whose cattle were guarded by their children and were taken, were able to join Adam Hajii in retrieving their cattle, under gunfire from the Argoba rustlers. However, the 100 goats and sheep which were taken at gunpoint from Adam Hajii were not retrieved.

ONM reported on 15 April that at least one Oromo pastoralist, father of two **Jiloo Nagaroo**, and possibly four others were **killed** by Argoba people who crossed into Fantale district on 11 April. The Argoba were armed and fired on unarmed herders including Jiloo. They stole over 100 of his cattle but at least some were retrieved 'through collective efforts of the community.' The incident occurred in Xuxxuuxii village near the small town of Qorkee. ONM wrote that two of the victims of looting in Haroo Adii near the Djibouti road, Adam Haji and Mustafa Robale, were threatened by ENDF soldiers operating out of the military camp at Qorqee.

### **Detention of two mothers**

ONM reported that ENDF soldiers took mothers, Fiixii Goljaa and Adii Gaaddisaa, from Tubbee-Sutii village in Boru district, on 6 March and detained them in the police station in Botee town, where they have been reportedly tortured. They were accused of supporting OLA.

### **Coercion**

On 10 April, it was reported that farmers in Dugda district were forbidden from growing maize on the pretext that OLA fighters use the crop as cover for ambushes. Complaints against this order were met with beatings and detention (ONM).

## **Extortion and looting**

Several incidents have been reported from East Showa which would qualify as extortion or looting, or a mixture of the two (ONM). A wave of marauding began in Bosat district on 31 March, after artillery attacks a few days earlier (see above). Again these were particularly prevalent in villages near the Djibouti road, such as Qaawwaa Hara Mirqaasaa, Nuuraa Heeraa, Rukeecha Boqoree, Araarsoo Beeroo, Baattoo Dagaagaa, and Qacaacullee Gujaa, together with Bofa town, among many other locations.

Residents were forced to attend meetings and ordered to give crops and cash, from 3,000 to 20,000 birr. Vehicles, motorcycles and other items were taken. Since the fuel crisis due to the US-Israeli war on Iran, residents have each been ordered to give three litres of fuel.

Eight residents of Araarsoo Beeroo village and four from Saaraaf Araddaa village were named by ONM as among those who were forced to hand over 20,000 birr (\$127).

Other reports were of households being demanded 100,000 birr, two quintals of grain and three litres of fuel. During the last week of March, many vehicles took youngsters, women and elderly away at gunpoint to Awaash Bishoollaa military camp because they were unable to comply.

On 3 April, government forces went from house to house in Maqi town, Dugda district, demanding 1,000 to 1,800 birr for militia uniforms and contributions to a spurious self-help community organisation 'Wali Galaa Urjii.' One week later, another demand for 200 to 5,000 birr from residents of Maqi was made, this time for food as well as clothing for government militia (ONM).

Profiteering was reported from Adama city on 1 April, where prices have jumped four or five-fold, 50 birr for bus journeys which used to be 10 birr, and 20,000 birr to move goods on vehicles which used to charge 5,000 birr (ONM). While 'corridor development' continues without consultation, food prices have soared and residents are forced to provide land and money 'for protection.' Women are being forced to clean streets without any compensation.

ONM reported on 25 May that residents of Bosat district were being subject to the extortion of 100,000 birr 'under threat of violence.'

## **Forced conscription**

ONM reported on 10 March that youngsters in towns in Bosat district, for example in the Warjii Baatuu town administration in Bofaa town, were being beaten and violently seized by day from their work places and at night from their homes and taken for military training to Olanciti town. Eight were named by ONM.

In Dooni town, ostensibly because residents had refused to accept voter registration cards, their youngsters, including some family breadwinners, were gathered and taken in two Isuzu trucks to Olanciti primary school, where they were assembled to be taken for military training.

On 26 March, government soldiers visited the market in Maqi town, Dugda district, and also removed youngsters from neighbourhoods of Hafaa Qamalee, Gussaa Bayyimoo, Dongorootaa, Kooyyee Jajjabaa, Seeraa Wakkallee, and others, in Isuzu trucks for military training. ONM named five among those taken from Kooyyee Jajjabaa. A few days later, ONM wrote that these young men and women and middle-aged men were being taken from their work to support their families and forced to be members of local and national defence forces.

Armed government forces gathered civilians from the livestock market in Matahara city, Fantale district, on 28 March, and separated them into groups to be sent for training in different military camps in Birshalaqoo, Xoollaay, Bilaattee, Awaash Bishoollaa, and others

(ONM). The forces extended their conscription activities into city areas such as the ‘Matahara Sugar Factory, Caraqaa, Minjaarii, and along the Tigraayi Safar route.’

Failure of families in Bosat district to comply with extortionate demands for cash, grain and fuel (see above) was reported on 31 March to result in forced conscription of youngsters, women and elderly who were taken at gunpoint to Awaash Bishoollaa military camp. Those claiming to be too infirm to be moved were threatened with being shot.

### **Election abuse**

In Bosat district, on 8 March, cadres and armed members of the Prosperity Party were visiting homes and workplaces in the administrative centre, Olanciti, and other towns including Doonii, Bofaa, Boolee, and Fooqii, beating residents and forcing them to accept voting cards for the election on 1 June (ONM).

ONM reported on 19 April that in areas across Adama city, the administrative centre of East Showa, residents were being forced to take voter registration cards and being beaten unless they complied. These areas included schools, Boole, the ‘Post Office, Electric Power, Daraartuu, Peacock, OBN area, and Adama Science and Technology University.’ Officials were going from house to house in the Daabee Solloqqee neighborhood near the police training camp, ONM wrote.

## **Wollo and Amhara Region**

Oromo people in the Oromia Special Zone of Amhara Region continue to be killed and abused in other ways by both ENDF and Fano forces. The Fano militants operating in the area appear to be acting in cooperation with ENDF and are believed to be ‘Government Fano’ like those in zones of Wallega who masquerade as Fano but are financed and supported logistically by the Ethiopian government. As reported previously by OSG, the purpose of these forces is to pit Oromo and Amhara people against each other.

### **Killings**

On Monday 9 March, market day in Fursee town in Artuma Furse district, ‘Fano’ militants on the road from Kemise and Chaffa Robit stopped and robbed traders travelling by motorcycle to the market. At Karra Qorii, they robbed one of 400,000 birr and threatened to kill others and dispose of their bodies so they would never be found.

ONM reported that, later that day, again at Karra Qorii, the militants murdered two Oromo militia members from Jille Dhumuga district who were travelling to Chaffa Robit. They were from the towns of Baatee and Wasanqurqur and were named **Muhee Bushuu** and **Arbiyyee Aliyyi Arbiyyee**. According to ONM, the Fano members ‘played with their corpses in crates’ before leaving them.

BBC Amharic Service reported on 21 March that at least **five local officials** including district chief administrators had been killed by Fano in South Gondar zone in the previous weeks.<sup>47</sup> (The Fano forces in zones of Amhara Region, other than the Oromia Special Zone in the northeast of the region, are genuine Fano, in armed conflict with the Ethiopian government.)

On 28 March, Fano members again attacked Oromo along the road to Chaffa in Artuma Furse district. A large force opened fire on Oromo herders from Ganga’a village, Sadeen Makana, Jille Dhumuga district, who were moving livestock along the road. **Three were killed**, including **Aliyyi Mahaammad Aliishaa** and **Sa’id Mahaammad Nuuruu**, and one other was injured (ONM).

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/amharic/articles/c0mj018z432o>

EEPA 13 April, reported that in North Gojjam zone **three health workers** had been killed in Hamusit town, another three had been taken from Debarak hospital and a doctor had been arrested by government forces in March. The three who were killed were tending to an injured Fano fighter.

**Samiiraa Ahimee**, a 14 year old girl in Karaa Jabaa kebele, Baatee district, was killed by ENDF soldiers in her home on 3 April (ONM). She was falsely accused of feeding and informing OLA before being shot repeatedly in front of her family. ONM reported an increased ENDF presence in the towns of Baatee, Kemise and Chaffa Robit in the districts of Baatee, Jille Dhumuga and Artume Furse.

‘Government Fano’ killed 36 year old farmer **Amma Hasan Wadoo**, a resident of Sanbate town, originally from Dullaa village, Jille Dhumuga district, on 5 April. They removed his body, preventing the community from burying him and mourning his killing appropriately. The young farmer’s family were distraught, saying ‘he has died twice’ (ONM).

ENDF surrounded the home of **Abduu Ahimed** in Eelaa Araddaa kebele, Baatee district, late on 8 April and early next morning, 9 April, shot him dead in a hail of fire ‘without any legal questioning’ in front of his family (ONM). He had no political affiliation but was falsely accused of links with OLA.

ONM wrote that Fano militia killed **three civilians** and looted over 935 cattle from the Oromo community in Artuma Furse district, Wollo, on 21 April.

In a similar attack on 5 May, Fano killed a married woman named **Halima** and looted over 470 cattle from farmers in Cirri village, Dawa Caffa district, North Wollo (ONM).

It is unclear whether or not fatalities occurred when a passenger bus was attacked on the road from Debre Markos, East Gojjam, to Finfinnee on 21 May. *Addis Standard* news reported that no fatalities ensued. *APANews* stated that 12 passengers were killed in an attack at the same place on 28 May, which was probably an error.<sup>48</sup> The bus was stopped and up to 44 passengers abducted by unknown assailants at Ali Doro, near to Goha (Gohatsion) in Warra Jarso district in North Showa.

## Amputation

The following was reported on p.23 of OSG Report 72:

‘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.<sup>49</sup> 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.’



<sup>48</sup> <https://apanews.net/ethiopia-gunmen-kidnap-passenger-bus/>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1525563212026423>

Another film clip was sent by W1 on 27 March.<sup>50</sup> The recording is of the amputee recovering in hospital and includes an image of him taken from the first recording and an image of the Fano member with a clearer illustration of the cross, the symbol of Fano, tattooed on his forehead. This is less visible on his photograph in Report 72, both of which are shown.

### **Attacks, injuries, detention and rape**

ENDF soldiers were deployed throughout the Oromia Special Zone from mid-March, to search homes for evidence of links to OLA and to intimidate and threaten civilians to reduce support for OLA.

ONM reported that an 80 year-old woman, Xumme Usee, from Dheeraa village in Artuma Furse district, was shot and injured by ENDF soldiers on 1 April after moving her cattle for grazing at a place called Jarra. Soldiers entered her home and shot her in the legs. Her condition in Kemise hospital was described as critical.

On the same day, in nearby Raasaa village, Ahmed Hasan and his son Umar were taken from their compound, beaten, restrained and detained.

On 4 April, farmers in Golboo Arba village, Artuma Furse district, were beaten and detained by government forces who accused them of supporting OLA and 'having children in the forest' (ONM).

In Habilee kebele, Baatee district, on 7 April, a youth named Abdu Daawwee was severely beaten, robbed of his phones and taken to a military camp before being transferred to Baatee police station next day (ONM).

Throughout Artume Furse district, on 13 April, mothers were threatened, beaten with sticks and detained, also accused of 'having children in the forest.' At least ten were taken, including Munttee Amin from Haruqqee village, Halima Amin and Kadija Usmaan Sheekichaa from Rakkoo village, and Rihana Mahammad Ayola, Hayat Aliyu, Asraqa Qaadi, Faxuma Hasan, Faaxoo Galayee and Munttee Zeeyni from Utaaltee village. This collective punishment separated these mothers from their younger children (ONM).

In a separate report, the abduction on 15 April of more men and women from the villages of Utaaltee, Ija Dheertu and Raasaa was reported by ONM. The men were detained and beaten in a military camp at Hara school. The women, of whom six were named and many remained unnamed, were reported to be held in Utaaltee and Hara schools, where they were beaten and raped by 5-6 ENDF soldiers every night.

Again accused of having connections or family involvement with OLA, villagers in Boru Muka and Daahaa in Artuma Furse district were attacked at dawn on 17 April. A ten year-old, Huseen Yusuf Hasan, was shot in the legs and badly injured while herding goats in Daahaa when soldiers opened fire on the village. The mosque and 12 homes, with all their contents, were burned down. Among those abducted and detained were ten who were named in the ONM report.

### **Extortion**

A total of between 800,000 and 1,000,000 birr was taken from residents of Guulaa village in Dawa Chaffa district in the first ten days of March, by government party officials claiming the money was needed for weapons to fight OLA. The Prosperity Party cadre responsible for most of this extortion was named by ONM as Zakiy Ahmadu, who, it was claimed, had previously detained four innocent young men and 'killed them in the forest.'

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<sup>50</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/829456526373712>

In Baatee district, ONM reported on 11 March that residents were forced to pay 400-500 birr to obtain new digital ID cards and that previously obtained documents were no longer valid. Beatings and detention enforced the demand. In the same report on Baatee district, ONM wrote that hundreds of birr were being taken from the salaries of teachers, who were already underpaid and in financial straits, to ‘support local militia.’

Residents in Jille Dhumuga district were reported on 12 March to being forced under threat of beating and detention to each pay 1,000-2,000 birr and provide bread for the ENDF as ‘war provisions’ (ONM). Such demands were being made two or three times every month. Complaints were met with threats and accusations of having links to OLA.

The extortion together with looting and attacks by ENDF and Fano forces, which operate with impunity in the zone, have prevented movement of people, farming and harvesting, further impoverishing the population.

### **Armed attacks, burning and displacement by ‘Government Fano’**

Throughout Wollo, the Oromia Special Zone in Amhara Region, ‘Government Fano’, forces identifying themselves as Fano but operating with the cooperation and collusion of ENDF, have been attacking, pillaging and looting Oromo communities, causing the displacement of thousands.

Two reports by ONM are given as examples. Around the beginning of March, in Dullacha village, Dawa Chaffa district, ‘Fano’ militants attacked and burned down homes including that of widowed mother of five, Zahare Shumu Idris, who as well as her children supported her blind mother. They opened fire on anyone who attempted to help put out the fires. They then systematically destroyed several hectares of crops, looting remaining produce and taking it away in trucks, in order to displace the whole village.

In the early morning of 9 March, ‘Fano’ opened fire on residents of Diidoo village in Artuma Furse district. Children who were herding cattle at a location called Caffee Biluu came under fire and 9 year-old herder Mame was shot and critically injured. The militants then chased the cattle, shooting as they ran, killing at least 23 of them and wounding others.

In the same report, ONM wrote that Zone Administrator, Ahmed Ali Abba Afroo, and Artuma Furse District Administrator, Ahmed Muhee, detained a respected community member named Ahmed Usiyo at a place called Cirrii, accusing him of inciting the Amhara community to acts of violence such as occurred in Diidoo village. They warned villagers to reconcile with their attackers.

## **Hararge and Bale**

### **Killings**

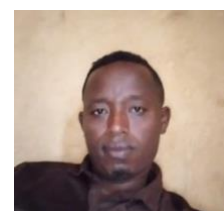


W2 sent information on 11 May about previously unrecorded killings by government forces in East and West Hararge. **Fami Abdi** (pictured left) was killed in the locality of Imar in Awaday city, East Hararge, on 5 June 2025.

In West Hararge, **Cala Jemal Ahmed** (shown right) was killed in Machara town, Daro Labu district, on 23 October 2025.



Informant E1 wrote about the killing by government forces of 36 year-old **Mohammadoo Jamaal Ahmed** (pictured right). The father of three was abducted from his home in the small town of Balballeetti in Habro district, West Hararge, on 18 February and taken to Michata military camp in Daro



Labu district. The farmer and businessman was taken from the military camp with **four other men** from different areas and executed with them at a place called Dhiibaa in Daro Labu district on 15 March.

Next day, local militia disrupted the funeral ceremony of Mohammadoo, firing guns and beating mourners, forcing them to disperse. Local administrators and government cadres accused his whole family of supporting OLA. His young cousin has been forced to halt his grade 10 schooling and is at risk of forced conscription.

Three innocent civilians were reported by ONM to have been shot dead by government soldiers in the Rukessa area of Boke district, West Hararge, on 26 March. **Yusuf Abdalla**, his son **Bookkee Yusuf Abdalla**, and **Mohammed Roba** were executed in public, in front of their families. Neighbours reported to ONM that they had no involvement with any political organisation and were killed simply because they were Oromo.

**Ibrahim Muusa Wadaayi** was killed by Somali Region militia during an attack on Misira Cifraa in Doba district, West Hararge, on 7 April (ONM).

On 21 April, **Mohammed Ahmed** died in custody in Haromaya district due to injuries from beating and lack of medical treatment (ONM).

ONM reported that on 22 April, farmer **Kalifa Adam Haji**, was run over and killed by a vehicle being driven by the village head, Ibrahim Salixee, after he had refused to pay unjustified fees and had attempted to flee to Furda town.

