



**Ogaden Human Rights
Committee**



**OGADEN:
GRAVEYARD OF RIGHTS**

A REPORT PREPARED

BY

**THE OGADEN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
(OHRC)**

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Abbreviations

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| ACF | Action Contre la Faim |
| ACHPR | African Charter on Human and People's Rights |
| Dergue | Provisional Military Administrative Council, the former military communist regime of Mengistu |
| EPRDF | Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, the ruling party |
| ERRC | Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission |
| ICCPR | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights |
| ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| Kebele | An Urban Administrative Unit |
| MCC | Member of the Central Committee |
| MP | Member of the Parliament |
| OHRC | Ogaden Human Rights Committee |
| ONLF | Ogaden National Liberation Front |
| OWDA | Ogaden Women's Democratic Association |
| OWS | Ogaden Welfare Society |
| RA | Regional Assembly |
| SMRTP | Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners |
| TPLF | Tigray People's Liberation Front, the dominant party in the EPRDF ruling coalition |
| TRS | Tigray Relief Society |
| UDHR | Universal Declaration of Human Rights |

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee (OHRC)

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee is an independent, voluntary, non-profit making organisation, founded on 13 June 1995, in Godey, Ogadenia, to monitor and promote the observance of internationally accepted human rights standards in the Ogaden. It investigates all allegations of human rights abuses, and when it is satisfied that the claim is authentic, documents it.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee prepares reports, press releases and appeals to publicise human rights violations in the Ogaden by the Ethiopian government. It campaigns for the improvement and respect of basic human rights by educating the people and putting the spotlight on the Ethiopian human rights record in the Ogaden.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee is supported by contributions from its members. It accepts unconditional funds from private individuals and foundations.

The Organisation is based in Godey, Ogadenia, and has branches throughout the Ogaden.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee has associate members in Switzerland, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, USA, Australia, Africa, and the Middle East.

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Ogaden Human Rights Committee

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1. BACKGROUND

In May 1991, after Mengistu's downfall, a transitional government dominated by ethnic Tigreans was formed. The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front/ Tigray People's Liberation Front (EPRDF/TPLF) rulers introduced a new document which they called "The Transitional Charter". According to the Transitional Charter, which was adopted on 22 July 1991, all democratic principles, human rights and the right to self-determination of all nations in the empire-state of Ethiopia, should be recognized and fully respected.

Article 1 of the Transitional Charter states that: *"Based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights individual human rights shall be respected fully, and without any limitations whatsoever."*

In March 1993, a Constitution drafting commission was appointed. The Ogaden was not represented in the commission. In mid-1994, a draft Constitution was released and submitted to a constituent assembly. On 8 December 1994, the constituent assembly ratified the new Constitution, which replaced the interim National Charter and became the basis for parliamentary elections to be held in 1995.

The Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) did not participate in elections from 94 to 95, because of the ongoing war between TPLF/EPRDF forces and the Ogaden National Liberation Army since 20 April 1994.

The Constitution provides that all sovereign power resides in the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia, and that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land (Articles 8-9). Chapter 3 provides that fundamental rights and liberties expressed therein shall be interpreted in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights

covenants, humanitarian conventions and with the principles of other relevant international instruments which Ethiopia has accepted or ratified.

Ethiopia under the TPLF/EPRDF government has accepted or ratified several international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the crime of Genocide, Convention on the Right of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Slavery Convention of 1926 as amended, Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, the 1977 Additional Protocols I and II of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and lately the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. The Ethiopian Constitution states that ratified treaties automatically become national law (Article 9.4).

Nevertheless, the forementioned, international human rights treaties were not translated into action by the Ethiopian government which has no respect whatsoever for its international obligations and commitments.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee (OHRC), which monitored closely the human rights situation in the Ogaden, for the last four years, confirms the deterioration of the human rights situation in the region on a daily basis. Therefore, the OHRC believes that the Ethiopian government's accession to the treaties was merely intended to mislead the international community, in order to avoid international public censure over its human rights record, and also to get more aid from donor countries, which demand the improvement of human rights situation in the Third World Countries which receive their aid.

In the Ogaden, arbitrary detentions without charge or trial, torture of detainees to death, summary executions, gang raping of women, child molestation, looting and illegal confiscation of property are commonplace, and are daily practiced by Ethiopian army and security forces with impunity.

2. PLACES OF DETENTION

Ethiopia ratified all important international human rights treaties protecting individuals from arbitrary arrest, including the ICCPR, Article 9 of which provides that:

- 1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.***

2. *Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him.*
3. *Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or, to release. It shall not be the general rule that the persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgement.*
4. *Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful.*
5. *Anyone who has been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation.*

Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) provides: Every individual shall have the right to liberty and to the security of person. No one may be deprived of his freedom except for reasons and conditions previously laid down by law. In particular, no one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained.

Article 7 of the ACHPR provides:

1. *Every individual shall have the right to have his cause heard. This comprises:*
 - (a) *The right to appeal to competent national organs against acts violating his fundamental rights as recognized and guaranteed by conventions, laws, regulations and customs in force;*
 - (b) *the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty by a competent court or tribunal;*
 - (c) *the right to defence, including the right to be defended by counsel of his choice;*
 - (d) *the right to be tried within a reasonable time by an impartial court or tribunal.*

No one may be condemned for an act or omission which did not constitute a legally punishable offence at the time it was committed. No penalty may be inflicted for an offence for which no provision was made at the time it was committed. Punishment is personal and can be imposed only on the offender.

According to the Principles on Detention or Imprisonment, in particular principles 1, 22, 24, 25 and 26 and SMR rules 9-14, 17-19, detainees shall be kept in humane facilities, designed to preserve health, and shall be provided with adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, medical services, exercise and items of personal hygiene.

However, the Ethiopian authorities held thousands of Somali Ogadenis in overcrowded and filthy military detention camps. The detainees are civilians, including women, elderly people

and minors, accused of membership or sympathising with the ONLF. They are detained for years or many months without charges or trial.

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for treatment of prisoners requires that prisoners are given prompt access to their families, lawyers and to their own doctor, but the Ethiopian law ignores these rights completely.

According to released detainees' testimonies, detainees are maltreated, tortured and beaten routinely in all these camps during interrogations to extract confessions and information about the ONLF. Many young detainees in their teens were forcibly conscripted and transferred to Ethio-Eritrean front lines. The Ogadeni teenagers are being used as cannon fodder and minesweepers in the Ethiopian human wave attacks against Eritrean forces. The conscripts have neither military training nor adequate arms to defend themselves.

In December 1998, inmates at Jigjiga prison, staged five days of peaceful demonstrations in protest against prison conditions and to draw authorities' attention to their other legitimate grievances. The protesters were suppressed brutally. The presumed leaders of the protesters had been beaten severely and denied medical treatment for their injuries. The prisoners were demanding among other things, the immediate release of those whose jail terms had expired, to charge or release those who were not charged, medical care, regular family visits, to be treated humanely and better living conditions.

In the Ogaden, the practice of keeping political prisoners in detention indefinitely without charges or trial is commonplace, especially in military detention camps and police stations. The Ogaden Human Rights Committee calls for them to be brought to court promptly, charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given prompt and early trials, or otherwise released unconditionally.

Ethiopia neither respects the international instruments which it contracted nor its own constitutional provisions, which protects the rights of arrested, accused, and detained individuals. Although the government accepted all important international human rights treaties protecting individuals from arbitrary arrest, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, its army and security forces disregard those treaties on a daily basis.

For the last four years, the Ogaden Human Rights Committee, has carried out extensive investigation of the human rights situation throughout the Ogaden, and has documented gross violations, including illegal imprisonments, mass arrests without charges or trial, enforced disappearances, torture, rape, child molestation, extrajudicial killings, abduction, forced labour, hostage-taking, systematic religious and racial persecution, dispossession and widespread looting by Ethiopian government army and security forces.

3. Political Imprisonment

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that:

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status..."

Article 7 of the ICCPR, provides, inter alia, that:

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment...". Article 9 prohibits arbitrary arrest or detention, and provides that anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of reasons for his or her arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him.

Article 10 provides that all persons deprived of their liberty are to be treated with humanity. Article 18 provides for freedom of movement and freedom to choose a residence. Article 19 of the ICCPR protects freedom of speech and opinion, and provides, **inter alia, that:** *"Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice ... "* **Article 10 of the UDHR states that:** *"Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him."*

Nevertheless, hundreds of Ogadenis, including politicians, religious scholars, businessmen, students, pastoralists, children, women and elderly people have been detained, tortured, disappeared or killed by the Ethiopian army and security forces, because of their ethnic background, language, religion, or political opinion. No one was ever brought before a public hearing. Scores died in detention, were tortured, and many others disappeared without leaving a trace.

To illustrate the abovementioned assertions, some cases are detailed in the following pages, while other cases are listed and attached at the end of the report, with brief notes indicating the destiny of the victim(s).

In late July 1996, **Ahmed Mohamed, Abdullahi Qaji and Abdullahi Haliye, three high-ranking ONLF officials**, were detained in Hargeisa by militia loyal to Mr. Egal. On 20 October 1996, they were forcibly handed over to the Ethiopian authorities, in exchange for ammunition. After being detained in Harar for a time, they were brought before the High Court in Dire Dawa on charges of inciting armed rebellion. The court acquitted them for lack of evidence and ordered their release in May 1997; however, the police and the prosecutor refused to accept this verdict. They were transferred to a military detention in Harar. The ICRC, was given access to them, and has visited them several times. In January 1998, they

were brought before the High Court in Addis Ababa, which examined their case and acquitted them ordering their release. Nevertheless, the police and the prosecutor, in defiance of the court order, transferred them to prison in Dire Dawa. They appointed a lawyer from Dire Dawa to represent them, but authorities warned him not to interfere in the case. On 11 August 1999, they were brought before Dire Dawa High Court again. After having been asked their names, they were taken back to their prison cells. They are still in detention as of this writing. The Ogaden Human Rights Committee believes that the three may be prisoners of conscience. (See Mass Killings, Torture and Disappearances in the Ogaden ref: OHRC/08/96, Ogaden: No Rights, No Democracy ref: OHRC/08/97 and Ogaden: An Endless Human Tragedy ref: OHRC/12/98).

In November 1996, three officers of the Ogaden Welfare Society (OWS), were arrested without charge or trial in Addis Ababa. They have been held incommunicado for some months: **Dr. Mohamed Abdi-gani, Chairman, Mohamoud Abdi Ahmed, Director of Finance and Management and Mubarak Aidid Odawa, Treasurer.** Mohamoud Abdi and Mubarak Aidid, were released uncharged, after several months, but Dr. Mohamed Abdi-gani remained in prison. No reason was given for his detention. In January 1998, Mubarak Aidid Odawa, had been redetained in Addis Ababa. The two OWS officials were not involved in any illegal activity. The Ogaden Welfare Society is the only national humanitarian organisation in the Ogaden which is recognized by the Ethiopian government. It has been responsible for building dispensaries, schools and digging or rehabilitating water wells. The OHRC considers them prisoners of conscience. (See Ogaden: No Rights, No Democracy ref: OHRC/08/97 and Ogaden: An Endless Human Tragedy ref: OHRC/12/98).

In April 1997, **Bashir Sheikh Abdi, Yusuf Muhumed Ma'alin and Mohamed Abdirahman, all ex-governors,** were arrested. They are being held in Harar prison without charge or trial. No reason was given for their detention. Bashir Sheikh Abdi, who is an old man and in a poor state of health, is denied adequate medical treatment. The OHRC believes these three ex-governors may be prisoners of conscience. (See Ogaden: No Rights, No Democracy ref: OHRC/08/97).

In October 1997, 14 members of the Regional Parliament were detained without charge or trial. They are being held incommunicado since then in Jigjiga. They include **Mahdi Ayub Guled, former vice-president of the Regional Assembly and MP for Fiiq District. Mohamed Adan Bile, Secretary of the Regional Assembly and MP for Shiniile District. Abdirahman Abbi, MP for Dhagaxbuur District. Mohamed Abdi, MP for Afdheer District. Abdi Omar, MP for Liiban district.** For remaining names, please refer to the attached lists at the end of the report. No reason was given for their detention. They were not involved in any illegal activity. The OHRC considers them prisoners of conscience. (See Ogaden: An Endless Human Tragedy ref: OHRC/12/98).

4. Extrajudicial Killings

Article 4 of the ACHPR provides: "*Human beings are inviolable. Every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life and the integrity of his person. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right.*" Article 3 of the UDHR states that: "*Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.*" Under Geneva Conventions of August 1949 and Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, in case of armed conflict not of an international character, principles of humanity must be safeguarded in all situations. Acts prohibited in all circumstances include: murder, torture, corporal punishment, mutilation, outrages upon personal dignity, hostage-taking, collective punishment, executions without regular trial and cruel and degrading treatment. Furthermore, article 51 (1,2,6) of Protocol I, protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 provides that: "*The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against dangers arising from military operations. The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the subject of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited. Attacks against the civilian population or civilians by way of reprisals are prohibited.*"

However, whenever defeated, the Ethiopian army and militias take revenge on the civilian population, in defiance of international treaties, which prohibit reprisals against civilian population. Contrary to the letter and spirit of the international treaties ratified by Ethiopia, the Ethiopian armed forces shot dead 16 defenceless nomads in an apparent revenge attack after they were defeated earlier in a fight against the Ogaden National Liberation Front. The massacre, reportedly took place in the Nogob region, in December 1998. The victims were all shot at close range with automatic weapons. They include; five children, six women and five men. Seven of the victims were from the same family.