A sick and innocent young man, **Nuuree Sheekaa**, was shot dead by government forces in Shan sub-district, Boke district, East Hararge, on 25 April (ONM).

Three farmers in Biyyo Jarro, Boke district, West Hararge, were killed by government security forces on 11 May. They were named by ONM as **Alam Ziyaad Maammud**, **Siraaj Diinoo**, and **Nuuree Hasan**.

A man named **Sulxii** in Coroora, Hanaaar district, East Hararge, was shot by ENDF on 28 April. He was said to be mentally ill (ONM).

**Mahamad Amad** died on 30 April in Haro Maya police station, East Hararge, after prolonged detention and many beatings. His children, Magarsa and Karane Mahamad, were also reported to have been detained for ten months (ONM).

## **Rape**

ENDF soldiers gang-raped four young women (including one named by ONM) on 27 April in Lalo, Ciro district, East Hararge.

Another woman (named by ONM) in Hidhane village, Ciro district, was gang raped by government forces on the same day. Two elders in the village, Shambuso and Mamad Yusuf (aged 90) were severely beaten that day for refusing a ballot card.

Another gang rape by ENDF soldiers was reported in Sheek Adam, Ciro district, on 27 April. Again, the victim was named by ONM.

## **Detention and beating**

In addition to detention associated with extortion and looting of property (see below), there were reports of large scale detentions, especially in Bale zone, of civilians accused of being associated with OLA.

ONM wrote on 3 April that 170 had been detained in Bale, in the cities and towns of Robe, Gasara, Sinana, Agarfa, Dinsho, Beletu and 'many others.' They were taken to police stations in the previous week and had been mistreated. Many had lost their livelihoods as a result.

More detentions *en masse* in the same towns in Bale were reported by ONM on 5 April, because they were ‘families of OLA fighters.’ These were associated with extensive looting of property and livestock.



W1 reported that Abdullay Genemo (shown left) was taken to the Bale Zone prison on 11 April, accused of supporting OLA.

Bira Ayana (shown right), a young employee of ‘Flamingo Bole Bank’ in Finfinnee, was arrested and remains detained in Bale, where he went to visit family ten months ago (W1).



On 24 April, an Oromo youth, not named by ONM, was apprehended by government militia at the roadside in Walda Gamachu, Meta district, East Hararge. His hands were tied at his back and he was stripped naked. He was then subjected to a form of torture involving water before being taken away to detention.

Abdalla Adam and two women, Haloo Shukuri and Haloo Mohammed, were badly beaten in Koye, Oda Bultum district, East Harage on 28 April, accused of having family in OLA (ONM).

On 1 May, Haji Shukuri, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade school student, was abducted by government forces in the Rahaa area in Shanan Dhugo district of West Hararge and disappeared in custody (ONM).

ONM reported that village administrator, Asfaw Mibiratu, was detained in Haqaan Jiraataa kebele, Xuulloo district, West Hararge, on 3 May because he had refused to collect ‘health insurance’ premiums from residents.

The wife of Salaam Usmaa’il together with their two month-old baby were imprisoned for several days in Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, around 13 May (ONM).

Four young men in Bedeno district, East Hararge, were detained for ‘tax evasion’ on 19 May (ONM).

### **Land theft, looting and extortion**

There were 19 reports from ONM of various forms of looting and extortion during March and the first half of April in the zones of Bale and East and West Hararge. Nearly half of the reports were from West Hararge, especially in the first two weeks of April.

There were many reports of straightforward robbery and looting by armed government supporters acting more like *shifto* (bandits) than local government militia. Theft and anarchy have reduced southeast Oromia to disorganised havoc as the populations have been preyed upon by ruthless and self-serving individuals who feel protected by the Prosperity Party state machinery.

Government cadres throughout the three zones have been ordering civilians to support the Prosperity Party and to take up arms against OLA. In line with this, many of the incidents of coercion and looting have been under the guise of supporting local militia.

For example, in all kebeles in Shanan Dhugo district of West Hararge, according to ONM reporting on 15 April, every resident has been ordered to supply one quintal of grain to feed government militia, or 1,000 birr if they are too poor to provide the grain. Those unable to comply were beaten and imprisoned.

The worst injustices included the violent acquisition of land from farmers so it could be handed over to private investors. ONM reported on 10 April that more than eight farmers

were shot at and severely beaten in Roorettii, Oda Bultum district, West Hararge, when their land was seized by government cadres. ONM reported more land seizures were ongoing on 25 May in Daro Labu district, West Hararge.

Ahimad Mohammad Abdullaa, who was recovering from a gunshot wound in Badessa hospital after his land was requisitioned, told ONM ‘My land is not being cultivated but I am paying taxes on it.’ Two other farmers were being treated at the hospital for the severe beating they sustained when government cadres took their land. Their property was sold by the cadres to a wealthy investor, named Mikael by ONM.

On 3 April, there was blatant robbery by government forces in Tokkummaa Jaalalaa village, Malkaa Bal’oo district, East Hararge, when 6,700 birr and sacks of grain were taken from villagers. Four were beaten and detained for failing to hand over money.

More spurious demands included arbitrary payments extorted from non-Oromo in Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge. ONM reported on 28 March that Somali residents in the Lubbu Dhaqqab area were ordered to pay 10,000 to 20,000 birr ‘because of their ethnicity.’

The population, already impoverished by Ethiopia’s cost of living crisis and never-ending demands for taxes and levies, have struggled to pay even relatively small amounts.

Often, there is little pretence that payments are other than mere extortion for the personal benefit of government cadres. For example, residents of Gooroo wadoo, Bedeno district, East Hararge, were ordered on 25 March to pay 200 birr each for ‘party support’ and 500 birr for ‘security payments.’

In Barakaa, Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, from 29 March, residents were each ordered to pay 1,500 birr as an ‘election board fee’, 2,500 birr for no stated reason and 2,000 birr for promised provision of water.

ONM wrote on 5 April that in Burqaa Galamsoo, Oda Bultum district, West Hararge, residents were forced to pay 500 birr each for ‘digital ID cards’ in common with ‘many parts of Oromia.’ On 15 April, ONM reported that 600 birr was being extorted during the previous week for the same reason from residents of the three kebeles in Hordaa and the kebeles of Mudii Dawee, Gola Waaccuu, Biyyoo Gabaabduu, and Biyyoo Dheertuu, all in Chinaksen district, of East Hararge.

A government cadre, named Ahmad Yuuyyaa by ONM on 9 April, demanded 500 birr at gunpoint from residents of 01 kebele in Hirna town, Xuullo district, West Hararge, because they did not attend a government rally.

Residents see no benefit from their payments. For example, villagers in Yaaddoo Bobbaasaa, Ciro district, East Hararge, were promised access to water when each was forced to pay 600 birr in February, yet severe shortages persist (see below). The only beneficiaries are those who pocket the payments.

Owners of small businesses in Ciro district, East Hararge, are being charged 2,000 birr per month in licence fees. Small kiosk owners who used to pay 6,000 birr per year are now ordered to pay 14,000 birr. Small businesses in the Ra’aa area of Waldaya town in Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, were shut down on 27 March for failure or inability to pay for trading licences.

More exorbitant demands included 3,000 birr from each of the residents of Bokkoo Jaalalaa in Malkaa Bal’oo district, East Hararge, for ‘slaughtering an ox to feed militia in training’ at the beginning of April. The extortion later of 7,000 to 10,000 birr from farmers and traders in

the district was reported by ONM on 9 May to have forced the closure of businesses which were unable to pay.

The largest reported financial burden was reported from the Laga Hidha district of East Bale, where the deputy administrator of Beltu town, named Sultan by ONM, has already enriched himself by looting large sums of money from farmers. On 9 April, it was reported that he had demanded 90,000 birr from farmers, who had been forcibly detained and trained as local militia, to provide weapons for them.

Inability to pay continues to result in severe beatings and detention.

In Koortuu, Biyyoo Awwaallee in the Dire Dawa city administration, East Hararge, residents who were unable to pay 1,000 birr ‘to build a kebele office’ and then 1,700 birr for ‘health insurance’ at the beginning of March, were beaten and imprisoned until payments were made.

Many farmers, including three named by ONM, were detained and mistreated after being taken on 8 April from the village of Qu’ee in the Gabbis area of Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, for refusing to pay 1,000 birr ‘to support the Prosperity Party.’

Three farmers in Gooroo Wadoo, Bedeno district, East Hararge, were reported on 30 March to be in a critical condition in hospital after being beaten for ‘refusing to pay the 700 birr we demanded.’

Four farmers were named by ONM after being beaten in Waldaa Gammachuu, Meta district, East Hararge, on 29 March for refusing to pay 2,100 birr for ‘health insurance.’ Mustafa Mohammed sustained a broken arm and another’s health was reported to be badly affected.

Local government officials stole livestock from other residents of Meta district, who were unable to meet their demands, and sold them for their personal benefit at local markets, ONM reported.

In Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, ONM reported on 29 March that poor unsupported mothers were being forced to sell their family land and their possessions because of poverty.

More reports from ONM later in April included demands for 5,000 birr from residents of Baraka, Shanan Dhugo district, West Hararge, on 23 April; 1,000 birr for ‘bullets’ from Ifa Biiftu Bubbee, Meta district, East Hararge, on 27 April; 1,000 birr for militia uniforms in Balaja, Bedeno district, East Hararge, on 27 April; 200 owners being charged for the release of their impounded vehicles in Badessa town, Oda Bultum district, East Hararge, on 29 April, and other abuses.

ONM reported that Afar militia, aided by the local government administration, looted 100 camels from Mohammed Ahmed in Lawa Korboo in Gumbi Bordode district, West Hararge, on 8 May.

### **Corruption related to fuel shortage**

The fuel shortage due to the US-Israeli attacks on Iran has enabled profiteering by Prosperity Party members, at least in West Hararge. ONM reported on 9 April that fuel outlets in Shanan Dhugo district had been shut down two days previously by government officials. This caused prices to rise even further, which increased profits for government-affiliated outlets.

### **Somali Region forces attack in East Bale**

ONM reported on 28 March that government Somali Region forces had been allowed into East Bale, where they fired on residents in Rayitu district. ONM stated that some civilians were killed and many injured, but OSG has received no corroboration to this report.

However, they were reported to be responsible for an attack in Doba district, West Hararge, on 7 April which killed one resident (ONM – see above).

### Electoral fraud and discrimination

In keeping with zones in other parts of Oromia Region, in Southeast Oromia, government forces, operating under orders from Prosperity Party officials have been forcing young men and women under the age of 18 years to accept voter registration cards in preparation for the General Election on 1 June. The legal minimum age for voting is 18 years, but children throughout Oromia are being forced to vote and threatened to vote for the Prosperity Party.

In related news from Harar city, evidence of discrimination was published by ONM on 15 April. Candidacy for the President of the Harar city region is constitutionally limited to ethnic Harari and the last five Presidents have been from the Sharif clan. Oromo who were born in Harar and have spent their lives as residents in the city are prevented from standing for election.

### Water Shortage in East Hararge and elsewhere

Sagalee Qeerroo Bilisummaa Oromoo posted a video on 11 March with the caption ‘This is the daily life of our people in Hararge, Bale, Arsi, Guji and Borana.’<sup>51</sup>

An image from the recording is shown right, depicting a woman lying in mud collecting water.



Despite extortion similar to that reported above in Ciro district, with promises of addressing water shortages, residents of Gola Oda district, also in East Hararge, were shown on 12 March, in a video broadcast by the Oromia Media Network to have been forced to take water from a muddy pool at Satawwa.<sup>52</sup>

Images taken from the video (below) show at least 30 women ladling the dirty water into jerrycans with gourds and other containers.



<sup>51</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1417221293783675>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1405518191349082>

## Horo Guduru and East Wallega

### Many killed in attack by ‘Fano’ in Abee Dongoroo district

Around 1 March, attacks by Amhara militants on unarmed villagers in the lush countryside of Abee Dongoroo district of Horo Guduru Wallega killed an estimated 50 or more civilians, including a three-year old infant, wounded others, burned down dozens of homes (180 according to an OLA-OLF Press Release)<sup>53</sup> and looted hundreds of livestock.

The attack, according to the research by W2, reporting to OSG on 4 and 20 March, was by two cooperating elements of Fano Amhara militia; the clandestine ‘Government Fano’ which is financed and supported by the Prosperity Party, and Fano militia operating out of Amhara Region.

The OLA-OLF report only included three killings but social media posts after the event show many more bodies lying in the mud along a thoroughfare before and during their removal for burial (W1, W2 and E1).<sup>54</sup>

Informants W1 and W2 sent the images below, mostly in life, of some of those killed, of whom only the first three were named by W1 (from left to right) as **Negash Akema**, **Yared Alemayo** and **Asseba Nemonsa**, and were from ‘Charu.’ The others, forwarded by W2 on 4 March, were not named. The original post stated they were from Arada Koticha.



W2 identified many of the victims after contacting survivors. The following are the images and descriptions which he obtained.

<sup>53</sup> <https://qbo-abo-wbo.org/2026/03/10/the-cycle-of-violence-in-horro-guduru-and-east-wollega-zones-of-romia-olf-ola-press-release/?amp=1>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18U6otXkqL/> no longer available; <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CeCew5qs4/> shows images in life of some of those killed; <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Asc3DoNjw/> is a 76 second video showing the recovery of bodies.



Three-year old **Falmata Nuraa** and his guardian **Abdurazaak Hassan** are shown left. Falmata’s mother was looking after her two other young children and entrusted his care to her neighbour and relative, Abdurazaak, who was attempting to protect the infant when they were both killed.



**Shitiyee Balaay Itichaa** (left), was a farmer and the father of 7 children.



**Juwar Mohamed** (right), had sent his family (two wives and 18 children) ahead, and was following with his livestock, when he was killed and his animals taken.



The body in the foreground left is **Abdusalaam Aadam**. The other is not named. Abdusalaam was the father of 11 children. His family is now ‘experiencing significant social and economic difficulties.’



**Midheeksaa Moojoo** (right), a wealthy man, fled after his house was burned down but ‘they chased and killed him.’



**Aliyi Tashbaa** (left) was the father of two young children. After he was killed, the Fano militants cut off one of his hands and placed it on his chest before leaving.



**Abraham Hasan** (above right) was 70 years old and unable to run. He was killed while hiding in his house.

**Ahmed Mohamed** (foreground of two bodies shown right) was a farmer and much-loved community member who was killed after helping others escape from his village.



**Yusuuf Mohamed** (left) was the father of seven children. He and his wife were killed by Fano on separate days, leaving their children orphans.

The killing of **Jemaal Faaraa**, shown right, was particularly horrific. W2 wrote that he was hung with a rope and then cut down while still alive, when both eyes were gouged out. He was then made to stand by a tree and killed by being stabbed with a spear from behind. A local Amhara man was identified as his killer. ‘They called and told their friends what they had done.’



**Sheik Abdulkaadir Mohamad** (left) was a greatly loved local religious leader who served as an elder and persistently called for peace and the cessation of fighting. ‘For this reason, the government does not like him.’



**Hasan Bakar** (right) was described as a family man with a lot of responsibility.



**Hayat Irgixe** (left) had six children. ‘She was killed while trying to escape and was found on the road.’

**Biinee Ahimed** (right) was a father of four.



**Muuzaamil Abraham** (left) had two wives and 17 children. ‘His family has been scattered without a father.’

Husband and wife **Mohamed Ibrahim** and **Kadiidaa Husseen** (right) hid inside their house because she was pregnant. The Fano militants ‘climbed on top of her and assaulted her in front of her husband, and in the end, they laid her



down and shot her to death. The people who killed this family reported what they had done to their own family by phone. Such an act was a source of pride for them.’



The last body identified by W2 was **Amaansisaa Balaay**, ‘father of a family’ (shown left).

The young woman and the man whose bodies are pictured right were among the first images sent to OSG. Their identity is not known.



Thus, although the number of victims of this massacre by Fano is not known, OSG has records of 22 who were named by informants W1 and W2, images of bodies of another two who were killed and photographs of victims while they were still living of another eight. It is possible to identify from the above images some of the bodies shown in videos posted on Facebook but it is unlikely that all of



the victims are accounted for. At least 32 killings are therefore confirmed and it is probable that more were killed. The estimates of fifty deaths by informants W1 and W2 are likely to be accurate.

Images from the aftermath of the massacre are copied below:



The Oromia Media Network published images of villagers displaced after the attacks, including that shown above right.<sup>55</sup> A video of destroyed homes was posted on Facebook and forwarded by W1 on 8 March.<sup>56</sup> It was reportedly filmed in Galessa, Abee Dongoroo district, and includes the following images.