In 1997, **Mukhtar Ali**, civilian from Dhagaxbuur, was executed in broad daylight to avenge the death of two EPRDF officers killed by the ONLF. He was crippled by torture before his public execution and was denied burial for two days. The Commander of the EPRDF forces justified the execution by saying the killers of the two officers were bearded and so was Mukhtar.

On 4 August 1997, in the wake of a fierce battle between the ONLF and government forces, in Bulaale area, the Ethiopian forces arrested a young nomad who was watering his camels, then his throat was slit by a sharp knife. His body was displayed and denied burial.

Halimo Hassan's brother was wounded in action and then captured by TPLF/EPRDF forces. He was transferred to Qabridaharre where he was executed in public in her presence. Halimo could not control her emotions. When she started to lament for her slain brother, she was shot dead on the spot by the executioners of her brother.

In February 1998, **Mohamed Abdi**, civilian, was arrested in Bulaale by members of EPRDF forces. After cruel torture he was strangled to death by a rope. No reason was given for his murder.

In Jigjiga, workers digging latrines found a pit holding five bodies, in the vicinity of Kebele No.3, in September 1998. For unknown reason, the remains were transferred to Addis Ababa. Three officials of Kebele No.3, were briefly detained for interrogation, then released. The identity of the remains—which is believed to be ex-prisoners who had disappeared—is still unknown. To the best of the Ogaden Human Rights Committee's knowledge, the authorities did not set up any body to know the circumstances of the massacre, and determine the real identity of the victims.

On 20 November 1998, **Mohamed Ahmed**, from Higlaley, Dhagaxbuur Region, was abducted at gun-point by members of EPRDF forces who accused him of being a supporter of ONLF. After two days his beheaded and tortured body was displayed in public to spread terror among the civilian population.

On 26 November 1998, **Ali Dahir Ibrahim**, Civilian from Bukudhabo, Awaare District, was taken by EPRDF forces from his house. He had been detained several times before on suspicion of supporting the "anti-peace elements", a term Ethiopian authorities frequently use to designate members of ONLF and Al-Itihad. After a week his dead body was recovered from a pit not far from Ethiopian military barracks.

In March 1999, it was reported that members of EPRDF forces raped and then killed **Saharla' Ali**, an old woman from Dhagaxbuur.

On 12 April 1999, **Abdi Ibrahim and Ibrahim Awil**, two nomads from Bulaale area, were arrested under the pretext of hosting "anti-peace elements", and then taken to the military barracks. They were tortured then killed by fire squad.

Aden Abdullahil's vehicle was commandeered by Ethiopian armed forces, who forced him at gun-point to drive them into neighbouring Somalia. He was never seen again by his family. Earlier, they gunned down another driver who refused to drive them.

5. Torture and Ill-Treatment

Ethiopian Army and Security Forces systematically torture suspected ONLF members to extract information or confessions. A number of people were tortured to death.

Article 5 of the ACHPR provides that: "*Every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man particularly slavery, slave trade, torture,*

cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited." Article 2 of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment states that: *"Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture."* Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, prohibits torture during internal armed conflict. States are also required to bring those responsible for torture to justice and to give redress and compensation to those who have been tortured.

Nevertheless, in the Ogaden, there is neither arrest nor interrogation without torture. The OHRC has examined a large number of torture survivors, some of them were disabled, while others bore scars of torture on their bodies. The following testimonies were collected from victims of torture, who gave their testimonies on condition of anonymity. The real names of the victims have been withheld in order to protect them and their families from reprisals.

Soofe, shop owner, *"In 1997, I was arrested by members of EPRDF forces. They took me to a military barracks. They accused me of sympathising with anti-peace groups. I was in detention for 7 months without trial."*

"During my detention, I was tortured severely by EPRDF forces. My hands and legs were tied with a rope and was beaten severely, as a consequence of which I have sustained severe damages and injuries. You can see clearly the scars of torture on my body. The scars speak by themselves, you do not need any more explanation, do you?"

Sahal, Trader, *"I was arrested in January 1998 and detained at Jigjiga Police Station. They arrested me because they accused me fictitiously of being a fund-raiser for what they called anti-peace elements. I was held incommunicado for a month."*

"I was subjected to extensive torture in the form of indiscriminate beating with heavy sticks, gun butts and threats of shooting me to death. They told me that I would not be released until I confessed or gave information about them."

"My health deteriorated and I was suffering from external and internal injuries. No medical treatment was given to me. You can see badly healed scars covering all my body. I was released after six months of detention without trial. For your information there is no release without paying extortion money."

Sahane, restaurant owner , *"I was arrested in December 1998, and detained at a military barracks. They accused me of supporting anti-peace groups, which was fabricated in revenge of my refusal to pay extortion money which they asked me."*

"There is no detention without torture. My hands were tied tightly behind my back with a rope. I was beaten indiscriminately until I lost consciousness. I was deprived of sleep and food for two days. After five months of illegal detention without trial, I was released. I am suffering from chest pains and awful nightmares."

In september 1996, **Yusuf Hirsi Olow** and several other members of ONLF, were arrested in Djibouti, and then forcibly handed over to the Ethiopian government. Every night he was taken out of his prison cell for interrogation under torture. Yusuf was unable to cater for his sanitary needs, and was suffering from anal bleeding. He was denied medical treatment. In April 1998, he passed away. The reason of his untimely death was the extensive and indiscriminate torture which he had received in prison. (See Ogaden: No Rights, No Democracy ref: OHRC/08/97 and Ogaden: An Endless Human Tragedy ref: OHRC/12/98).

On 23 September 96, **W.M. Ali**, a young girl, from Gasaangas village, Fiiq District, was raped by members of EPRDF militias by turns. They left her as dead but she survived. She told Ogaden Human Rights Committee that she was beaten repeatedly when she resisted till she has lost consciousness. She did not recover consciousness until 24 hours after the crime. Two years and six months later, researchers from Ogaden Human Rights Committee, saw that her face, arms and legs were still severely scarred, and marks of beatings and torture were still clearly visible on her body.

6. Disappearances

A large number of people have disappeared after being abducted by members of army and security forces, while others disappeared from notorious military detention camps, or were transferred to secret detention centres in Harar, Addis Ababa or Mekele. The fate and whereabouts of those people remain unknown to their loved ones. In many cases they are presumed dead.