<sup>55</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/share/1FD229WihV/>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/919416437620805>

## ‘Retaliatory’ attack by ‘Government Shane’

OLA-OLF published a Press Release on 10 March condemning the attack in Abee Dongoroo in the first few days of March. They also condemned the destruction of an Amhara community of 200 homes in Arusee kebele in the same district on 6 March. This was carried out by government forces masquerading as ‘Shane’ (OLA), led by ‘Jaal Mosissa’ and reinforced by government Oromia Region Special Forces.<sup>57</sup>

The Prosperity Party forces which pretend to be Fano and those which pretend to be OLA are blatantly pitting Amhara against Oromo and Oromo against Amhara, especially in Horo Guduru and East Wallega zones.

### More ‘Fano’ atrocities

ONM reported that a heavily-pregnant Oromo woman, Fantaye Soresso, after fleeing from ‘Fano’ in Wallaggee in Amuru district, Horo Guduru, was forced to hide in the forest where she gave birth, delivering her baby without assistance ‘having lost respect even among wild animals’ on 7 March. ONM wrote that Oromo residents of Jaawwi Dacheema in Amuru district had been attacked by militants crossing over the Mormor river, killing people and destroying property for several years, without any protection given by government forces.

Amhara militants who self-identified as ‘Fano’ opened fire on Goro Xiyyaaraa village, Lugo town, Guto Gida district, East Wallega, at night on 7 March, killing a man named **Alamudin** and wounding six others, including a husband and wife. They destroyed 18 homes and all the property therein (ONM).

In the same report, ONM wrote that people from villages of ‘Qubata 1st, Qubata 2nd, Maayittii, and Gaaddisa Odaa’ were fleeing to the towns of Ukkee and Nekemte and that homes in Limmu Galila district were being destroyed by ‘Fano.’

Two young men were wounded by ‘Fano’ in Jardega Jarte district, Horo Guduru, a few days before the report by W1 on 15 March. Taresa Ararso (near right) and teacher Abdi Fikadu (far right) were recovering in hospital.



A motorcycle driver named **Mahammad** was killed with a knife and his body set on fire by Amhara militants who self-identified as ‘Fano’ on 26 March in Angar Alaltu, Guto Gida district, East Wallega. ONM wrote that a farmer in the village, Dirriba Gadaa, was shot in the leg in the same attack, as property was looted and burned. Government forces in the area claimed to be unable to intervene and advised residents to flee. Villagers from Angar Alaltu and neighbouring villages were reported to have been displaced to the towns of Ukkee and Horo Alaltu.

Large numbers of Amhara militants moved into Angar Alaltu village on 7 April (ONM).

On 1 April, ‘Fano’ also burned and looted Arjo village, in the same district of Guto Gida, destroying the homes and property of Shobbaa Milkeessaa and Faqqadaa Milkeessaa (ONM).

In the first week of April, more killings by ‘Fano’ were reported from Abee Dongoroo district, Horo Guduru. In Caruu village, farmers **Mohammad Jawad, Anwar Mohammad,**

<sup>57</sup> <https://qbo-abo-wbo.org/2026/03/10/the-cycle-of-violence-in-horro-guduru-and-east-wollega-zones-of-romia-olf-ola-press-release/?amp=1>

**Mammad Tafa**, and **two others** who were not named in the ONM report were shot dead by ‘spraying them with bullets’ and their bodies left in the open.

### Release of ‘Fano’ prisoners

On 4 April, 77 members of ‘Fano’ who had been held in custody in Abebe Dongoroo district were released under the orders of the newly-appointed district administrator, named Jabeessaa according to ONM. The district administrator who had organised their detention, named Katama, was removed from his post by the zonal administrator of Horo Guduru, Mirreessaa Fiixee.

ONM reported that zonal administrator Mirreessaa Fiixee, district administrator Jabeessaa, district police inspector Habtaamuu Waaqshuum and district Prosperity Party head Balaay Taaddasaa were, alongside ‘Fano,’ responsible for the harm caused to the people of Abebe Dongoroo district and Horo Guduru zone.

### Abuses by official government security forces

#### Killings

The killing by government security forces of **Dagim Emiru** (shown right) in Nekemte city on 7 January 2020 has not previously been reported by OSG. Informant F1 wrote that he was unrelated to any political or armed group and was a completely innocent civilian.



W1 reported that father of three **Gemechis** (father’s name no known) a resident of 03 kebele in Nekemte city, East Wallega, was killed by government security forces on or just before Thursday 5 March.



On 8 March, teacher **Desalegn Genati** was killed by government forces in his home in Qaqaro village, Gida Ayana district, East Wallega. His picture and funeral procession are shown left (W1).

Two villagers in Kooticha Manoollee, Ababo Guduru district, Horo Guduru, were killed by security forces on 27 March (ONM). **Mizganuu Gulaalaa** was shot dead after a fruitless search for weapons in his house. When **Geexee Kiisii** was ordered to give the soldiers her pregnant cow because ‘her husband was in the forest’ she refused. She was shot in the stomach and killed.

At a location called Imbatuu in Wayyu Saqaa kebele, Jimma Arjo district, East Wollega, a respectable young man with no political affiliation named **Gammachuu Dheeressaa** was shot dead by government soldiers on 30 March. His family was prevented from taking his body (ONM).

**Guutee Margaa**, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade school student was stopped in Sombo Kumi, Jardega Jarte district, Horo Guduru, on his way to school and shot dead by security forces who arbitrarily accused him of supporting OLA (ONM).

**Soorii Qana’ii**, in Jimma Ganati district, Horo Guduru, died by suicide on 17 April after being severely beaten by government forces and being unable to afford medical help (ONM).

Mother of four, **Arare Bekele**, a resident of Shambu city, was reported by W1 on 3 May to have been killed by security forces when they came to her home to arrest her husband, who was not at home. Her children are without support. Pictured right are three of her children with her husband. Arare is shown far right.



### Disappearances

Habtee Tashoomee, a young man from Gudina Abuna village, Horo Bulluq district, Horo Guduru, was badly beaten and abducted by security forces on 19 March and accused of having links to OLA. He was made to disappear in detention and his location remained unknown when ONM reported his disappearance four days later. It is likely therefore that he has been killed.

Three high-achieving students, including Anesso Mohammed and Suuni Abdalla, were abducted by security forces from their village of Baloo Bareeda in Sasiga district, East Wallega on 14 April. Enquiries by their families at the district police station and military camp were in vain. Their location remained unknown when ONM reported their disappearance on 19 April.

### Drone attacks

There were at least two drone strikes against civilian areas in Horo Guduru and East Wallega on 31 March and 16 April. The first was when ordnance was dropped on Goodaa Gafarsaa in the Tullu-Gaanaa town administration in Abee Dongoroo district, Horo Guduru, which the government claimed was aimed at Fano militants, according to ONM. Only Oromo properties were destroyed and Fano forces were not present in the area at the time of the attack.

The 16 April assault left buildings destroyed and livestock killed in Dirre Guddaa, Gida Ayana district, East Wallega. W1 reported that four residents were killed but this was not confirmed in ONM reports, although four were severely injured and taken to Gida hospital. Destroyed buildings and dead sheep are shown in the images sent by W1, below.

As well as homes, grain storage buildings were destroyed. ONM reported that another drone attack was launched against the town of Qelloo in Ebantu district of East Wallega on the same day, but no details were given.



Heavy weapons were fired on Ukkee town, Guto Gida District, East Wallega, on 28 April, causing residents to flee their homes (ONM).

### **Injury by shooting**

Gabayo Gobana was shot and badly wounded by government security forces in Loomica village, Abee Dongoroo district, Horo Guduru, on 4 May (ONM).

### **Detention**

Many have been detained in the zones of Horo Guduru and East Wallega. In the short period between 10 March and 16 April, the following incidents were reported by ONM:

An innocent teenage girl, Caaltuu Waaqumaa, was taken from her village of Giimaa Jokkee, Jaarte district, Horo Guduru, on or just before 10 March, detained at the kebele office and mistreated, accused of having links to OLA (ONM).

Mamo Gizahun, a farmer from Gambeela Tarree village, Gobu Sayo district, East Wallega, was so badly beaten when he was arrested by government soldiers on 20 March that he was unable to walk. He was accused of having links to OLA and detained without receiving medical attention for his injuries (ONM).

An elder, 70 year old Firrisaa Waakkennee from Banqoo in Waamaa Lalisaa kebele, Nunu Qumba district, East Wallega, was severely beaten on 26 March and taken to the kebele office where he was detained and again mistreated.

Teachers Jireenyaa Kabbadaa and 'Caalaa' were taken from Haro Lago Secondary School in Jardega Jarte district, Horo Guduru, four months before ONM reported their detention on 31 March. They are reportedly being mistreated in detention and have neither been charged nor appeared in court.

Similarly, Nagaasaa Dhugaasaa, Darajjee Olumaa and Habtaamuu Tasammaa had been held in Finca'a 02 kebele Police Station, Abay Coma district, Horo Guduru, for four months before the ONM report on 3 April 'without a single question.' They have also been mistreated and are among many detained.

In the first week of April, Umar Iddosa, was reported among those detained and mistreated at Angar Gute Police Station, Gida Ayana district, East Wallega.

At least ten villagers from Caffee Jaalallee, Sibu Sire district, East Wallega, were detained on 2 April and severely mistreated in the village office, including Abiree Taaddasee, Tuullaa Carraaqaa, Waaqgaarii Sambattoo, Abdiisaa Sambattoo, Cimdeessaa Qalbeessaa, and Lammaa Qalbeessaa.

Maammushee Ahimad Taha, father of five from Digga town, Digga district, East Wallega, was chased and 'shot like an animal' when travelling to a nearby village on 7 April. Despite his injuries he was detained without any medical attention. He was reported to be critically ill. His concerned family were threatened and intimidated when attempting to visit him at the town police station. He had been detained previously and large sums of money taken from him because he was suspected of supporting OLA (ONM).

On 15 April, ONM reported that residents of Reef Guddanne kebele, Coomman Guduru district, Horo Guduru, had been detained and mistreated in the district Police Station in Gabate town for over two weeks, including Abdiisaa Abbasuu, Geetaachoo Iddoosaa, Mirreessaa Fiixee, and Biqilaa Lachiisaa.

Residents of Jaarraa and Shumboo villages in the adjacent district of Jimmaa Raaree were also taken to Gabate town Police Station on 14 April, including Asheetuu Alamu, Mirreessaa Baqqalaa, Balaynesh Fiixee and Lammii Darajjee.

Other arrests were reported from Sasiga district, East Wallega, on 21 April; Nekemte city and Shambu town on 22 April and again on 24 April; Guto Gida district, East Wallega, on 27 April, Horo Bulluq district, Horo Guduru, on 27 April; Harato town, Jimma Ganati district, Horo Guduru, on 29 April; and Abay Coman district, Horo Guduru, on 30 April.

W1 reported on 20 May that three farmers (pictured right) from Butuji Qasso village, Wama Hagalo district, East Wallega, had been detained on suspicion of having links with OLA. He was unable to give their names.



### **Beating, looting, burning and demolition**

Attacks over large swathes of Horo Guduru and East Wallega, including beatings, burning and destruction of homes and crops, looting and demolition ‘for development’ have displaced unknown numbers of Oromo. Only a few of the incidents, recorded by ONM in March and April, are included below.

In Nekemte city, East Wallega, soldiers went from house to house in the Safara Qassoo area, beating and threatening residents at gunpoint on 7 March, merely to intimidate them.

On 9 March, when ENDF soldiers beat and detained Gammachuu Firrisaa and Baabunee Caalii in Waamaa Lalisaa village, Nunu Qumbi district, East Wallega (where they beat and detained 70 year old Firrisaa Waakkennee two weeks later – see above), they burned down their homes and destroyed all their property, falsely accusing them of supporting OLA.

The same excuse was used when government forces destroyed properties in Gitiloo, in Odaa Bulluq kebele, Horo Bulluq district, Horo Guduru on 27 March, including those belonging to Darajjee Koraa, his mother, and Ms Shaashituu Dheeressaa.

Homes in Bila town, Gudaya Bila district, East Wallega, meanwhile, were reported on 3 April to have been bulldozed for ‘urban beautification’ leaving long-term residents homeless and in need of assistance. Instead of compensation, they have been subjected to threats and harassment.

Displacement of villagers in KIRAMU district, East Wallega, on 1 April was marked with widespread looting and theft. Heavily armed forces, ostensibly searching for OLA, using mortars, Dishka machine guns and other heavy weapons, forced residents of Godanee in Caffee Sooromaa kebele to flee to the forest. Their empty properties were then looted. Among many residents who were robbed, 10,800 birr was stolen from Addunyaa Toleeraa. One woman, Buukee Hundarraa, had not returned to her home five days later when ONM reported the attack. Harvesting and transporting crops to market was interrupted.

Kabbadee Ulfaataa, in Kaloo Gurraacha village, Jimma Raaree district, Horo Guduru, was badly beaten and his property looted in the first week of April because he had refused to undergo training for the local government militia. His three horses and 13 quintals of grain were taken to the military camp.

The only livestock belonging to Bashaatuu Boyyosaa, two bulls and a cow, were taken from her at gunpoint in Shamakkar village, Ababo Guduru district, Horo Guduru, on 6 April, under the pretext of her husband being a member of the ‘Qeerroo Liberation Youth.’

In retaliation for OLA activity in the area, crops in the Luboo Association fields in Gaari, Guto Gida district, East Wallega, and a church fence belonging to the Mekane Yesus Luboo congregation were destroyed on 5 April. Government forces burned coffee, khat, barley and other crops belonging to many farmers including Addunya Abdisa, Haayilee Iddoosaa, Habtaamuu Fiqaaduu, Eebbisaa Obsaa, Mrs. Amanee Kamisoo, Gaarii Iddoosaaa, and Waaqgaarii Obsaa.

Two cows were seized and slaughtered in Nafiro village, Amuru district, Horo Guduru, on 29 April after their owner was accused of having a son in OLA. Burning of homes by ENDF was later reported by ONM in Ashaya Dale, Horo district, Horo Guduru, on 14 May.

### **Land theft**

Farmland which has been tended by generations of Oromo farmers is being sold off by government profiteers for private benefit, to the detriment of the traditional owners and the national economy.

ONM reported that in areas of Ababo Guduru district, Horo Guduru, such as Mootii Qaawoo, Sadii Waliixii, Caalaa Booqaa, and Reeffa Qotannee, farmland was taken from its owners by government agents on 22 March and sold for profit. The farmers have been added to the number of displaced persons in Horo Guduru zone.

### **Extortion and corruption**

Extortion of money from the increasingly impoverished population continues in the region. A few examples from ONM reports between 29 March and 15 April are given below.

Residents of kebele 05 in Nekemte city, East Wallega, were reportedly each forced to hand over 500-1,000 birr to support local militia on 29 March.

Those living in Jimma Raaree district of Horo Guduru were reported on 2 April to have been forced to pay large amounts to avoid their youngsters being forcibly conscripted into the ENDF. Even relatively wealthy residents were made poor when made to pay up to 100,000 birr. Those unable to pay were forced to hand over their young men and women at gunpoint (see Conscription, below).

Government employees in Jimma Ganati district of Horo Guduru have been threatened with dismissal if they do not sign away half of their meagre salary to support local militia, according to a report on 4 April. Out of 81 employees in the agricultural sector, more than 42 had so far been forced to comply. Over 70 employed in the health office and more than 20 in the trade office had been reluctant signatories, agreeing at gunpoint to accept salary cuts of 50%, leaving them with less than subsistence levels of income.

The extortion of money under the premise of improving the water supply in Galila town in Limmu district of East Wallega was used by party officials to enrich themselves. ONM reported on 15 April that the water there was still unfit to drink, even by livestock, despite the allocation of millions of birr by the regional government, because it had been embezzled by party officials. A water storage facility in Galila is being used as a military camp and instead of piped water being available in the town, residents are forced to travel long distances into rural areas to obtain clean water. In the town, water is available only once per week. It smells rank and causes stomach upsets.

### **Forced conscription**

Within barely four weeks from 10 March to 11 April, OSG received 11 reports of forced conscription in Horo Guduru and East Wallega zones from ONM (ten reports) and W1 (one report).

The first report was of youths being taken to training camps from villages in Sasiga district, East Wallega, from 5 March onwards. In Angar town and in many villages in the district, including Odaa Guddina and Tsigee, youngsters were taken wherever they gathered in public – in markets, places of worship and elsewhere, including funeral gatherings and houses of mourning. People are fearful of attending weddings and funerals because of the risk of being rounded up. At a Saturday market in Angar at the beginning of March, over 250 were taken away in three large trucks.

Under-age children, the sick and the elderly are among those forcibly conscripted.

W1 reported on 21 March that Abuye Soressa, Getu Wakjira, Mulgeta Sori, Anuma Jiru and many others had been taken as forced conscripts from Sibu Sire district, East Wallega and from Alem Gena, a town southwest of Finfinnee in the Oromia Special zone around the capital.

Among more than 60 taken on 27 March for military training from the villages of Mukarbaa Diimaa and Sapheeraa, Limmu district, East Wallega, were Qannoo Dabaloo, Lammii Abarraa, Garramoo Dhufeeraa, Galataa Jabeessaa, and Tashoomee Fufaa. They were taken from their homes and farms, leaving their families without support.

Residents from several districts in Horo Guduru zone were reported on 30 March to have been taken for training to ‘China’ military camp, between Adileqa Tullu Caalii and Caaro Goobanoo in Jimma Ganati district. In the ‘first round’ over 2,500 were taken to the camp and in the ‘second round’ over 1,140 received a mere two weeks training before being deployed to unknown locations. In a ‘third round’ ‘civilians of all ages and genders’ were detained in ‘China’ camp for training.

At least 30 have been wounded or become seriously ill, but were denied treatment, including Habtamu Malataa and Jabessaa Kitil.

‘Third round’ conscription for compulsory training on 28 March was also reported from areas of Horo Guduru called Adileqa Tullu Caalii, Hundee Haratoo, and Caaro Goobanaa by ONM, including, among many others, three men named Gaddafaa Fiqaaduu, Garramaa Ruudaaf and Abdisaa Qulumsaa.

Elders, aged between 60 and 80 years old, were among those taken from Babal’aa in Jimma Raaree district, Horo Guduru, on 31 March, including Jabeessaa Fidaa, Olaanaa Akkawaaq, Dhugaasaa Guutuu, Kabbitaa Gaaddisaa and many others. ONM wrote that these elderly men were too weak to undergo training.

Aabbuu Abdiisaa, a farmer in Suute Gutama village, Jardega district, Horo Guduru, was shot and injured and taken to hospital because he refused to leave his farm to be taken for training on 31 March. More than 20 others were taken from his village included Bayyanaa Dibaabaa, Caalee Fiqaaduu, Namee Abboomaa, Bokkee Toleeraa, and Taarikuu Fayyisaa.

In the first week of April, a large number of farmers were taken for militia training from Gammanee village, Sasiga district, East Wallega. Among them were breadwinners and heads of households including Abrahaam Waaqtolee, Guddataa Hirphaa, Masfinee Alamayyoo, Tasfaayee Bokoree, and Gammachuu Tamasgeen. They were taken to a camp near Ukkee town, Guto Gida district.

At least five residents of Gaaddisa Odaa village, Guto Gida district, including Fandishee Hamaa and Ibsaa Laalee, were taken to the same camp on 31 March.

Individuals taken for involuntary conscription from Jimma Ganati district, Horo Guduru, on 2 April included Abduljabbaar Imaamuu and Mulunaa Gabayyoo from 01 kebele, Harato town,

Bulchaa Jambaree from Daamuu Geemboo, Bokoree Mitikkuu from Adileqa Tullu Caalii and Waaqoo Hambee from Caaroo Goobanoo.

In the first week of April, many unwilling conscripts for militia training, including Badhaasaa Nagawoo and Dhibbaa Garoo, were taken to a camp near the village of Arattanyaa Timbaa’o, under the Horo Alaltu town administration in Guto Gida district, East Wallega. They were described as being heads of families and of an ‘unsuitable age’ for military training.

ONM concluded on 11 April that over 5,000 civilians had been rounded up from villages in Jimma Ganati district, Horo Guduru, during the ‘third round’ of forced conscription and were being trained in the camp in Harato town (in addition to the 3,640 in the first two rounds – see above). Many were subjected to beatings and abuse because they were ‘physically weak and suspected of conspiracy.’ Among the sick and injured were named Darasa Ayana, Jireenya Chomman, Tame Abdisaa, and Barasa Hundee.

Further reports of forced conscription were received from ONM at the end of May. These included youngsters, including three named by ONM, from Gosani Kilo village, Wama Hagalo district, East Wallega, on 4 May.

### **Water shortage in Nekemte**

Residents of Nekemte city in East Wallega, according to a report from ONM at the end of February, were short of clean water for drinking and washing. Party officials claimed this was due to the city’s expansion and disruption of pipelines during construction for ‘corridor development.’

Residents are being forced to buy water for drinking and use water transported from rural areas by horse carts for washing. Those living in kebele 04 of the city reported that they only have access to piped water for one night in every week, sometimes only once a fortnight.

Taxes and levies imposed on the civilian population to improve the water supply have been embezzled by party functionaries. The health of the city’s residents has been affected.

## **Qellem and West Wallega, Illubabor, Buno Bedele, Jimma**

### **Killings**

Details of killings in 2023, 2024 and 2025 were sent by W2 in May. The following incidents have not previously been recorded by OSG.

Teacher **Nigaatuu Abbabaa** (pictured right) from Mana Sibuu district, West Wallega, was killed when on his way to teach at Mandi Qilxujaalee school on the morning of 16 (possibly 26) September 2023. He was killed ‘by a person named Duulaa.’



**Abbaas Ahmad** (shown left), from Dargee Toobbaraa village, Mana Sibuu district, West Wallega, had been taken to Mandi hospital in East Wallega. He went out of the hospital to buy food when he was captured by government security forces and shot dead ‘on July 18, 2024, at around 6:00 p.m.’

**Adam Yaasin** (pictured right) was also killed in 2024 but details of the incident are still being sought.



OSG Report 69 (p.28) carried a report that Yohanis Bokona Terefa was killed in ‘Nimai, Leta district’, West Wallega,

on 6 February 2025. W2 wrote with further information about the killing. His name was **Yohanis Mokonnen Terefa** and his village was Giittan Sombo Sadan, Lata Sibiu district. The father of five was taken from his house and shot dead. His wife was killed by government forces two years previously.

On 27 December 2025, **Guutamaa Abdii Teessoo** (shown right), a school student living in Gori town, Lata Sibiu district, West Wallega, was shot dead by ENDF troops while on his way to school, carrying his school bag, and left at the side of the road.



Informant F1 wrote to OSG about the killing of 25-year-old **Boka Emiru** (pictured left) in Hatosi Siben village, Lalo Asebi district, West Wallega, on 29 January 2026.

He was an unarmed civilian with no political leanings but was shot dead when ENDF soldiers were going from house to house in his village, seeking out OLA supporters.

He merely asked the soldiers not to attack his parents, but was, on this basis, accused of having links to OLA and summarily executed.

W2 wrote of the killing of **Huseen Jemaal** (pictured below left), a young man in Qumbi village, Sokoru district, Jimma zone, on 1 March. He was killed in the forest and his body was not found until five days later.



ONM informed OSG that **Warqinaa Haayilee**, a young man living in Toongoo village, Begi district, West Wallega, was shot dead in the early hours of 4 March when attending to his family farm and opening up an irrigation ditch. Government militia murdered him and left his body where he fell. He was falsely accused by collaborators with the regime of having links to OLA.

**Etana Waaqee** (shown in life and death right) was aged 18 and working on his family farm in Horee village, West Wallega, when he was killed by government forces on 5 March (W1).



**Tolera Tesfaye**, a young man from Kaji in Bodji Cokorsa district, West Wallega, was killed by government security forces on 8 March (W1).

W1 reported that **Bulti Tolesa**, a resident of Bodji Dirmaji district, West Wallega, was killed by government militia in the morning of 19 March.

A wave of killings, detention, looting and intimidation by government security forces in West Wallega was reported by ONM on 28 March. Killings and detention were reported particularly in the districts of Babo Gambel and Bodji Dirmaji, where the security situation was described as ‘extremely alarming.’ Looting and robbery of public and private property during house searches was problematic, especially in Lata Sibiu and Qiltu Kara districts. Widespread detention of young men and women and severe intimidation were reported from Lata Sibiu and Nejo districts.



Two grade 9 school students were fired upon by government security forces in Dambalii, in Sombou Sadan Giitan kebele, Lata Sibuu district on 28 March, according to ONM and informant W1. **Dannoo Abbayyaa Biranu** (shown left) was killed. Samuel Baca Qixxessaa was badly injured and taken to Lata Sibuu hospital, according to W1 [ONM reported that he had been killed].

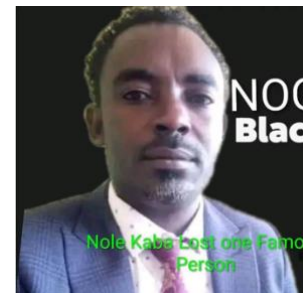
**Qabbannaa Xaafaa**, an innocent young man from Ganqa Ecoo, Gawo Qebe district, Qellem Wallega, was briefly detained on 31 March, falsely accused of being a supporter of OLA, and then summarily executed in front of his family home (ONM).

Government soldiers masquerading as OLA were reported by ONM on 3 April to have killed youngsters in Abuna Gali, Darimu district, Illubabor, including **Sayidoo Zarihuun, Abdo Awwalee, Abbushaa Dirribaa, Kadiroo Dirribaa** (presumably brothers) and a young man named **Zubeer**.

On 4 April, **Guddinaa Abdiisaa**, a farmer and father of two from Qacaa, Deentaa Billee kebele, Sadi Canqa district, Qellem Wallega, was taken into the nearby forest and ordered to show ENDF troops where OLA fighters were located. When he explained that he had no relationship with OLA and did not know where they were camped, the government soldiers shot him dead (ONM).

ONM reported that a young man named **Indiris Abdata** from Lalisa Birbir village was held and mistreated in the district police station in Aira, West Wallega, for six months before being handed over by the police to federal soldiers who then beat him to death on 5 April.

On 8 April, ENDF soldiers fired upon the community in Xaaxessaa in Malkaa Eebichaa kebele, Babo Gambel district, West Wallega, killing a farmer named **Aammaddiin**. They took away another resident, Olaanii Qaabataa, according to the ONM report two days later.



**Shuma Umata** (pictured right), a respected teacher in Nole Kaba district, West Wallega, was shot dead while walking to his school one early morning on or just before 14 April (W1).

An unnamed Oromo **member of the ENDF** in the military camp in Mandi town (kebele 01), Mana Sibuu district, West Wallega, had been repeatedly imprisoned within the camp for protesting about the treatment of Oromo civilians before taking his own life on 14 April (ONM).

**Hailu Hintoo**, an elderly man, was shot dead by government forces inside his home in Qondala district, West Wallega, on 17 April (ONM).

ONM reported that **two young girls** were raped and killed by ENDF soldiers in the Usoo area of Algee Sacchi district of Illubabor on 18 April.

A village manager named **Yosef Abdissa** was killed by government security forces in Sadi Canqa district, Qellem Wallega, on 22 April (ONM).

**Wakene Zaru** was shot dead by ENDF in front of his family in Dale Wabara district, Qellem Wallega, on 27 April (ONM).

A police officer named **Hariro** was accused of collaborating with OLA and shot dead by an army commander in Harawe, Mandi city, West Wallega, on 27 April (ONM).

**Awwal Kadir** was accused of supporting OLA and shot dead by ENDF soldiers in front of his mother in his family home in Abbaa Duulaa town, Yaanfaa District, Buno Bedele zone, around 27 April (ONM).

On 30 April, **Samu’el Shamo** was shot dead in front of his family and community in Lalisa Ganji village, Ganji district, West Wallega. Another youth, Samu’el Asafa, was taken and detained (ONM).



On 1 May, 60 year old **Shifara Tasamma** was killed by government forces inside his home during a search for OLA members in Badeso Kasho village, Dale Sadi district, Qellem Wallega (ONM).

W1 reported that **Dr Nurela Ahmed** (pictured left) was taken from his home in Mandi city on 2 May and killed by government security forces.

On 4 May, three civilians in Aira district, West Wallega, were killed by government security forces. They were named by W1 as **Mangistu Roba**, **Ayane Kabata** and **Malase Kabata** (presumably brothers).

**Yonas** (father’s name not recorded) from Qarka village, Dabo Hana district, Buno Bedele, was killed by ENDF on 5 May, and his body thrown in the Dhidheessa river (ONM).

Also on 5 May, **Mitiku Qajela** and **Nasiralla Hussein** were killed by government soldiers in Mana Sibu district, West Wallega (ONM).

ONM wrote that **Amee Abarra** was shot dead by ENDF in Gaba Robi village, Nole Kaba district, West Wallega, on 6 May.

**Mume Abdi Musa** from Yatti village, Anfilo district, Qellem Wallega, was killed by government forces on 7 May. Also on 7 May, **Gamachis Fiqiru**, said to have been mentally ill, was first shot in the leg and then executed by four ENDF soldiers in Figa town, Bodji Cokorsa district, West Wallega (ONM).

Local government officials and militia members opened fire on farmers in Begi district, West Wallega, on 14 May, killing **Kalid Harun Gorba** and wounding two others (ONM).

Also on 14 May, a disabled woodcutter named **Bashir Adam** was shot dead by government soldiers at his work place (ONM).

The young boy shown right, named **Nasir Chandu** by W1, was taken from his home in Begi district, West Wallega, around 13 May and executed on 18 May.

**Sadiq Beexaroo**, in his early twenties, was shot and killed by ‘Prosperity Party’ forces in Qondala district, West Wallega, on 21 May (ONM).

Four wedding guests celebrating in Andoodee, Shimel Toke kebele, Babo Gambel district, were killed by government security forces on 24 May. The young men who were killed were:

**Molatu Teshome**

**Sulxaan Fekeda**

**Shafi Lammessaa** and

**Qaasim Mikaa'el**

Three others were injured and taken to Nejo hospital (W1 and ONM).



On 10 June, Engineer **Ibsa Dawit** (shown right) from Dembi Dollo city, Qellem, was accused of being a logistics officer for OLA and executed by ENDF (W1).



### **Abduction and rape of young women**

Eight girls were reported by ONM to have been abducted at gunpoint from Guutee village, Darimu district, Illubabor on 4 April. Their relatives were unable to locate them in the five days before the ONM report on 9 April. They were named:

Dariif Kaadiree

Ajaayib Addaamuu

Ebbisee Geetaachoo

Muluu Zawudee

Ayyaantuu Shoraa

Daraartuu Takkaa

Ayyaantuu Tasammaa and

Makkaa Wandimmuu.

Two young women were taken from their homes in Haru district, West Wallega, on 16 April, bundled into a military vehicle and gang raped by 11 soldiers in Gaddii forest for seven hours before being detained in Haru military camp (ONM).

A 4<sup>th</sup> grade schoolgirl, named by ONM, was abducted from her home in Warqaa Waddessaa village, Gimbi district, West Wallega, on 20 April and taken to a military camp where she was forced to undergo marriage to a member of the ENDF (ONM).

Sexual violence by government soldiers was reported from Darimu district, Illubabor, on 20 May by ONM.

### **Detention, beating, corruption and looting**

There were too many reports of these abuses for them all to be published in detail. As well as several reports from individual informants, there were 20 reports from ONM primarily of episodes of detention, often including details of severe beatings, in the zones of southwest Oromia within a six week period from 10 March to 20 April. There were another six reports of detention among a selection of accounts sent by ONM to OSG in May.

The majority of reports were from West Wallega and Qellem Wallega. Abuses in the West Wallega districts of Begi, Sibu Sire and Guliso featured prominently, as did those in the Qellem Wallega districts of Gawo Qebe and Sayo. However, there were some reports from other districts: Bodji Cokorsa, Qiltu Kara, Qondala, Lalo Asebi and Ganji in West Wallega; from Dale Wabara, Jimma Horo and Yamalogi Walal in Qellem Wallega; from Darimu in Illubabor zone, and from Buno Bedele and Jimma zones.

Detention is in filthy, overcrowded cells without any hygiene or medical care for acquired diseases or for injuries from beatings, and is often *incommunicado*. Disappearance in detention is commonplace.

Given the propensity of security forces to extract detainees from police custody for summary execution and for detainees to be killed inside military camps, families' fears for disappeared detainees are justified.

Even detainees within the official custodial system may be untraceable when district authorities claim they are held in federal places of detention and federal authorities deny any knowledge of the detainees at all. Even high-profile prisoners, such as the OLF leaders who

were released in September 2024, spend weeks or months without their location being known to their families.

Civilians, businessmen, teachers, farmers and students, including 12<sup>th</sup> grade school pupils, are among those detained in recent reports. Beatings, intimidation and killings often accompany campaigns of widespread detention, as reported by ONM in Mako and Boracha districts of Buno Bedele zone on 24 April.