According to Principles on Detention or Imprisonment, principle 12 and 16 (1); SMR rules 7, 44(3) and 92; Declaration on Enforced Disappearance, Article 10(2 and 3); principles on Summary Executions, principle 6; a record of every arrest must be made and shall include: the reason for arrest; the time of the arrest; the transferred to place of custody; the time of appearance before a judicial authority; the identity of officers involved; precise information on the place of custody; and details of interrogation. Furthermore, the UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances requires the authorities to take effective action to prevent disappearances, including holding persons in officially recognized places of detention, and making information concerning the place of detention and all transfers

known to families, lawyers ... (Article 10(1+2), and ensuring releases of detainees under circumstances that permit verification of their release and conditions (Article 11).

However, many members and suspected ONLF sympathizers have disappeared in detention without leaving a trace. Few among them are: **Mohamed Nur Farah** and his two sons, who were abducted from their home at gun-point by members of security forces in 1998. They were taken to Awaare military barracks. Since then their whereabouts are unknown.

Abdirahman Isse, businessman, who used to support a large family, was detained in 1996 in Dire Dawa. He was transferred to prison in Addis Ababa. He was never seen again. (See Ogaden : No Rights, No Democracy ref : OHCR/08/97).

In late 1998, Ethiopian government and the Ogaden National Liberation Front, held a series of secret negotiations in order to put an end to the long bloody war in the Ogaden. The negotiations collapsed, on 28 December 1998, when the Ethiopian delegation refused an ONLF proposal demanding the presence of a third party as a witness.

Contrary to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, which prohibits perfidy in Article 37, which provides, inter alia, that:

1. It is prohibited to kill, injure or capture an adversary by resort to perfidy. Acts inviting the confidence of an adversary to lead him to believe that he is entitled to, or is obliged to accord, protection under the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, with intent to betray that confidence, shall constitute perfidy. The following acts are examples of perfidy:

- (a) *the feigning of an intent to negotiate under a flag of truce or of a surrender;*
- (b) *the feigning of incapacitation by wounds or sickness;*
- (c) *the feigning of civilian, non-combatant status; and*
- (d) *the feigning of protected status by the use of signs, emblems or uniforms of the United Nations or of neutral or other States not Parties to the conflict.*

After the breakdown of the negotiations, the Ethiopian government decided to murder members of the ONLF delegation by laying an ambush for them. While the unarmed members of the ONLF delegation were returning to their base, Ethiopian army units attacked them from an ambush. Two members of the delegation, Deeq Abdi Rasin and Timojilic were killed, and Sheikh Bashir Abdi Ibrahim, was captured safe and sound. Sheikh Bashir, was transferred to Qabridaharre military barracks, and was put in a solitary confinement. According to the testimony of a released detainee, he was subjected to extensive torture. He was transferred to Harar secret detention and subsequently disappeared.

According to reliable reports received by OHRC, many detainees who disappeared in 1994 and afterwards, are being held in secret detention centres in Harar. They include **Haji Ahmednur Sh. Mumin**, the Imam of Dhagahbour mosque, **Abdullahi Abdi Taflo**, ONLF Central Committee Member, **Deeq Yusuf Kariye**, journalist, **Bashir Abdi Adan**, Civilian, **Ahmed Mohamed**, businessman, **Mohamed Ganey**, businessman, **Ali Adan Osman**, civilian, **Siyad Deyl**, civilian. They were detained in different localities, at various times, then disappeared in detention. No reason was given for their enforced disappearances. The OHRC calls for them to be either charged with recognizable criminal offences and be given fair trials or immediately and unconditionally released. The OHRC asks for a public statement on their whereabouts. (See Human Rights Violations in the Ogaden by Ethiopia, 1991 to 1996 ref: OHRC/01/96, Ogaden: No Rights, No Democracy ref: OHRC/08/97 and Ogaden: An Endless Human Tragedy ref: OHRC/12/98).

○ Torture Methods

Torture methods employed against detainees by the Ethiopian armed and security forces in the Ogaden are numerous, few among them are:

- Indiscriminate beatings with gun butts and barrels, heavy sticks or iron bars.
- Gang raping of women and child molestation.
- Beatings on the soles of the feet and the testicles.
- Victims are burned with cigarettes.
- Deprivation of sleep and food.
- Death threats, with charged guns pointed at the head.
- Suffocation of detainees by burying them alive, which causes death in many cases.
- Forcing detainees to drink urine or salty water.
- Suspending from the roof upside-down.
- Denial of sanitary visits.
- Victims are left for extended periods, in prostrate position under the burning sun with their hands and legs tied together behind the back.

7. Other Human Rights Abuses

Women and children are the most vulnerable groups to suffer abuse and violence under the Ethiopian military occupation in the Ogaden.

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, in Sub-articles (b&c) of Article 2 states that:

Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not limited to the following physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general

- community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;*
- c) *physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.*

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1974. The Declaration states that all forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children — including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment and destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction — committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories are to be considered criminal.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, in Sub-article (1 and 4) of Article 38 states that: "*State Parties undertake to respect and ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, State Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.*"

Since the current Ethiopian government came to power in 1991, a large number of women have been detained, tortured, raped, disappeared or killed. Many children were also detained, tortured, molested, disappeared or killed by the Ethiopian armed and security forces.

In May 1997, in Toonceeley, **Addani's** wife, who was 7 months pregnant was gang raped in front of her husband. She aborted a 7 month baby-boy.

On 20 July 1997, **Ebla Ali** and **Udbi Barkhadle**, two young girls, from Malayko, were sent to collect firewood. They were abducted, beaten and raped by members of Ethiopian government forces. The two girls were found unconscious in a nearby bush.

In Qoriile, 7 girls were detained under the pretext of sympathising with the ONLF. They were reportedly tortured and gang raped by the Ethiopian troops.

In November 1997, in Caado, **Fadumo Yusuf**, was abducted and raped by a TPLF officer, who kept her in the military barracks to satisfy his sexual desire. She escaped from her detention. Her 60 years old mother was arrested to replace her.

A number of women are being held in the Ethiopian military barracks throughout the Ogaden as comfort women (sex slaves). Many cases of forced marriages have been reported as well.

In regard to child abuse, many children were molested by pedophiles from the Ethiopian armed and security forces. When the parents and relatives of the sexually assaulted children protested they were detained and beaten cruelly in public.

In 1998, **Qorane Suldan**, livestock trader, was arrested, tortured and his livestock confiscated. He escaped from his detention. His wife, a nursing mother, and two sons were beaten and taken as hostages to be held until he reports himself to the security forces. Qorane was also detained, maltreated and some of his livestock confiscated by Al-Itihad under the pretext of collaborating with the Ethiopian government troops.

Since the breakout of the Ethio-Eritrean border war, hundreds of young Ogadenis, were rounded up while tending or watering their camels in the rural areas, cultivating their farms or studying in their very limited schools in the urban areas.

Many school boys were told that they have got scholarships to Europe and the United States, and then were sent to the battle-fields instead. The conscripts, most of whom are in their teens are being used as cannon fodder and minesweepers in the Ethiopian attacks against Eritrean positions. They have neither military training nor adequate arms to defend themselves. The number of killed, wounded or captured conscripts is a State secret, and there is no information yet on it. The Ogaden Human Rights Committee calls upon the International Committee of the Red Cross to speak out about this human tragedy and take all necessary steps to assure the immediate release of those abducted teenagers.

Article 23 of the UDHR provides, inter alia, that:

"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection."

Discrimination against Somali Ogadenis, in terms of education, health care, employment and economic development is commonplace. A number of people were illegally dismissed from their jobs in violation of the Labour Law because of their ethnic background or political affiliation. Many qualified Somali Ogadenis were denied the right to work under the pretext of holding non-Ethiopian diplomas or degrees. Hence, work places in the Ogaden have been purged of anyone whose views were judged hostile to the State, and replaced by Tigreans or those who support the EPRDF policies.

Ethiopian government generally bans protests, but students staged peaceful demonstrations in Jijjiga, during the second week of August 1999. They were protesting against the results of

the university admission exams and the way the government allocates scholarships, which is unfair to the Ogaden Region.

Ethiopian police and security forces fired live ammunition in the air and used excessive force to disperse the demonstrators, causing many unnecessary and avoidable injuries. A score of students and by-passers were arrested. No medical aid was rendered to the injured students. Their parents were neither notified nor allowed to visit them.

Article 17(2) of the UDHR prohibits arbitrary deprivation of private property. Article 17 of the ICCPR provides that: "***No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.***"

Nevertheless, the Ethiopian armed and security forces commanded by TPLF personnel from Tigray, roam throughout the Ogaden looting, robbing and confiscating private property at will. Many people were arbitrarily deprived of their properties and life savings. Vehicles owned by civilians were commandeered to transport troops, ammunition and provisions to the Ethiopian occupation forces in South Somalia as well as Ethio-Eritrean front.

To finance the war against Eritrea contributions were imposed on the needy people in the Ogaden by the Ethiopian government. For the last five years the Ogaden was a country ravaged by war and haunted by drought, and the people have no means to pay this compulsory war tax, which left many of them destitute.

Thousands head of sheep, cattle and camels, were reportedly looted at gun-point by the Ethiopian troops. The owners of the looted livestock, were also detained or maltreated.

On four consecutive years, the rainy season failed or there was not enough rain-fall in the Ogaden. Water is scarce and dear. Whenever there is scarcity of water, the people move with their animals beside water holes, ponds and reservoirs. Many water reservoirs owned by individuals were confiscated by the Ethiopian armed forces. The owners of those reservoirs were denied the use of their water for their thirsty animals which are the main source of their livelihood.

So, in the Ogaden the people are running out of food and their animals are getting weaker by the day as well.

The Ethiopian government, which spends more than a million dollars a day on the war with Eritrea, internal wars and her invasions into Southern Somalia, asked the international community for an urgent humanitarian aid to feed five million Ethiopians facing starvation mainly in Northern Ethiopia.

In the past, the aid donated by the international community to the victims of the drought through the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), which is in effect run by the Tigray Relief Society (TRS), never reached its intended beneficiaries in the Ogaden, because the Ethiopian government has misused it by diverting it to the army.

Therefore, the OHRC appeals to the international community to help the Ogaden people directly through international NGOs in order to assure the reach of the food aid to the victims, who are the needy and the vulnerable majority, in the Ogaden.

Article 8 of the ICCPR, provides that no one is to be held in slavery; that slavery and slave-trade are to be prohibited; and that no one is to be held in servitude or required to perform forced or compulsory labour. In Article 24 it lays down measures to protect the rights of children.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee is alarmed at the use of civilians as human shields, minesweepers and means of transportation by the Ethiopian armed forces. Many teenagers were abducted and forced to work in military construction projects or transport heavy boxes containing ammunition or provisions on their backs for long distances in mined areas regardless of their safety and well-being.

Article 27 of the ICCPR, states that: "***In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language.***"

However, in the last seven years, a large number of religious scholars and Imams have been detained, tortured, disappeared or killed for preaching the faithful or leading prayers in mosques. Many were detained or maltreated because they were bearded, wearing clean clothes, holding rosaries in their hands, going regularly to the mosque and never smoke. A score of mosques and religious schools were destroyed or shut down by the Ethiopian government.

In Addis Ababa and other Ethiopian towns, Somali Ogadenis are periodically rounded up, beaten, detained and held in detention without charges or trial for months in order to extort money.

Assessing the prevailing situation in the region, an Ogadeni prominent elder (who preferred not to be identified) said "*The longer Ethiopia denied rights to the Ogaden people the more likely they were to join a growing liberation movement for independence from the empire-state of Ethiopia.*"

On 25 June 1998, Al-Itihad fighters abducted six ICRC workers. The six aid workers, were accused of trespassing a restricted military area. The Ogaden Human Rights Committee, lodged an appeal for Al-Itihad to release them immediately and unconditionally. On 11 July 1998, the five Ogadenis and **Laurent Giger**, a Swiss, were released unconditionally.

On 03 April 1999, the Ogaden National Liberation Front guerrillas, captured three ACF workers. They were two Ogadenis and a French. After being detained and harshly interrogated for days, the Ogadenis were released. When they arrived at Qabridaharre instead of reuniting with their families, they were redetained, brutally interrogated and maltreated by the Ethiopian security forces. They were released more than a week after their arrest. No reason was given for their detention.

Mr. Eric Courly, a French, who was working for the French humanitarian organisation, Action Against Hunger, as water engineer remained in detention. He was accused of involving in activities incompatible with his duty as aid worker. In a personal letter to the President of the ONLF, on 01 May 1999 as well as in a press release on 04 May 1999, the OHRC requested the ONLF leadership his immediate and unconditional release on humanitarian grounds. (See Urgent Humanitarian Appeal ref: OHRC/06/99).

The ONLF leadership replied positively by dropping all charges against him. He was released unconditionally on 10 May 1999.

In this regard, the Ogaden Human Rights Committee reiterates its disapproval of imposing restrictions on humanitarian organisations' movements and abduction of aid workers in the Ogaden.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee calls upon all humanitarian organisations in the Ogaden, to refrain from any activity, which is not related to their work, and confine themselves only to their humanitarian work, in order to help the needy people in the Ogaden.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee urges the ONLF, the Ethiopian government and the other parties to the conflict to allow all humanitarian and relief organisations to operate freely in the Ogaden, regardless of nationality or religion.