Many are detained ostensibly because they or their families are suspected of having links to OLA. For example, youngsters Caalii Biranu Fixe and Baharu Biranu from Chora Kanabo, Dabo Hanna district in Buno Bedele zone, were detained on 8 April ‘because their brothers joined OLA.’ Five residents of Begi town in West Wallega were detained on 2 April, falsely accused of sheltering OLA members in their homes.

But this is often a ruse in an attempt to prevent support for OLA developing or growing and to keep the population intimidated and compliant. For example, Shumana Amsalu, a farmer, and Dabalaa Hayilu, a young man, were both taken from Caffee Jaalallee village in Sibu Sire district, West Wallega, on 5 March.

Shumana was badly injured when beaten and disappeared in detention. Dabalaa was detained and reportedly tortured. Their neighbours told ONM that they had no political affiliation. ONM wrote that the abduction of three youths (Damee, Damee Daawwitii and Mika’el) from Dembi Dollo city on 22 May was done primarily ‘to intimidate families of activists.’

Membership of the government Prosperity Party is no protection. Five party members in Qiltu Kara town, West Wallega (Habtamu Imana, Asafa Bay’isa, Fayisa Gurmessa, Ali Mohammed and a young man named Mangistu Teesso) were reported on 31 March to have been detained, because they refused to be involved in the mistreatment of Oromo residents of the town.

Biranu, a member of the local government militia in Cooraa Kanaaboo, Dabo district, Buno Bedele zone, was taken to the district police station, where he was allegedly tortured, in April because his son was accused of belonging to OLA and he was suspected of passing information to him.

For local government cadres, detention is another income stream. In March, ONM reported that in kebele 01 in Guliso town, West Wallega, local cadres were arbitrarily imprisoning residents in order to extract money. Those unable to pay were beaten and returned to the cells.

There were later reports of detention, beatings and looting from residents in Darimu district, Illubabor, on 26 April; Dabo Hana district, Buno Bedele, on 27 April, Begi district, West Wallega, on 27 April; and Saqa Chokorsa district, Jimma (20 detained), on 27 and 28 April.

### **Corruption**

Corrupt businessmen with links to party cadres benefit from the lack of law and order. By bribing local officials they remove competition. The owner of a small business in Guliso town, West Wallega, was taken to Sanqallee detention centre in West Arsi, in the first half of April, because of this.

Corruption also extends into the jobs market. Youngsters in Bedele town in Buno Bedele zone who had graduated from higher education facilities reported to ONM that their attempts to create businesses and submit tenders for construction projects were being thwarted by corrupt officials demanding bribes ‘amounting to millions of birr.’ ONM named the head of the zone’s construction authority, Tarresa, as being responsible.

Similarly, the head of Illubabor construction authority, based in Mattu, named Ifa, has turned away civil engineers with 17 years of experience in favour of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have paid bribes.

### **Looting**

Examples of looting included taking cows from Aroji Hoboo farmers in Dale Wabara district, Qellem Wallega on 27 March; two from Asafa Tareessa, one from Adam Isaa. Security forces smashed the belongings of Nasir Abdallah and stole three quintals of coffee and two quintals of grain from him. They claimed the attack on the village was because residents had refused to join local government militia.

On 1 April, while ostensibly searching properties for OLA members in Guliti, Qondala district, West Wallega, ENDF members took cattle and two oxen from the village. Three cows were reported on 4 April to have been taken from Wandu Kabade in Wabeko village, Darimu district, Illubabor, on the same day his son Hamza was detained, accused of supporting OLA.

One example of intimidation combined with looting and extortion was the attack by security forces on Tariku Abdissa in Botoso village, Sayo district, Qellem Wallega, in the early hours of 3 April. He and his family were severely beaten after security forces broke into his house and stole his clothes, three pairs of shoes, his wife's mobile phone and all the food they had prepared. They accused him and his wife of preparing the food for OLA before consuming it themselves. The forces demanded 10,000 birr in exchange for not detaining Tariku, but released him after taking his new mobile phone.

Any perceived lack of compliance is used to justify abuse. The home of Nagara Jigi in Mura Wanki village, Lata Sibru district, West Wallega, was broken into in the second week of April and 45,000 birr was taken by government security forces. A relative of his by marriage had deserted from the local militia after being forcibly conscripted and Nagari was falsely accused of giving him shelter in his home.

Often, the motive is simple theft, as when Abdulsamad Hasan, a farmer in Gaba Sambata, Begi district, West Wallega, was beaten and robbed of his trade goods by local government militia on 21 April. Or taking goods can be a means of extorting money. When motorcycles belonging to Jaafar Jilo and Jabir Ahamad in Gawo Qebe district, Qellem Wallega, were taken by government soldiers on 9 May, the soldiers demanded 15,000 birr for the return of each of them.

### **Extortion**

There were several reported examples of extortion by Prosperity Party officials. These included residents of Calloo village in Bedele district, Buni Bedele, being ordered to pay 600 to 1,000 birr for digital ID cards at the beginning of March, and later that month residents of several villages in Hawa Galan district, Qellem Wallega, being ordered by security forces to pay 10,000 to 30,000 birr to feed local militia.

Villagers in Eegoo Girmoo, Begi district, West Wallega, were made to hand over 1,500 birr at the end of March because family members had refused to join local militia. In Bodji Cokorsa district, residents of Tullu Gurracha village were forced to pay 1,000-1,500 each for 'land tax' on 31 March and 1 April. Over 273 households in the village paid about 682,600 birr in total. More than 20 women were detained because their husbands were unable to pay the tax.

An innovative scheme to extort money was reported by ONM at the end of May, in that students in Jimma city were being coerced to pay 700 birr to sit exams.

## **Burning and displacement**

The burning of homes and crops belonging to individuals with family members suspected of belonging to OLA or who were suspected of supporting OLA in any way was reported from several districts in Buno Bedele, including Cawaqa district (Burqaa village) on 28 March, and from Haroji Hoboo village, Dale Wabara district, Qellem Wallega, on 8 April.

Around the beginning of March, farmers in Madda Jalala village, Dhidheessa district, Buno Bedele, were moved to Danaba in Boracha district of the same zone, without explanation. On 3 April, they reported to ONM that the climate, soil, food and water availability were unsuitable or lacking in Danaba and there were no basic services or places of worship. They expressed concern about possible conflict with other people who lived there.

The property of Abubaker Aliyi in Gawo Qebe district, Qellem Wallega, was burned down by ENDF soldiers on 23 April. His wife's arm was broken and livestock was robbed from another resident during the attack (ONM).

On 30 April, government forces cut down crops, including tea, coffee, bananas, mangoes etc. belonging to 400 families in Andode Alaga village, Saqa Coqorsa district, Jimma, 'causing severe hunger' (ONM).

On 14 May, when the home of Asmera Daniel in Guliso district, West Wallega, was burned down, his two sons, Dagaga and Lati, were removed to a large military camp in Jaarso Badesso. (W1).

## **Forced conscription**

The involuntary conscription of youth into the ENDF and of older civilians into local government militia has featured prominently in reports from W1 and ONM in the zones of southwest Oromia, especially Qellem and West Wallega. Within six weeks from early March, there were six reports of forced conscription from Qellem (including three from Gidami district alone), another five from West Wallega and one report from Jimma zone. However, these few reports are merely the tip of the iceberg in terms of the extent of forced conscription.

As in other zones, youngsters have been bundled into trucks from wherever there have been congregations of people and taken to military camps. This was reported by ONM to be happening 'every day' in Hawa Galan district, Qellem, at the beginning of March

Elsewhere, for example in Giraay Biishaa village, Gidami district, Qellem, youngsters and others were rounded up at gunpoint from their places of work and held at the kebele office before being taken away on 4 March.

Farmers, heads of dependent families, have been forced to undergo training for local militia, for example Alamu Danse, Wayesa Dago, Eba Etafa, and Duguma Hamba taken from Cisa Boro, Yubda district, and Molatu Fikiru and Jote Wayu from Mana Sibru district, West Wallega, on 17 May (W1). Father of four, Gaali Abbaa Diggaa, was taken by force from Meexi Fallee, Saqa Coqorsa district, Jimma, for militia training on 31 March (ONM).

Counterintuitively, families which are suspected of supporting OLA are targeted for conscription. When nine civilians were taken to a military training camp from Tajjoo Walal in Yamalugi Walal district, Qellem, on 15 April, they were accused of supporting OLA, during a process of conscription in the district described as more intense 'than ever before.'

Many youths were loaded into two Isuzu trucks after being rounded up in Sicha'o kebele, Gawo Qebe district, Qellem, on 17 April, including those 'with various illnesses,' and were severely beaten in the process.

Pleading unfitness for training does not help. When resident of Qellem town, Muslim Solomon, was taken on 16 April, his wife begged soldiers to release him because he was ill. In response, they beat her so severely that she was admitted to Qellem health centre.

Punishment for non-compliance is severe. Ebisa Hirpha escaped from militia training and working as a guard in a military camp but was pursued back to his home in Alaltu Gombi, Mana Sibu district, West Wallega. All his property was burned down and his livestock driven away on 7 April, when an attempt to kill him was foiled because he had fled.

### **Coercion into forced labour**

Residents of Meexi Fallee in Saqa Coqorsa district of Jimma had been displaced there after their own land had been seized. In early April, ONM reported that they had been abused and forced at gunpoint to abandon their own farm work. They were made to dig two hundred pits and fill them with soil in which to plant ‘Shaayee’ which is a plant from which plastic can be made. This reduced the availability of land for growing subsistence food items, adding to the burden of rising costs of living and extortionate taxes and levies.

### **Arsi and West Arsi**

As may be inferred by the size of this section of this report and Report 72,<sup>58</sup> the activity of government forces and therefore the number and extent of abuses committed in Arsi and West Arsi has increased dramatically in the last twelve months.

#### *Corrections*

OSG reported in Report 72 (p.24) that Umri Ciroo Kadir was killed in Soolee, Negele district, West Arsi, on 25 June 2025 before his body was partly eaten by hyenas. This was incorrect. Informant W2 corrected this account. The victim’s name was **Umar Cirroo Kadir** and he lived in Solee village, Shirka district, Arsi (not West Arsi).

He was killed by government forces on 25 June 2024, not 2025. Umar’s family was driven away by government security forces when they attempted to collect his body which was then thrown in the forest. When his body was later found, his lower torso and legs had been eaten by hyenas. OSG declined to publish a photograph of his remains.

Two reports of the killing of **Daraje Abishu** in February 2025 were included in Report 72. He was named as being killed in Gaddo Araba village, Martii district, Arsi, on 8 February 2025 (p.24), as well as being named as being killed in a village of the same name in Qarca district, Guji, on 5 February (p.47). One of these records is therefore incorrect.

### **‘Government Shane’ and ‘Government Fano’ forces in Arsi**

Following a well-worn pattern of abuse by Prosperity Party forces masquerading as OLA (‘Government Shane’) and Fano (‘Government Fano’) in western and northwestern zones of Oromia, these false flag forces have been active in Arsi in 2026.

As in North and West Showa, Horo Guduru, East and West Wallega, the function of these armed groups is to foment hatred between Amhara and Oromo people. Thus, the massacre of Orthodox Christians in Shirka district in February was perpetrated by ‘Government Shane’ and the attack on four young Oromo travelling to Aseko on 7 May (see below) was committed by ‘Government Fano.’

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<sup>58</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/OSG-Report-72-3-March-2026.pdf>

## Killings

‘Dozens’ – up to 30 – civilians were reported by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to have been killed in Arsi zone, according to its report on 4 March which was featured in *Addis Standard*.<sup>59</sup>

Killings and other abuses had escalated again in the region since October 2025, especially in the districts of Shirka, Guna, Merti, Aseko, and Onkolo Wabe. Homes had been destroyed and people displaced. Multiple attacks in Jawi kebele, Shirka district, and Geba kebele, Robe district, were reported in February 2026.



It is to be recalled that between 1 December 2025 and 2 February 2026, 30 men were summarily executed by government forces in Arsi zone (OSG Report 72, pp.27-28).

In a separate report, *Addis Standard* wrote of the **killing of 21** followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church by armed men in Shirka district in the last week of February (pictured above left).<sup>60</sup> At least ten homes were burned down in the violence.

In a Press Release condemning the killings, OLA alleged that those responsible for the killings were mercenaries organised by the government to disseminate hatred and hostility between Amhara and Oromo and between Christians and Muslims in Ethiopia.<sup>61</sup>

ONM reported on 10 March that a teacher, **Jamaal Muhammad Shuunfaa** (shown right), from Torban Uushoo village, Xiyoo (Tiyo) district, Arsi, was arrested in Bishoftu, East Showa, on 3 March, taken back to Xiyoo district, Arsi, and executed at 3.00 a.m. on 5 March at a place known as Gaara Xaaxessaa.



A video recording of two men being brutally kicked by militia or local police was sent by W2 on 11 March. The same recording was posted on Facebook and sent from a correspondent in Hargeisa, Somaliland on the same day.<sup>62</sup> The recording, lasting 90 seconds, shows two men, seated on cardboard sheets on the floor in a hut, being interrogated in *Afaan Oromoo* by three, possibly four, assailants.



It is difficult to see but they do not appear to be wearing uniforms. The furthest man is questioned about his whereabouts and if he has seen OLA in the area. He throws his skullcap out of the hut on the orders of one of the assailants. Near the end of the clip he is kicked on the

<sup>59</sup> [https://addisstandard.com/ethiopia-rights-commission-urges-urgent-federal-oromia-action-after-dozens-killed-in-renewed-attacks-in-oromia-region/#google\\_vignette](https://addisstandard.com/ethiopia-rights-commission-urges-urgent-federal-oromia-action-after-dozens-killed-in-renewed-attacks-in-oromia-region/#google_vignette)

<sup>60</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/news-religious-councils-ola-condemn-killing-of-civilians-in-east-arsi-call-for-swift-accountability/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://qbo-abo-wbo.org/2026/03/03/the-massacre-of-orthodox-christians-in-arsiof-ola-press-release/>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2039280326643543>

forehead and then kicked in the back from behind by another assailant. A second kick to the face and head from the first assailant knocks him back to the floor. At the end of the clip the man in the foreground is also kicked in the face. The white trainer on the left foot of the assailant is visible in the third image as he kicks the furthest man for the first time on his forehead,



The second kick from the first assailant knocks the elderly man back on the ground. The blurred middle lower image shows the man in the foreground being kicked in the head. The elderly man is pictured right, dead or dying, in a separate image sent by W2.

The incident occurred in Heellaa Xareeta village, Shirka district, Arsi, on 4 March.

W2 reported that both men were killed. The elderly man and first victim is named **Abbisee Kadir**. The person nearer to the camera is **Abdurahman Maamaa**, visiting from nearby Waajii Rapaasa village.

**Kaasahun Biraanuu Abarraa** was taken from his home in Dhimbiibbaa, in Daamuu Dhimbiibbaa kebele, Munessa district, on 6 March, and summarily executed by government soldiers next day. Neighbours reported that the loved and respected 26 year-old father of one, who had achieved grade 12 education, had no political involvement (ONM).

**Three civilians** from kebele 01, Jena town, Robe Dida'a district, Arsi, were taken from the district prison in Robe town on 9 March and shot dead 'in the middle of Robe town.' Their bodies were 'thrown out in the open.' ONM wrote that these three un-named men and Kaasahun Biraanuu Abarraa (see above entry) were killed by soldiers returning from engagement with OLA forces.

W1 reported that government security forces killed an unknown number of civilians in Robe Dida'a district, Arsi, on 26 March, including **Tahiro Hussein** (shown right), the father of several children.

Soldiers opened fire when they were evicting farmers from their land in Misra, in Garaadilloo kebele, Adaba district, West Arsi, on 27 March, killing a young man named **Bilaal Ibraahim**. Seven others were injured by bullets and another 15 were beaten severely during the clearance operation. They had merely asked where they were expected to go if they were evicted from their land. Soldiers had been present in the kebele for some time, preventing the farmers from tending to their land and ordering them to leave, before they were evicted and their homes were burned down (ONM). Displaced villagers in Adaba district were filmed fleeing such violence on that day (see Displacement, below).



Two teenage brothers, **Gandisoo Kulluu Abbaay** and **Galatoo Kulluu Abbaay**, aged 16 and 17, were shot dead on 28 March when government soldiers entered the village of Heeban Dhuubboo in Munessa district, Arsi. The soldiers asked for their names and killed them together at a location called Hongee in the village, claiming their brother was a member of OLA. Their bodies were thrown on the road. Seven other residents were arrested and taken to an unknown location. Many others were driven from their homes (ONM).