The legal status of combatants struggling against colonial and racist regimes for the right to self-determination was defined by the General Assembly in 1973. The principles agreed were as follows:

Such struggles are legitimate and full accord with the principles of international law.

Attempts to suppress struggles against colonial and racist regimes are incompatible with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting

of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as well as with the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Co-operation Among States.

Captured combatants are to be accorded the status of prisoners of war under the Third Geneva Convention. Violation of the legal status of combatants entails full responsibility in accordance with the norms of international law.

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee is alarmed at the practice of torturing and killing the prisoners of war (PoW) by the Ethiopian government. Scores of ONLF combatants who were captured in action by the Ethiopian government armed forces, were disappeared, tortured or killed by fire squad in public to spread terror among the civilian population. On the contrary, many Ethiopian soldiers who were captured in action by the ONLF fighters, were released unharmed and sent to their respective regions where they reunited with their families.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPEALS

a) TO: INDIVIDUALS, LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

The Ogaden Human Rights Committee requests individuals, local human rights and humanitarian organizations to support its efforts to promote and improve the human rights cause in the Ogaden, and recommends the following:

Please write to your Foreign Ministry:

- Asking that your government exerts pressure on Ethiopia to improve its human rights record.
- Urging that all political prisoners be either immediately and unconditionally released or charged with recognized criminal offences, and given fair trials; and be given unrestricted and regular access to their family members and to, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (name some or all from those listed below).
- Expressing concern at the disappearance of a large number of suspected government opponents in the notorious military detention camps throughout the Ogaden, and asking their whereabouts (name some or all from those listed below).
- Asking your government to support the Ogaden Human Rights Committee's efforts to appoint a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights as well as sending a fact-finding mission to the Ogaden.

Please copy your letter to diplomatic representatives of Ethiopia accredited to your country as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The address is:

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 Palais des Nations
 1211 Geneva 10
 Switzerland

b) TO: GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL
 HUMAN RIGHTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL
 HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Although prestigious international human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch/Africa have issued several reports about well documented human rights violations in the Ogaden by Ethiopia, the international community has remained tight-lipped about those violations for the last seven years. Nevertheless, the Ogaden Human Rights Committee has not given up hope of the international community's help to force Ethiopia to honour its commitments to internationally accepted human rights principles. Hence, the OHRC requests and recommends that:

1. The international community publicly censure Ethiopia over its human rights record.
2. The United Nations appoint a Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Ogaden.
3. The Ethiopian government should be held responsible for infamous mass killings, disappearances, arbitrary arrests, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
4. Perpetrators of extrajudicial executions and other atrocities should be brought before an international tribunal.
5. The international community intervene to stop human sufferings and senseless carnage in the Ogaden. The sooner the better.
6. The Ethiopian government allow all humanitarian and relief organizations to operate in the Ogaden without restrictions as well as international human rights organizations and international press.
7. The international community refrain from aiding and supporting the Ethiopian government as long as it violates human rights and fundamental freedoms in the empire-state of Ethiopia.

CLASSIFIED LISTS OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

I. Summary Executions

The following individuals were collected from different localities, at various times, and then taken to Ethiopian military barracks where they were subjected to extensive torture before they were summarily executed without due process of law.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Abdi Hassan | Qabridaharre | ONLF member |
| 2 | Abdi Ibrahim Abdisamad | Bulaale | Civilian |
| 3 | Ali Dahir Ibrahim | Bukudhabo | Civilian |
| 4 | Halimo Hassan | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 5. | Ibrahim Awil | Bulaale | Civilian |
| 6 | Mohamed Abdi | Bulaale | Civilian |
| 7 | Mohamed Ahmed | Higlaley | Civilian |
| 8 | Mukhtar Ali | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 9 | Ruqiya Mahdi | Fooljeex | Civilian |
| 10 | Saharla' Ali | Dhagaxbour | Civilian |
| 11 | Sureer S. Mohamed | Qabridaharre | Civilian |

Aden's vehicle was commandeered by Ethiopian armed forces, who forced him at gun-point to drive them into Somalia. He was never seen again by his family. Earlier, they gunned down in Godey another driver who refused to drive them.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|--------------------|-------|------------|
| 12 | Ahmed Abdullahi B. | Godey | Driver |

II. Detention, Torture, Ill-treatment and Looting

In January 1999, the Ethiopian authorities accused them of being fund-raisers for "anti-peace groups", they underwent severe physical and psychological torture in the form of indiscriminate beatings with heavy sticks, gun butts and threats of shooting them to death. Their money and livestock were confiscated. This was the account of two prominent businessmen. They are:

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| 13 | Abdi Haji Mohamed | Iimey | Businessman |
| 14 | SH. Abdi Matan | Iimey | Businessman |

In December 1998, the following individual was abducted from his hotel, transferred to military barracks where he was crippled by torture. He has been accused of aiding "anti-peace elements"-falsehood.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|------|-------|------------|
|----|------|-------|------------|

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----------|-------------|
| 15 | Muhumed Sh. Bihi | Wardheer | Hotel Owner |
|----|------------------|----------|-------------|

Qorane, a livestock trader, was detained, tortured and his livestock confiscated under the pretext of raising funds for anti-peace groups. He escaped from his detention. His wife and two sons, one of them a suckling, were detained and treated as hostages.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|---------------|-------|------------------|
| 16 | Qorane Suldan | Godey | Livestock Trader |

Women and children are the most vulnerable groups to suffer abuse and violence in the Ogaden. Many women were detained, tortured, maltreated or raped for being activists of the Ogaden Women's Democratic Association. Few among them are:

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 17 | Amina Sh. Bashir | Wayla lagu xidh | OWDA activist |
| 18 | Anab Sh. Abdi | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 19 | Anbusa Abdullahi | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 20 | Anbaro Fadhanle | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 21 | Anbusa Ali SH. | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 22 | Ardo Sh. Muse | Wardheer | OWDA activist |
| 23 | Ayan Abdullahi | Dhagaxbuur | OWDA activist |
| 24 | Bilad Hassan | Barguun | OWDA activist |
| 25 | Bisharo Haji | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 26 | Dahabo Abdi Mohamed | Yucub | OWDA activist |
| 27 | Dayib Hassan Hussein | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 28 | Dhudi Dahir | Xaabaweyne | OWDA activist |
| 29 | Fadumo Adan | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 30 | Fadumo Bashir | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 31 | Fadumo Garane | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 32 | Fadumo Faradheere | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 33 | Fadumo Hirad | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 34 | Farhiya Mohamed | Dhagaxbuur | OWDA activist |
| 35 | Firdowsa Muhumed | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 36 | His Muhumed | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 37 | Hodan Ali | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 38 | Hodan Muhumed | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 39 | Ibado Abdi | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 40 | Ibado Hassan Adan | Qoriile | OWDA activist |
| 41 | Kin Haji Nur | Qoriile | OWDA activist |
| 42 | Malyun Abdi | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 43 | Nasra Jabar Hirsi | Qoriile | OWDA activist |

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 44 | Ruqiya Adhays Faqid | Qoriile | OWDA activist |
| 45 | Ruqiya Gardaran | Yucub | OWDA activist |
| 46 | Ruqiya Mohamed | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 47 | Ruqiya Mohamed Dahir | Yucub | OWDA activist |
| 48 | Sadia Abdinassir | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 49 | Salwa Abdijabar | Qoriile | OWDA activist |
| 50 | Soado Sh. Ali | Wayla lagu xidh | OWDA activist |
| 51 | Suleikh Hussein | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 52 | Zeinab Barbe | Yucub | OWDA activist |

In October 1998, the following civilians had their property looted and were illegally detained in military detention camp by government forces.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|--------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 53 | Abdi Buraale Hussein | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 54 | Abdi ibrahim Wali | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 55 | Abdiwali Ali | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 56 | Abdinur Mohamed Muhumed | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 57 | Ashanado Kahin Jannagale | Qoriile | OWDA activist |
| 58 | Anbaro Mohamed | Qortile | OWDA activist |
| 59 | Bali Roble | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 60 | Dahir Moalim Yusuf | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 61 | Dahir Muhumed Hure | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 62 | Farah Dalud Hashi | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 63 | Faysal Jabar Hirsi | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 64 | Hassan Dheg Ahmed | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 65 | Hassan Buraale Elmi | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 66 | Hussein Gahnug Yusuf | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 67 | Hussein Haybe Abdi | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 68 | Karanle Hassan Rage | Qoriile | Civilian |
| 69 | Yusuf Dayah Abdi | Qoriile | Civilian |

In Jigjiga, several members of the Regional Parliament and civil servants are being held incommunicado, some of them since October 1997. Among them are:

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|-------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 70 | Abdi Omar Mohamed | Jigjiga | MP |
| 71 | Abdullahi Hammare | Jigjiga | Civil Servant |
| 72 | Abdikarim Mohamoud Ali | Jigjiga | MP |
| 73 | Abdirahman Abbi | Jigjiga | MP |
| 74 | Abdiwahab Sh. Abdullahi | Jigjiga | MP |

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|
| 75 | Abuukar Samatar | Jigjiga | MP |
| 76 | Diriye Omar Farah | Jigjiga | MP |
| 77 | Hussein Abdi Gurase | Jigjiga | MP |
| 78 | Iid Dahir Farah | Jigjiga | Ex-President of RA |
| 79 | Jamal Bar Kinje | Jigjiga | MP |
| 80 | Khalif Ibrahim | Jigjiga | MP |
| 81 | Mahdi Ayub Guled | Jigjiga | Ex-Vice-President MP |
| 82 | Mohamed Abdi Mohamoud | Jigjiga | MP |
| 83 | Mohamed Adan Bile | Jigjiga | Ex-Sec. of RA MP |
| 84 | Mohamoud Abdi | Jigjiga | Civil Servant |

In November 1998, many people were detained and tortured in Wardheer. Among them were:

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|-----------------------|----------|------------|
| 85 | Abdimadobe Adan Farah | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 86 | Arab Matan Ali | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 87 | Dahir Sulub | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 88 | Farah Falug Mohamed | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 89 | His Mohamoud Harago | Wardheer | Civilian |

In December 1998, Ethiopian troops rounded up a number of civilians in Dhanaan, and then were transferred to military barracks. 24 head of sheep and 20 head of camels owned by Ahmed Alaki and Adan Osman were also looted.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|-------------------|---------|------------|
| 90 | Adan Osman | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 91 | Ahmed Alaki | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 92 | Hussein Adan Haji | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 93 | Hussein Abdullahi | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 94 | Mohamed Diriye | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 95 | Yusuf Haji Ahmed | Dhanaan | Civilian |

Detained and tortured on suspicion of supporting the ONLF.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|----|-------------------|----------|------------|
| 96 | Abdi Digaale Abbi | Gunagado | Civilian |
| 97 | Ahmed Hussein | Gunagado | Civilian |
| 98 | Farid Magaalo | Gunagado | Civilian |
| 99 | Habib Moalim | Gunagado | Civilian |

The following individuals had their property looted and were illegally detained in military detention camp by Ethiopian troops.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|------------------------|---------|------------|
| 100 | Abdulkadir Sh. Mumin | Yooaale | Civilian |
| 101 | Ali Kahin | Yooaale | Civilian |
| 102 | Ahmed Abdulkadir Sh.M. | Yooaale | Civilian |
| 103 | Ahmed Ibrahim Fodade | Yooaale | Civilian |
| 104 | Dayib Abdi Osman | Yooaale | Civilian |
| 105 | Wali Khalif Dahir | Yooaale | Civilian |

Detained, tortured and their property looted. No reason was given for their detention.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|------------------------|---------|------------|
| 106 | Abdi Mohamed Abdullahi | Barguun | Civilian |
| 107 | Sheikh Mohamed Salah | Barguun | Civilian |

Tortured and still in detention without charges or trial.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| 108 | Jirde Abdullahi Abdi | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 109 | Mohamed Dulane | Qabridaharre | Civilian |

The three ex-governors, were detained in April 1997. They are being held incommunicado in Harar prison without charges or trial. Bashir Sh. Abdi who is an old man and in poor state of health, is denied proper medical treatment.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|-------------|
| 110 | Ahmednur Sh. Mohamed | Harar | Civilian |
| 111 | Bashir Sheikh Abdi | Harar | Ex-governor |
| 112 | Mohamed Abdirahman | Harar | Ex-governor |
| 113 | Yusuf Muhumed Ma'alin | Harar | Ex-governor |

Abdirahman, a businessman, was detained, his vehicle commandeered, his cash robbed and his bank account withheld and blocked. His family and numerous children were left destitute.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 114 | Abdirahman Adan | Dire Dawa | Businessman |

Detained and tortured. No reason was given for their detention.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 115 | Ahmed Dheere | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 116 | Mohamed Hussein | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 117 | Yusuf Hoohaar | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |

13 year-old boy, sentenced to 17 months of prison for suspected membership and sympathy for ONLF.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|---------------|---------|------------|
| 118 | Mohamed Hirsi | Jigjiga | Civilian |

In July 1996, the Somali speaking community in Addis Ababa, has been subjected to police and security forces brutalities. Many were detained, tortured, extorted or looted because of their ethnic and religious background. Many of them are still in detention without charges or trial. Among them are :

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 119 | Abdishakir Sh. Ismail | Addis Ababa | Civilian |
| 120 | Abdirahman Omar | Addis Ababa | Businessman. |
| 121 | Ali Mohamed | Addis Ababa | Civilian |
| 122 | Hussein Mohamed | Addis Ababa | Civilian |