W1 and ONM reported on 28 April that three young farmers were killed in the Wariqa area of Indato kebele, Robe Dida'a district, Arsi, by government soldiers on 22 April. They are pictured right. Their names are:

**Abdulkhakim Adam Abdo**  
**Abdulfatah Bahmud Kadu**  
**Ubay Bahmud Muhammad**



ENDF soldiers killed three villagers in Angodache Hulla, Jaju district, Arsi, on 1 May. ONM named the victims:

**Jambo Hasan Utuyu**, aged 60  
**Abdulbasix Bajur Kabir-Hussein**, 20, and  
**Tamaam Jundi Maamad**

Their bodies 'were dumped.'



'Fano' militants attacked and robbed four young men travelling from Dhummuugaa town towards Aseko (Aseko district, Arsi) on 7 May.

**Sheek Finiin Aliyyi Mohammed** (shown left) was killed and his three friends, Jaaabir Shaddiin Yoonis, Magarsaa Ahimad Abdallaa and Abraahim Abdallaa Yoonis (a student at Madda Walabu University) were seriously injured. They were being treated at a hospital in Adama when the incident was reported by W2 on 11 May.

ONM wrote that on 10 May in Jaju district, Arsi, **Usman Kamalo Sheeka** was abducted and murdered, 70 year-old Baqala Gurmu was severely beaten and the home of his son, Gamada Baqala Gurmu, was 'firebombed.' In the same district on 19 May, 17 year-old **Jibril Kamaal H/Galati** was killed by ENDF soldiers while returning home from his farm.

### Detention and threats

On 6 March, many people from Ciree Aanolee village, Guna district, Arsi, including Rashiid Gannaa Haaji Kadir, were rounded up and detained, accused of having links to OLA. Many were beaten as their property was looted. Young men have been taken from their homes. Families with youngsters were gathered together and warned that if OLA came to their village and youngsters went with them, the soldiers would return and shoot remaining family members (ONM).

ONM wrote on 9 April that a father and son from Awash city, Shashemane district, West Arsi, named Daraaroo Guyyee and Boonsaa Guyyee, had been detained in the city police office and subjected to torture for over two years because they were suspected of having links to OLA. They have not been formally charged or appeared in court.

W1 wrote on 8 June that Buddha Dharraa, (shown right), a married woman from Negele, Arsi, had been detained in Negele prison for over one year, without being charged or appearing in court.



### Displacement

ONM reported on 11 March, that the home of Hassan Godaanaa Waaqoo, in Dhalata Caffaa, Asako district, Arsi, built of corrugated iron sheets, was destroyed by government forces, without warning and at gunpoint, leaving his family homeless.

At least 100 men, women and children were filmed fleeing from federal soldiers in Adaba district, West Arsi, on 27 March. OSG believes this was part of the same government



clearance operation in which Bilaal Ibrahim was killed and others wounded in Garaadilloo kebele (see above). At least three gunshots may be heard during one 80 second video clip which was posted on Facebook,<sup>63</sup> in which the recordist states that federal soldiers were responsible. W1 sent links to this recording and to another 43 second clip,<sup>64</sup> in which villagers are seen hurrying away, crying, wailing and calling to God ('Raabi'). Images from the two recordings are shown left and below.



ONM reported on 28 March that thousands of farmers' homes were destroyed and residents made homeless in the villages of Awasho Idola Burqa, Arabate Shumba, Buchana Dannaba, and Alelu Illu Butte Filicha, in Shashemane district, West Arsi. When they asked where they should go, the villagers were told to go 'wherever they wanted.' They were beaten and accused of being in opposition to the government. Residents were not allowed to remove belongings before their homes were flattened and they were driven away at gunpoint. In Awasho village, a mother was arrested when she returned from market to find her home demolished and her children missing. She was reportedly told they would be found under the rubble, 'dead or alive.'

Ten were named by ONM among farmers whose homes were burned and destroyed in Heellaa Akkiyyaa village, Marti district, Arsi, on 30 March. All their property and goods were destroyed inside their homes. They were not allowed to remove a 'single possession.' Many others were driven from the village and had their property looted.

ONM wrote on 7 April that more homes were being demolished in the name of development in the towns of Shashemane and Kuyyaraa in West Arsi and that the resulting homeless residents had not been offered alternative accommodation or compensation. ENDF soldiers burned down the homes of 24 families in Bultaa village, in the Waddessa area, in Asako district, Arsi, on 20 April (ONM).

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1259588522346568>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/4330386820580263>

### **Extortion, looting, coercion and detention**

On 25 March, government forces went from house to house in Haqoo Kaarraa kebele, Adaba district, West Arsi, demanding cash. When they were asked what they had done with previous contributions, they accused villagers of 'having an enemy-like attitude' and beat them. Seven, including Kadir Tumsa, were taken to the kebele prison and then to the district prison next day, where they are reportedly being severely abused. Because of beatings and threats, many have fled from the kebele (ONM).

On 29 March, at least 64 villagers from Digaluu Arraabii, in Digaluu and Xiichoo district, Arsi, were beaten and detained because some of their children were reportedly members of OLA. ONM supplied names of 25, many of whom were from six families. Detention, beating and looting of property were reported also from other villages in the district.

ONM reported on 4 April that government militia in Qobboo Lamaanii, Shaallaa district, West Arsi, were extorting money and land for sowing grain from residents. Money was being taken to rebuild dilapidated militia offices and even homes of militia members. Refusal to pay resulted in looting and seizure of property.

All the grain stored by Caalaa Dabaluu in Basaqu Ilalaa village, Negele Arsi district, West Arsi, was looted by government soldiers on 13 April. His whole stock of 22 sacks was stolen, leaving him unable to feed this family (ONM).

In the same report on 19 April, ONM wrote that residents in urban areas in many districts of West Arsi were being ordered to pay large sums for their properties to meet local planning requirements. Around Kofale town, residents were ordered to pay 100,000 birr to avoid being evicted and their homes demolished, despite having deeds and purchase agreements in place.

Local militia members stole two quintals of incense from farmer Deebisaa Dafaa in Sinqellee Goorii village, Shala district, West Arsi, on 25 April, and threatened him with prison if he complained. In the same village, three days later, militia members severely beat farmer Boonsii Godaanaa and robbed him of 15,000 birr. Next day, other militia members took another 4,000 birr from him.

### **Electoral intimidation and fraud**

ONM reported that in Heban Arsi district, West Arsi, on 9 March, villagers were gathered from Sanbarroo Rogichaa and Meexxii kebeles, given voter registration cards and threatened with being shot if they did not vote on election day, 1 June. Throughout the West Arsi zone, in Heban Arsi district and in the towns of Shashamane, Koree, Kofale and Kokosa, residents have been taken from the homes and forced at gunpoint to take voting cards with similar threats.

Voting will be by fingerprint and voters have been warned that they will be identified and punished if they did not vote for the Prosperity Party candidates.

Residents in the Waashaa area in Adaba district, West Arsi, were reported by ONM on 29 March to have been harassed and intimidated for writing messages of support for the OLF (now a legally registered party) on the roadside.

Youngsters under the age of 18, and therefore ineligible to vote, were forced to accept voting cards in Robe town, Robe Dida'a district, Arsi, according to a report by ONM on 31 March. In addition, they were threatened that if they stayed home on election day or did not vote for the Prosperity Party, videos and photos of them at the polling station would be taken and they would be punished.

## Guji and Borana

### *Correction*

Two reports of the killing of **Daraje Abishu** in February 2025 were included in Report 72. From data received from ONM, he was named as being killed in Gaddo Araba village, Martii district, Arsi, on 8 February 2025 (p.24), as well as named as being killed in a village of the same name in Qarca district, Guji, on 5 February (p.47). One of these records is therefore incorrect.

### **Killing**

W1 reported the killing of Dr **Waayyuu Jaarraa** (pictured right) on 29 May. The doctor of Veterinary Medicine was killed by government forces in Bule Hora, Guji.



### **Rape**

Many women in Borana zone, including the mothers of young children, are being detained and raped by members of the police and army. The women are accused of being the wives of OLA fighters. Understandably, they are reluctant to report the abuses which they have endured. One victim, named by ONM on 7 April, was reportedly raped by a police sergeant named Galgaloo. Many of her co-detainees have suffered similarly.

They are among many more relatives of OLA members who have been detained and mistreated.

### **Detention, extortion and looting**

Only a small fraction of episodes is being reported. ONM wrote that on 8 March, federal army members detained residents in the town of Miil-Lammii, Taltale district, Borana zone, including:

Makoo Waaqoo

Goobuu Booruu

Gamoo Guyyoo

Takiluu Shaanqoo

Tamee Taayyee

Barakat Taaddasaa and five unnamed others.

They were taken to court next day and released after paying fines of 2,000 birr each.

W1 reported that in the early morning of 24 March more than 20 residents of Biyyoo Qundhii kebele, Dugda Dawa district, West Guji, were abducted by government militia. One of them managed to escape but his father, 60 year-old Rasoo Waaccuu, was taken in his stead.

When relatives brought food to the military camp for the detainees, they were unable to find many of them and were told to go away. They were told that they had been taken to an unknown location in patrol vehicles. The detainees included:

Biluu Ejersaa

Goobana Tukulaa

Biifoo Woddeessaa

Galgaloo Dullachaa

Rasoo Waaccuu (the elderly man taken instead of his son)

Woddeessa Godaanaa

Loloo Toondhee

Degguu Moromaa

Uturaa Baallii

Dastaa Didaa (Shenee)

Saafayii Hoxxeessaa

Birbisa Magaada  
Aagenyoo Abirahaam

On 5 April, ONM reported that looting in West Guji had been occurring in Kombolcha town and Galana district. A Prosperity Party officer, named Isra'el Daggafaa, had confiscated a large amount of property and had taken more than 15,000 birr from everyone leaving Kombolcha on market day, totalling 473,700 birr.

Another leader of the government forces named Abdulqadir, who refers to himself as 'Abbaa Cabsaa' (father of breaking), because he is renowned for beating civilians, was looting on a large scale in the town, under the pretext of confiscating OLA property.

W1 reported on 8 May the detention of residents of Bula Hora city, Guji, including Negassa Uko, Dandessa Wayu and Asena Yayo.

### **Fighting between Guji and Sidama**



The images shown above were sent by W1 on 21 May when he reported fighting had erupted between Guji Oromo and Sidama residents in the neighbouring zone. At least one person was killed, as shown.

### **Conscription**

More than 600 individuals, mostly youngsters, were reported to have been taken between 20 and 23 March to military camps for military training, from districts in West Guji, including Surroo Barguddaa, Galaanaa, Bulee Horaa, Qarcaa, and Malkaa Sooddaa. In Surroo Barguddaa district, 29 were taken from Meedhibaa kebele, and 19 people from Handarakkuu kebele.

In Galaanaa district, 16 were taken from Odaa Nageellee kebele; and in Bulee district, 20 were taken from Gaadduu Jabaatee kebele.

### **Mobile network disruption**

For the last two weeks of March and for an unknown period thereafter, there has been no mobile telephone or internet service in at least some districts of West Borana zone. In Yabelo district, the network was down ostensibly because of a 'security problem' and in villages in Gomole district the service was similarly disrupted. Money transfers, business transactions, personal communications, calls for urgent medical needs, and access to the internet for research and education purposes were severely affected.

### **Civil unrest in Moyale**

The image (above right) of a demonstration near the border with Kenya at Moyale, Borana, was sent by W1 on 11 May. The reason for the civil unrest has not been made public.



## Tigray and its starving, displaced people prepare for war – again

There is no better example of hubris and the damage of a zero-sum culture than Tigray. After dominating the empire state of Ethiopia for 27 years and extracting its resources for the benefit of its region and its own members, the TPLF became the hated target of both of its partners in Abyssinian zero-sum politics, the Fano of Amhara Region and the EPLF of Eritrea.

Teetering on the brink of another war with the similarly zero-sum Prosperity Party, Tigray's people, still reeling from hunger, war damage and displacement from Western Tigray, are again subjected to forced conscription into the army of the TPLF.

Despite the provisions of the Pretoria agreement to end hostilities, signed in November 2022, Western Tigray remains under an Amhara administration and has been settled by Amhara farmers. Over 800,000 were displaced by ethnic cleansing, rape and war crimes to more than 90 camps in central Tigray.<sup>65</sup> *Addis Standard* reported on 19 March that 80% of the IDPs in 146 camps in Tigray were from Western Tigray.<sup>66</sup>

The Tigrayans who survived the genocide and returned or remained in Western Tigray are second class citizens, abused by Amhara and Walkait people, prevented from traveling freely and subjected to beatings and arbitrary detention and the denial of access to employment, ID cards and basic services.<sup>67</sup>

The 16,000 from Western Tigray who are living in a displacement camp in Hitsats, northwest Tigray, and the 115,000 in six camps around Adwa are suffering from dire living conditions and severe food shortage. The UN found acute malnutrition in 62% of infants and over 70% in pregnant and breast-feeding women in August 2025. Over 300 have starved to death in Hitsat since 2022 and another 50 have died since July 2025.<sup>68</sup> *Addis Standard* reported on 9 March that 333 had died in Hitsats since May 2025 and over 125 had died in Adwa since October.<sup>69</sup>

There were clashes between Tigrayan forces and ENDF in Tselemti, northwest Tigray, in late January.<sup>70</sup> The TPLF voted to distance itself from PP government of Ethiopia at the beginning of May. In its resumed Tigray State Council session, the TPLF elected Dr. Debretsion Gebremichael as President who was duly sworn in (see right).<sup>71</sup>



<sup>65</sup> <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2026/03/10/ethiopia-blame-game-videos-reveal-starving-displaced-people-tigray>

<sup>66</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/more-than-330-idps-reported-dead-in-hitsats-125-in-adwa-as-coordinators-warn-of-worsening-humanitarian-crisis/>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/04/22/ethiopia-persecution-of-tigrayans-unrelenting>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2026/03/10/ethiopia-blame-game-videos-reveal-starving-displaced-people-tigray>

<sup>69</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/more-than-330-idps-reported-dead-in-hitsats-125-in-adwa-as-coordinators-warn-of-worsening-humanitarian-crisis/>

<sup>70</sup> *The Continent*, Issue 232, 14 March.

[https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178\\_16ea5ae3d31f4ea3b837799103cc4e7e.pdf](https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_16ea5ae3d31f4ea3b837799103cc4e7e.pdf)

<sup>71</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/tplf-says-tigray-council-elects-debretsion-gebremichael-as-president-resumes-work-after-three-year-suspension/>

The International Crisis Group CEO, Comfort Ero, wrote on 7 May, that Tigray was currently effectively outside of Addis Ababa's control and the Pretoria agreement was 'now hanging by a thread.'<sup>72</sup>

And now the TPLF bullies, who sent scores of thousands of young Ethiopians, mostly Oromo, to their deaths as forced conscripts – 'bullet food' – in the senseless war with Eritrea from 1998 to 2000 and who died in the genocidal conflict with the ENDF from 2020 to 2022, are again scouring the streets of Mekele and the villages of Tigray for more of their own youth to sacrifice on the altar of conflict.<sup>73</sup>

There is soaring inflation and widespread shortage of food and fuel. A proportion of the Tigrayan youth are voting with their feet and fleeing. Between 3,000 and 4,000 have left the 16,000 in Hitsats. But their choices are stark. The International Organisation for Migration estimates that 31% of the 168,400 who took the eastern route to Djibouti or Somalia and on to Saudi Arabia in the first nine months of 2025 were from Tigray. Substantial numbers die in the Red Sea crossing to Yemen.

The number who risk death in the desert and capture and torture by traffickers in Libya on the northern route is unknown. Scores of thousands have drowned crossing the Mediterranean from the shores of Libya and Tunisia.<sup>74</sup> Probably twice as many die in the Libyan desert.

### **Benishangul-Gumuz Region**

Oromo residents in Metekel zone of the region have been subjected to multiple assaults by Prosperity Party government forces and Fano militants from Amhara Region. Villagers have been beaten, detained, their homes destroyed and cattle looted; all under the pretext of them having links to OLA. Whole villages have been razed to the ground and occupants made homeless and displaced. Killings have been reported but no details of names or places have been given.

There are water shortages and forced, violent conscription into the army has intensified in Asosa zone to provide 'bullet food' for increasing skirmishes with Sudanese Armed Forces opposing the Rapid Support Forces, which are now based on the Ethiopian side of the border (see pp.7-10, and OSG Report 72, pp.9-10).

#### **Detention, beating, burning and looting**

ONM reported that on 6 March the farming community in Tuskii Gambeelaa, Dibaate (Dibaax) district, Metekel, was gathering its harvest when federal forces attacked and took away farmers and their families to unknown places of detention, including:

Argataa Galataa with his two children and seven cows,

Dirribaa Baqqalaa with his three children and eight cows.

On 9 March, the homes of more than 50 families in the village were burned and their property destroyed on the false pretext of them being linked to OLA. Some of the owners were named:

Fiqaaduu Guutaa

Yaa'iqob Guutaa

Tasgaraa Guutaa

Gammachuu Ammantee

Gammachuu Hordofee

Bayyanaa Yaadataa

Fayisaa Hordofee

Abrahaam Bayyanaa

Abbabee Goobanaa

Xilaahuun Taaddalee

Darajjee Guutaa

Habtaamuu Taaddalee

<sup>72</sup> [https://us2.campaign-archive.com/?e=\[UNIQID\]&u=8812d2c282f8b76adc822f7b9&id=90f1e2d27b](https://us2.campaign-archive.com/?e=[UNIQID]&u=8812d2c282f8b76adc822f7b9&id=90f1e2d27b)

<sup>73</sup> <https://martinplaut.com/2026/05/28/cepa-situation-report-horn-of-africa-no-731-28-may-2026/>

<sup>74</sup> *The Continent*, Issue 232, 14 March.

[https://www.thecontinent.org/\\_files/ugd/287178\\_16ea5ae3d31f4ea3b837799103cc4e7e.pdf](https://www.thecontinent.org/_files/ugd/287178_16ea5ae3d31f4ea3b837799103cc4e7e.pdf)

Gurmeessaa Taaddalee  
 Suudanee Taaddalee  
 Kaffalee Baabbunee  
 Kudhuqee Taaddalee  
 Hundasaa Gammachuu  
 Gammachuu Tufaa  
 Mannaroo Amantee  
 Mardaasaa Amantee  
 Alamaayyoo Nagarii  
 Lammeessa Nagarii  
 Lammeessa Guutaa  
 Addal Bayaan  
 Lammeessaa Addal  
 Naanaatii Addal  
 Warquu Geelaa

Dureessaa Geelaa  
 Geelaa Beyyaa  
 Abdiisaa Fayisaa  
 Gammachuu Fayisaa  
 Imminee Fayisaa  
 Ebbaa Damee  
 Abarraa Dassaalee  
 Dassaalee Boggaalee  
 Balaay Adabaa  
 Abarraa Adabaa  
 Hinsarmuu Gudduu  
 Dabalaa Bayyanaa  
 Sirreessaa Bayyanaa  
 Hundasaa Ayyaanaa  
 Dhibbisaa Addalii  
 Mrs. Alamituu Badhaasaa

On the same day (9 March) in the same district, properties belonging to the following 18 people in Coqorsaa, in Giiphoo kebele, were burned and destroyed for the same reason, suspicion of them having links to OLA:

Kaffaalee Dheeressaa  
 Dheeressaa Kabbadaa  
 Baqqalaa Gammadaa  
 Alamaayyoo Waaqjiraa  
 Bulchaa Waaqjiraa  
 Ayyaanaa Soorii  
 Abdiisaa Fufaa  
 Abarraa Garbii  
 Abbabee Baqqalaa

Dabalaa Dhugumaa  
 Asaffaa Shifarraa  
 Dastaayoo Taakkalee  
 Darajjee Hinsarmuu  
 Mulaalem Hinsarmuu  
 Dhaabaa Tasammaa  
 Tizaazuu Baqqalaa  
 Darajee Badhasaa  
 Balaay Dajjaas

The destruction also included grain mills and stores belonging to Hundasaa Baqqalaa and Mrs. Abbabuu Soorii. Occupants of the destroyed homes became displaced.

ONM reported on 12 March that these operations were carried out by federal forces together with Fano militants from Amhara Region and were also occurring in Wanbara and Bulan districts of Metekel zone, affecting hundreds of properties over a two-week period. Killings were again reported but no details given. Amhara farmers were reportedly taking over control of the land.

More arrests and beatings were reported by ONM throughout March and April, mostly in Dibaate district, of villagers accused of having ties to OLA or having children who had joined OLA. Most of those detained were reported to have been taken to Galeessa town (in Mandura district) where there is an ENDF military camp. Detainees include:

Tamasgen Waajira, reportedly tortured, 24 March, and  
 Hinsarmu Fayisa, Giiphoo village, 28 March, reportedly tortured in Dibaate district police station.

From Giiphoo and Calle'aa villages, taken on 1 April to Dibaate district police station or Galeessa town, where 'they are subjected to severe abuse':

Kaffaalee Indaaluu  
 Insarmuu Fayisaa  
 Shifarraa Ayyaanaa  
 Dhaabaa Wiirtuu

Tamasgeen Mangashaa

Ms. Addisee Namarraa

Taken on 2 April from Qorkaa Daallee, Dibaate district, to Galeessaa military camp:

Doree Bayyanaa

Qixxeessaa Moosaa

Lalisee Jirraa

Taken on 10 April to a detention centre in Galeessa town administration compound, where they are reportedly being tortured:

Urgee Kitilaa, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, from Goongoo village, Bulan district

Naccoo Tafarii, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, Giiphoo village, Dibaate district.

Hundreds of cattle have been looted by Fano forces. ONM reported on 19 April that over 50 were rescued by OLA in Dibaate district.

W1 reported on 23 April that the following four from Bulan and Wanbera districts were detained that day:

Ms Aster Wako

Dabessa Sanyii

Wayessa Bati

Jaaleta Gelan

### **Conscription and discrimination**

ONM reported that a campaign of forced conscription has intensified in Asosa city since 25 March. Youngsters are being targeted, including those fleeing to the city due to armed conflict between Sudan Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces (now backed by Ethiopian government army) in border areas. These also include those who have been employed in gold-mining near the border town of Kurmuk.

Oromo youth are being singled out from youngsters from other communities and hunted, detained and taken against their will to military training camps. ONM wrote 'They are being seized on the streets, at workplaces, in public spaces and from their homes, and loaded into vehicles.'

Parents have been unable to locate their children.

Oromo youth, 'divided along ethnic lines' are being sent to the war front with Sudan after military training.' Youngsters are avoiding the city centre in Asosa, for fear of being taken. Meanwhile, Oromo are being dismissed from government and civil service posts, so they can be forcibly taken for military training.

### **Water shortage**

ONM reported on 5 April that parts of Asosa city, including Dhaabii Caatii and Gimpii, have been experiencing disruptions to water supply so that businesses, restaurants and shops have been seriously affected. Water has been available only for two periods – midday and midnight.

### **Voter registration by force**

Many residents of Galeessa town in Metekel have been harassed and intimidated to accept voter registration forms because government cadres have failed to fulfil their quota. ONM reported that on 7 April that government officials were chasing people in their work places, going from house to house and addressing public gatherings, ordering them to take voter registration cards. They have been insisting that members of the public accept cards, even if they have been given them previously.

## **Killing of bus passengers**

*Addis Standard* reported on 14 May that over 30 passengers had been killed and many injured when a government pickup truck and two passenger buses were attacked by an, as yet unidentified, heavily-armed group on 12 May.<sup>75</sup> The deadly ambush occurred between the towns of Mankush and Gilgel Beles in Guba district of Metekel zone.

The buses were apparently *en route* from Asosa to Gilgel Beles and were attacked soon after leaving Mankush, where their 700 km journey had been broken for a rest stop.

At first, the government pickup truck was attacked on 11 May. It was already on fire when two buses, each carrying 60-70 passengers, well above their legal load of 42, accidentally entered the battle zone next day. They were stopped and their passengers ordered to disembark and stand along the side of the road. Some were killed while inside at least one of the buses. Others were shot at the roadside while their luggage was ransacked and looted. Many were abducted and dozens were wounded. Others fled into the bush. The assailants then burnt the buses.

Two opposition groups operate in Benishangul-Gumuz Region, the Gumuz People's Democratic Movement and the Benishangul People's Liberation Movement, both of which signed peace agreements with the Prosperity Party government in 2021 and 2022. Their leaders were released from detention in 2023.

## **Refugees**

OSG continues to receive distressing accounts of refugees being abused and treated unfairly in countries where they seek safety and livelihood. Those in Egypt face detention and deportation. In Saudi Arabia, in addition to racist abuse and hostility, they face detention and execution for drug offences. A journalist was assassinated in Kenya, where there is no relief for the misery of life in refugee camps and trafficked migrants were detained. In Djibouti, the host population has been subjected to drone attacks and there continue to be large numbers drowned in the sea when attempting to cross to Yemen or dying of thirst and starvation in the desert trying to reach the coast. And in Europe, the reception for refugees remains hostile and where abuse is legalised in biased refugee determination procedures. A plea from one Oromo stranded in Europe ends this report.

### **Egypt: Detained and deported Oromo**

The detention and deportation of refugees and asylum-seekers is reported on pages 3-6.

Listed below are the names of detained and deported Oromo which are known to the Oromo Elders Union and to OSG's representative in Cairo. The fifteen who are known to have been deported are highlighted in bold type. Those with refugee status are indicated. Almost all of the others are registered asylum-seekers, awaiting status determination. The single exception is Mamiru Lencha Wata, whose file was closed after refusal and who is now detained in Dar El Salam police station.

They are listed in alphabetic order of first name, within separate detention facilities, most of which are among the 78 Egyptian immigration detention centres listed by the Global Detention Project.<sup>76</sup> The detainee's name, age, status (if a refugee), UNHCR Case No., date of detention and comment are given in that order whenever the information was available.

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<sup>75</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/news-survivors-recount-deadly-ambush-on-civilian-buses-govt-pickup-truck-in-benishangul-gumuz-as-over-30-killed-dozens-injured/>

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/detention-centres/list-view>

When detainees are known to have been coerced or beaten so they have signed documents agreeing to deportation, this is highlighted as ‘forced to sign documents.’

### **Dar El Salam**

Abdulaziz Tamam Oli, 555-19C07871, 25 Feb, **forced to sign documents**  
Aishaa Kadir Robaa, 22 yr old girl, 555-22-04554, 23 Jan  
Ali Hassen Mohammed, young man, 555-22-22271, 17 Mar  
Miss Ashraqa Jamel Obse, 555-17C04456, 2 Apr  
Mrs Bulto Itafa Sefu, Refugee, 555-11C00309, 2 Apr  
Ms Chaltu Jamal Abawari, 31, 2 dependants, 555-23-2361307, 12 Feb  
Fathi Nure Omer, 27, Refugee, 555-16C05898, Jan/Feb, with 4 dependants  
Fuad Aliyyi Adam, young man, 555-18C01093, 21 Apr  
Gebril Gudata Hodato, 31, 2 dependants, 555-25-4806098, 24 May  
Hassan Mohammed Ahmed Ali, 555-22-22271, 14 May  
Heydar Mohammed Abdalah, 28, father of one, 555-25-6300970, 25 Apr  
Jawar Mohamed Amin, 33 with 6 dependants, 555-16C17779, 2 Feb  
Mrs Liya Taddesse Bayane, Refugee, 2 dependants, 555-16C09839, 14 Feb  
Mrs **Makiya Gammadi Bui**, a mother, 555-16C01492, 28 Feb, **deported 5 May**  
Mamiru Lencha Wata, 31, File-closed, refused refugee status, 555-16C06650, May  
Maruf Mohammed Galmo, 32, Refugee, 555-16C01139, 21 Apr  
Muktar Siraj Suje, 555-16C12337, 26 Apr  
Murad Mohammed Ali, 31, 555-16C12771, 10 Apr, with 6 others  
Miss Naima Abdulqadir Haji, 555-16C12963, 30 Apr  
Nasru Umar, Refugee, with three dependants, 555-16C06033, 13 May  
Mrs Rozina Hassan Sharif, 555-17C03411, awaiting medical and travel document for sponsored resettlement to Canada, wife of OLF official Kannasa Ayana (detained 2020-2024), 23 Feb  
Mrs Saadiyaa Gidi Bulguu, 31, Refugee, mother of three, 555-C1500865, 20 Jan  
Salamun Warqu Wusa, family of 10, 555-24-3435912, 28 Apr  
Soliman Youssef Gamal, 32, 555-00-3009, 21 Apr  
**Sultan Gamal Ahmed**, 32, 555-21-04154, 29 Apr, **deported 27 May**  
Ms Tolessa Falmitu Arega, 555-17C03693, 28 Feb  
Miss Yaditu Yahia Adam, 20 yr old girl, 555-26-6584144, 3 March  
Yonis Abba Jihad, young man, 555-25-6332406, 5 Feb  
Mrs Zumara Nuru Abajabal, 28 yr old single mother, 555-18C07478 (reg 2018), 22 Apr

### **Basateen**

Abdi Abdallah Ali, 20, 555-25-5953436, 27 Apr, with 3 dependants, **forced to sign documents**  
Amed Fami Mohammed, 28, Refugee, 55517C04483, 23 Apr  
**Foad Abajihad Ababacha**, 29, 555-22-06325, 25 Feb, **deported 28 May**  
Miss Hasanat Ahmed Mohamed, 18 yr old girl, 555-25-5478071, 25 March  
Hafiz Hussein Mohammed, 555-16C06049, Refugee, 20 January, reported to have TB  
Hassan Gezau Chaka, 20, 555-25-6192446, 30 Jan  
Ibrahim Abdurahman Yuya, young refugee, 555-C1501386, 20 May  
Jamal Mummud Ahmad, 28, 2025  
Jemal Oumer Ahmed, 33, 555-18C01304 (registered 2018), 19 May  
**Mahdi Umar Mohammed**, 20, 555-23-125257, 2 Mar, **deported 6 April**  
Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed, 31, Refugee, 555-16C00233, 20 Feb  
Mrs Mustariya Ahmed Harun, 21/30, 555-25-4931050, 14 Mar, **at risk of deportation**

**Nasir Ahmed Usman**, 42, 3 dependants, 555 16C 12083, 18 Apr, **deported 15 May**  
**Sofiyan Abdalah Ahmed**, 24, 555-17C08007, 22 April, **deported 30 May**  
Tayebe Sayed Shalo, 30 yr old single woman, 55516C-16503, 6 Mar  
**Umar Saafi Abdo**, young married man, 555-24-4201748, 27 Apr, **deported 2 June**  
Urge Ahmeddin Amin, 26, refugee with 3 dependants, 555-16C19738, 22 Apr, **forced to sign documents**  
**Yahya Kamer Umar**, 23, 555-23-1952072, 2 Mar, **deported 6 April**

### **Maadii**

Ahmed Adam Abdalla, young man, 555-25-5227341, 29 Apr  
Mrs Darertu Mume Ahmade, 39, single mother, Refugee, 555-15C11665, 12 Mar, with two children  
Fahmi Dine Mohammed Ali, 33, Refugee, 555-15C01635, 12 Apr  
Mitiku Zarga Fuja, 555-00183286, 8 May  
Mohammed Jamel Sani, refugee, 2 dependants, 555-16C04564, 12 May  
Rais Abba Raayyaa Abba Dura, young man, 555-21-03763, 20 May  
Ramzi Eskender Abubeker, 28, Refugee, 11 Feb  
Wondi Roba Dube, 34, 555-25-5955685, 21 Jan

### **Nasr City** (including 'Awel Makrem', 'Madinat')

**Abdi Abdallah Hassen**, Refugee with children, 555-16C11442, 15 May, '2<sup>nd</sup> Awel Makrem'  
**Abdii Yusuf Abdullah**, 26, 555-18C00259, Madinat Nasir No.3, **deported '7.10.25'**  
Bayan Aliyi Yasin, 41, Refugee with 3 dependants, 555-16C05071, 2 May  
Mrs Dammitu Tusa Hamudeh, 22, 555-22-14667, Jan, 'Madinat Al Ubuur', **forced to sign documents**  
Jafar Yusuf Umar, 33, Refugee, 555-16C11523, 5 Jan, Madinat Nasir (believed to be Nasr City 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>), **forced to sign documents**  
Miss Sartu Adam, a teenage girl on her mother's file, Urji Galmo, 555-14C01361, late May or early Jun, 'Madinatul Nasri Bawaba Talit police station'  
Miss Sartu Abdulaziz Adam, 22, awaiting sponsored resettlement to Canada, was reported on 21 May to have been detained at Madhanat Al Nasir prison

### **'Tagamma El Taalit, Axamiya'**

Ms Bashato Faqadu Tarfasa, 555-16C15206, 27 Jan, 'Tagamal-Awal'  
Mrs Fatiya Abdulaziz Usman, 33, 555-16C13280, Refugee mother of family, 22 Mar, 'Kattamiya', **forced to sign documents**  
Issa Kamil Alii Issa, 555-25-5416697, 8 Feb, 'Shareem Sheikh Awali Atama (Masheek)' **forced to sign documents**  
**Jalata Hussein Mohammed**, 29, 555-17C13281, 29 Mar, 'Tagamma El Taalit, Axamiya' **deportation reported 13 May**  
Nureidin Bahar Ahmed, 25, 3 dependants, 555-17C00336, 28 Feb, 'Ittagammoo Taalit'  
Mrs Rawda Abdurahman Boru, 29 yr old single mother, 555-16C09288, 24 Feb, 'Tagoam El Khamis Kattamiya'

### **October 6<sup>th</sup>** (there are several prisons/police stations with this name)

Abdulaziz Abubaker Waliyi, 23, Refugee, 555-16C04814, 29 Apr  
Dube Shamsedin Abduljebar, 29, father, 555-17C14372, 17 Mar, 'October Rabda'  
Jemal Tehir, 27, Refugee, 555-17C10501, 20 May, with 1 of 4 dependants  
Mamamad Jamal Ibrahim, 44, 759-17C01290, Apr

### **May 15<sup>th</sup> Helwan**

Alemuddin Sharafu, 42, 555-25-5424886, 5 Feb, **forced to sign documents**  
Dursa Hassano Umar, 27, 555-18C00396, 5 Feb, **forced to sign documents**  
Mrs **Masarat Masqale Kusu**, 31, 555-19C03751, Jan, **deported end of May**  
Younis Aba Gihad, 28, 555-25-6332406, May, **forced to sign documents**

### **Masr El Gedida**

Asladin Mohamed Ismail, 25, 555-23-2173034, 17 Mar, with 4/5 dependants  
Mrs Fatuma Hassen Ahmednur, Refugee, Single mother, 555-16C07942, 28 March  
Khaled Adam, 555-22-20967, ? date, 'Masral-Qadim' (? Masr El Gedida)  
Miss Maret Matos Beri, 555-22-01541, 18 May

### **Aswan**

Ms Nasra Abazinab, 555-18C08346, 13 May  
Ms Rumana Rashad Adamo, 29, Refugee, 555-16C11553, 12 May, Daraw

### **New Cairo 5<sup>th</sup>**

Mrs **Jamila Bariso Dulle**, 29 yr old single mother, 555-19C07519, 25 Feb, **deported 12 May**

**Zuber Mohammed Husu**, 27, 555-18C09880, 27 Feb, **deported 12 May**

### **Other detention facilities**

**Abdii Hashim Tahir**, 36, 555-16C15490, March, Alexandria, **deported 13 May**

Bahara Ahmed Abdelbaset, 22, 555-24-3430354, 17 Jan, 'Muatam' (?Moqattam)

Miss Faiza Sufiyan Ahmed, 28, 555-25-5297417, 24 Mar, Shorouk

Kemer Abdallah Gammada, young man, 555-17C05621, 29 May, Sheikh Zayed

Misbaay Mohamed Amin Qasim, 36, Refugee, 555-16C011143, 26 Mar, Shoubra Al Khaima (Al Qalyubia Governorate, North Cairo)

Miss **Rawda Ganna Aliyi**, 555-19C0662, 2 May, Ismailiya, **deported 4 May**

Suliman Abdulqadir Ganamo, 35, Refugee, 555-16C10602, 23 Feb, Matrouh (NW Egypt)

Tofik Umer Muhammed, 34, 55517C00813, 27 January, Qismul dar Meydan Gesh camp, (Embassy Area, Cairo)

### **Unknown locations**

Feruza Xahir Abraham, 28, no details given, **at risk according to Oromo Elders Union**

Hussen Ahmed Hashim, 27, Refugee, 16C08959, May

Ikram Tahir Mohammed, 28, Refugee, 555-16C05533, 19 Feb

Khadire Ali Umer, 30, 555-13C02243, detained with 1-2 others, ?date

Ramadan Hashim Ibrahim, 26, Refugee, 555-16C09731, ?date

Shenkor Aliyi Yusuf, 37, Refugee, 21 Apr

Tamaam Mahammad, 34, Refugee, 555-18C04675, with 3 dependants, ?date

## Execution of migrants in Saudi Arabia

Human Rights Watch and *Addis Standard* reported that three Ethiopian migrants were executed in April for drug-related offences in Saudi Arabia and that over 200 were in imminent danger of execution.<sup>77,78</sup>

Human Rights Watch documented the execution of three on 21 April and confirmed that at least 65 of the 200 reported by *Addis Standard* were in imminent danger of execution. They investigated the cases of three detainees in Khamis Mushait prison in the Abha area of Saudi Arabia's Asir region. Each had fled from the 2020-2022 conflict in Tigray. They had carried the mild stimulant Khat to sustain them and to fund their trip. Khat is commonly consumed and culturally acceptable in many areas of Ethiopia and in Yemen. The youngsters did not know it was illegal in Saudi Arabia.

They were beaten in detention and during their hearings and had been held for over two years. Court proceedings were not translated for them and they had no legal representation. They were forced to sign documents they did not understand. They only had a translator at their final court hearing when they were told they had been found guilty and were sentenced to death, 'to be an example to others.'

Saudi Arabia executed 345 in 2024 and 356 in 2025, despite a pledge by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to curtail the use of the death penalty in 2018. Instead, the number increased and included child defendants. A disproportionate number have been of foreign nationals and nearly 70% of executions have been for non-lethal drug offences. Families in Ethiopia are not informed of executions beforehand and often only learn of them through media.

The head of the Tigray Youth Affairs Bureau spoke to *Addis Standard* of the detention of 64 youths in Block 5 and of 150 in other blocks of Khamis Mushait prison. They were all found guilty of drug trafficking after brief trials without legal representation and sentenced to death. They received no consular support. They were often victims of trafficking and coercion and at least some were tortured into signing confessions.

There are hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian immigrants in Saudi Arabia, many are irregular migrants fleeing war and in search of work. The deplorable, life-threatening conditions of detention for hundreds of them have been documented by human rights bodies, including OSG,<sup>79</sup> and the Saudi disregard for Ethiopian lives was clearly demonstrated by the Human Rights Watch report in 2023 of hundreds being shot dead indiscriminately by Saudi Border Guards as they attempted to cross from Yemen in 2022 and 2023.<sup>80</sup>

## Kenya

### Journalist killed in Nairobi

Journalist and university lecturer Yakob Yatene was poisoned to death in Nairobi shortly after writing an article which was published in *Addis Standard* on the moral failure of the Ethiopian government and its lack of commitment to deal with the humanitarian crisis of displacement. Yakob was a respected intellectual from the Konso community in South

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<sup>77</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/04/28/saudi-arabia-halt-imminent-executions-of-ethiopian-migrants>

<sup>78</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/tigray-youth-affairs-bureau-urges-urgent-action-as-over-200-ethiopian-youths-reportedly-face-execution-in-saudi-arabia/>

<sup>79</sup> See pp.30-34, OSG Report 58, <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Report-58.pdf>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/08/21/saudi-arabia-mass-killings-migrants-yemen-border>

Ethiopia Region. His articulate criticism of the Ethiopian government was published on 20 April.<sup>81</sup>



He had reported to friends, Kenyan police and UNHCR that he was being followed and threatened by Amhara-speaking individuals in Nairobi. In November 2025, two men and a woman came to his residence in Nairobi and threatened him face to face. He asked for assistance from the police and UNHCR and changed his residence, but he was tracked down and killed in late April.<sup>82</sup>

His body was found sometime after death and post mortem findings on 28 April showed an injury to his head and disseminated intravascular coagulation, a condition which is most likely to have been caused by poisoning.<sup>83,84</sup>

### **70 migrants ‘rescued’ from people smugglers**

*The Star* in Kenya reported that 70 migrants, 66 from Ethiopia and 4 from Eritrea, had been ‘rescued’ from traffickers in a police operation in the Ruai district of Nairobi on 4 March.<sup>85</sup> Although described as a ‘rescue’ the migrants were detained by police, ‘pending processing.’ They were fleeing human rights abuses and poverty and were on their way to South Africa, a destination which is only possible to reach if accompanied by people smugglers, as attested by many of the 60 interviewees of OSG in South Africa in 2012.<sup>86</sup>

### **Suicides in Dadaab**

*The New Humanitarian (TNH)* wrote on 25 March about the rising number of deaths by suicide in the complex of refugee camps in Dadaab in northeast Kenya.<sup>87</sup> Although there is no formal compilation of data on suicide in the camps, which house over 430,000 refugees, mostly from Somalia, those interviewed by *TNH* were in no doubt about the rise. Of the several instances in the report, the suicide of 38 year-old Aden Mohammed Hafow illustrates the hopelessness which causes residents to kill themselves, despite the prohibitions of Islam.

He came to the camp when three years old in the early 1990s. He was educated in Dadaab and became a respected secondary school teacher. The father of four earned a pittance as a teacher. Although this brought in \$30-70 a month – the ‘incentive’ given by NGOs for employment; well below the market rate – his family was steeped in poverty. He had waited for over 15 years for resettlement by UNHCR but Donald Trump blocked the process for Somalians to go to the USA last year. Budget cuts at the beginning of this year meant the Lutheran World Federation could no longer afford to pay his meagre ‘incentive’ as a teacher. He hung himself in January.

The steady decline in aid for refugees has reduced the food allowance even for the poorest of refugees in Dadaab to 40% of a full food ration. Those in the next category receive only 20% and those in categories 3 and 4 receive no regular food aid at all. About 4,000 youngsters

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<sup>81</sup> <https://addisstandard.com/beyond-the-hostage-narrative-conditioned-immorality-politics-of-displacement-in-ethiopia/>

<sup>82</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/AddisstandardEng/posts/yacob\\_yatane-heartbreak-as-exiled-ethiopian-journalist-dies-in-kenya-proof-of-po/1393758509456048/](https://www.facebook.com/AddisstandardEng/posts/yacob_yatane-heartbreak-as-exiled-ethiopian-journalist-dies-in-kenya-proof-of-po/1393758509456048/)

<sup>83</sup> <https://wolaitatimes.com/?p=7575>

<sup>84</sup> <https://wolaitatimes.com/?p=7587&>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2026-03-05-70-foreign-nationals-rescued-in-ruai-house>

<sup>86</sup> <https://oromiasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Report-49-South-Africa-June-2013-Sanctuary-at-a-price.pdf>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2026/03/25/dadaab-voices-whats-behind-rise-refugee-suicides>

graduate from secondary schools, like the one Aden taught at, every year, but there are no jobs for them.

## **Djibouti**

### **Drone deaths**

*The Standard* reported on 4 March that four children were killed in a drone strike during the previous day in the Dhikil region of south Djibouti, bordering Afar Region of Ethiopia. The Djibouti League for Human Rights stated that the four were attending livestock. Two, a boy and girl, aged six and seven years, died instantly and two others died of their injuries soon afterwards. Six others were wounded, one seriously, in this, the sixth drone attack in the region within six months, according to the human rights group. All the victims were nomads.<sup>88</sup>

### **Deaths at sea**

According to an *africanews* report on 1 May,<sup>89</sup> nine bodies were recovered and another 45 were missing when a boat carrying more than 300 migrants sank off the Djibouti coast on 24 March.

In separate incidents reported in March, June and August 2025, together with this latest tragedy, at least 79 are known to have drowned and another 253 are missing. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

Over half a million attempted the journey in 2025, paying about \$300 to ruthless smugglers, who have no compunction about throwing their passengers overboard when they feel it is necessary because of lack of cooperation or because of approaching coastguard vessels as they near the Yemeni coast.

The International Organisation for Migration describes the Eastern route – from Ethiopia to Yemen, mostly via Djibouti, as the deadliest. Including those dying while crossing the desert to join the 200-300 arriving on the Djibouti coast every day, the IOM reports that 922 died or went missing on the Eastern route in 2025.

Despite the fact that about 75% are returned from Yemen, out of those who survive the passage, the number of people attempting the journey in 2025 was almost 20% more than the year before. Such is the level of destitution and insecurity in Ethiopia.

### **Plea from a rejected refugee in Europe**

An Oromo refugee in Europe wrote on 5 March. Despite a clear history of persecution in Ethiopia and being at grave risk of abuse if returned, he has been refused asylum after four years. His eloquent account has not been edited by OSG.

### **THE HARM AND HUMAN COST OF FORCED REFUGE**

Forced refuge is far more than the act of leaving one place for another; it is a deep rupture that cuts through every layer of a person's life. When people are forced to flee, they lose not only their homes but also the sense of identity, dignity, and belonging that once grounded them. What may appear from the outside as a single moment of escape is, for those living it, the beginning of a long and painful journey marked by loss, uncertainty, and the constant struggle to survive while holding on to their humanity. Families are separated, communities are

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<sup>88</sup> <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/africa/article/2001542237/four-children-killed-in-djibouti-drone-strike-explosion-official-ngo>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.africanews.com/2026/05/01/migrants-risk-hunger-and-drowning-on-route-from-horn-of-africa-to-yemen/>

scattered, and the dreams that once shaped the future are replaced by the urgent need for safety and stability. Displacement becomes a slow separating of the familiar; leaving individuals to rebuild themselves in unfamiliar places where they must navigate new cultures, systems, and expectations while carrying the weight of what they left behind.

War is the force that opens this wound. It destroys not only buildings and infrastructure but also the foundations of safety and belonging that make life feel whole. Throughout history, conflicts have often been driven by the ambitions of authoritarian leaders, yet it is ordinary people, especially the vulnerable, who bear the deepest cups of scars. When violence erupts, people do not flee because they desire change or adventure; they flee because remaining means facing death, persecution, or the collapse of basic necessities. In this way, forced refuge is not a choice but a last act of survival, a desperate attempt to preserve life in the face of destruction. Even after reaching safety, the economic, the emotional and psychological impact of displacement lingers, shaping lives long after the conflict has faded from headlines.

### **The Collapse of a Life Once Known**

Forced refuge means losing everything that once gave structure and meaning to life. For many, this includes:

- The family that shaped their identity
- The home that held their memories
- The education they worked hard to achieve
- The profession that gave them purpose
- The responsibilities that defined their role in society
- The freedom to live without fear

When you lose your family, you lose your emotional foundation. When you lose your education and profession, you lose the future you built for yourself. When you lose your responsibilities, you lose the sense of being needed and valued. And when you lose your freedom, you lose the basic human right to shape your own life. Crossing a border does not end the suffering. It marks the beginning of a new struggle, one that reshapes a person's entire sense of self.

### **The Transformation of Independence into Dependency**

A person who once lived with confidence and autonomy may suddenly find themselves dependent on unfamiliar systems, foreign authorities, and humanitarian structures that are often overwhelmed or inconsistent. Someone who once supported a family may find them unable to support even themselves. Someone who once held a respected role may find themselves treated as invisible.

International protection systems often fail to reflect the lived realities of refugees. Many face:

- Rejection for speaking honestly about their experiences
- Detention or threats of deportation
- Forced transfer to third countries
- Restrictions on movement, medication and residence
- Denial of work permits
- Discrimination based on skin color, nationality, or religion

For someone who has lived through all of this, the loss is not theoretical, it is personal, daily, and deeply painful.

## **The Weight of Cultural and Social Loss**

Displacement is not only physical; it is cultural, emotional, and psychological. Refugees must navigate unfamiliar languages, customs, and foods. Everyday interactions become exhausting. Many withdraw into silence because they cannot express themselves or because they fear being misunderstood or deported back.

The emotional burden of separation from family is immense. Losing family members, whether through death, disappearance, or distance, creates a wound that never fully heals. Thoughts of loved ones left behind become a constant source of pain. Relatives who do not fully understand the refugee's situation may still expect financial support, unaware of the restrictions and hardships faced in the host country.

Education and professional experience often lose their value. A person who once held a respected role may find themselves starting from zero, learning the alphabet of a foreign language while carrying the burden of a name or identity that no longer matches the life they once lived.

## **The Psychological Toll of Displacement**

The accumulation of losses, home, identity, community, dignity, stability, family, profession, and freedom, creates a psychological burden that can overwhelm even the strongest individuals. Many refugees struggle with:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Trauma-related conditions
- Chronic stress
- A deep sense of hopelessness

Isolation becomes a silent enemy. Without meaningful social connections, people lose their sense of belonging. Without the ability to work or contribute, they lose their sense of purpose. Without recognition of their identity, they lose their sense of self.

For someone who has lived through all of these experiences, the psychological toll is not an academic concept; it is a daily reality. The mind carries the weight of memories, fears, and unanswered questions. The heart carries the pain of separation, loss, and longing.

## **A Human Story behind Every Statistic**

Behind every refugee number is a person who once had a full life, dreams, responsibilities, relationships, and a sense of belonging. Forced refuge strips these away, leaving individuals to rebuild themselves in unfamiliar places, often without support or understanding.

“I faced all,” it means I have lived through every layer of this suffering: the loss of family, the loss of education and profession, the loss of responsibility, the loss of freedom, and the long struggle to survive in a world that often does not see the human being behind the label “refugee.”