A group of civilians detained and tortured by Ethiopian forces in December 1998. They refused to contribute more money and livestock for the war against Eritrea.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|--------------------------|-------|------------|
| 123 | Mohamoud Abdullahi Hashi | Yucub | Civilian |
| 124 | Mohamed Bulhan | Yucub | Civilian |
| 125 | Muhumed Aw Yusuf | Yucub | Civilian |
| 126 | Wadaad Yare (Surname) | Yucub | Civilian |

The following individuals—like many others in the Ogaden—are suffering from physical and psychological effects of torture, which they underwent during their detention. No redress or compensation was given to them.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 127 | Abdi Mahood | Qalaafo | Farmer |
| 128 | Abdi Urur | Qalaafo | Farmer |
| 129 | Abdi Sh. Ali | Qabridahrre | Civilian |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 130 | Abdihakim Abdi | Godey | ONLF member |
| 131 | Abdi-yare Mohamed | Nus-Dariiq | Civilian |
| 132 | Abdullahi Ibrahim | Barmiilka | Civilian |
| 133 | Abdullahi W. Kariye | Jigjiga | Civil Servant |
| 134 | Abdirisak Sh. Ahmed | Barmiilka | Civilian |
| 135 | Abdulkadir Omaar | Fiiq | Civilian |
| 136 | Abdi-yassin Muhumed | Danood | Livestock Trader |
| 137 | Ahmed Sh. Abdi | Barmiilka | Civilian |
| 138 | Akish Ayjeeh | Qalaaf | Farmer |
| 139 | Amina Dheg-dheer | Wardheer | Housewife |
| 140 | Ardo Sheikh | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 141 | Burane Ali | Nus-Dariiq | Civilian |
| 142 | Dayib Hassan Osman | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 143 | Dulane Hassan | Qalaaf | District Comm. |
| 144 | Fadumo Badal | Godey | OWDA member |
| 145 | Fadumo Mohamoud | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 146 | Halimo Hassan | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 147 | Hassan Olhaye | Dig | Civilian |
| 148 | Korad Ahmed Sahal | Godey | A member |
| 149 | Khayro Hussein | Godey | OWDA member |
| 150 | Khadra Abdi | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 151 | Khalif Wayrah | Barmiilka | Civilian |
| 152 | Mohamed Dahir | Garbo | Civilian |
| 153 | Mohamed Barah | Barmiilka | Civilian |
| 154 | Mohamed Muhumed | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 155 | Mohamed Abdi Ahmed | Fiiq | Businessman |
| 156 | Mohamed A. Dhutiye | Yucub | Elder |
| 157 | Mohamed Dahir Hassan | Dig | Civilian |
| 158 | Mohamed Ismail | Dig | Civilian |
| 159 | Mohamoud Abdi B. | Dhanaan | Elder |
| 160 | Maryan Ahmed | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 161 | Mhubo Arab | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 162 | Mukhtar Muqadin | Barmiilka | Civilian |
| 163 | Nur Mahamoud Abdi | Fiiq | Businessman |
| 164 | Rahmo Sh. Ahmednur | Qalaaf | Farmer |
| 165 | Rashid Abdi Omar | Barmiilka | Civilian |
| 166 | Rasin Sh. Omar | Godey | ONLF member |
| 167 | Ruqiya Mohamed | Qalaaf | Farmer |
| 168 | Ruqiya Rage | Danood | Housewife |
| 169 | Ruqiya Sh. Abdullahi | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 170 | Ruun Abdi Amas | Qalaaf | Farmer |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 171 | Rahmo Abdi | Qabridaharre | OWDA activist |
| 172 | Sahro Farah A. | Godey | OWDA activist |
| 173 | Seynab Aw Aden | Godey | OWDA activist |
| 174 | Seynab Hussein | Godey | OWDA member |
| 175 | Siyad Ahmed | Nus-Dariiq | Civilian |
| 176 | Shaafi Ali | Garbo | Civilian |
| 177 | Sheikh Abdiwahab Ali | Barmiilka | Religious scholar |
| 178 | Sheikh Deeq Mohamed | Fiiq | Religious Scholar |
| 179 | Sheikh Mohamed Sahid | Fiiq | Religious Scholar |
| 180 | Tiiba Sh. Mohamed | Qalaafo | Farmer |

III. Disappearances

The following list contains the names of some individuals, who were detained by Ethiopian armed and security forces in various places from October 1998 to May 1999, and then disappeared from detention camps or transferred to secret detention centres. Their fate and whereabouts remain unknown to their relatives.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 181 | Abdi Hassan Ahmed | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 182 | Abdi M. Malalin | Shilaaba | Civilian |
| 183 | Abdi Dahir Hussein | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 184 | Abdi Dahir Farah | Yucub | Civilian |
| 185 | Abdi Badal | Yucub | Civilian |
| 186 | Abdi Mohamed Guled | Yucub | Civilian |
| 187 | Abdi Haji Ahmed | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 188 | Abdi Mohamoud | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 189 | Abdi Abdullahi Bihi | Danood | Civilian |
| 190 | Abdi Haji Mohamed | Garbo | Civilian |
| 191 | Abdi Mohamed Soyale | Godey | Civilian |
| 192 | Abdullahi Sulub Yusuf | Nus-Dariiq | Civilian |
| 193 | Abdullahi Ahmed Farah | Jiggiga | Civilian |
| 194 | Abdullahi Malalin | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 195 | Abdulkadir Muhumed Sugal | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 196 | Abdulkadir Sh. Mohamed | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 197 | Abdulkadir Mohamed Suge | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 198 | Abdullahi Sulub | Wayla lagu xidh | Civilian |
| 199 | Abdullahi Farah Mohamud | Godey | Civilian |
| 200 | Adan Osman Elabe | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 201 | Adod Abdullahi | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 202 | Ahmed Abuukar | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 203 | Ahmed Sh. Siyad | Wayla lagu xidh | Civilian |

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 204 | Ahmed Ali | Wayla lagu xidh | Civilian |
| 205 | Dahir Abdi Rasin | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 206 | Dahir Abdi Ali | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 207 | Diib Muhumed Adan | Yucub | Civilian |
| 208 | Farah Sheikh Adan | Yucub | Civilian |
| 209 | Farah Omar Hassan | Waafdhuug | Civilian |
| 210 | Farah Omar Hussein | Waafdhuug | Civilian |
| 211 | Farah S. Sh. Mohamed | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 212 | Fu'ad Abdi Ali | Wayla lagu xidh | Civilian |
| 213 | Gandheye Barkhadle | Waafdhuug | Civilian |
| 214 | Hassan Khalif Hirsi | Waafdhuug | Civilian |
| 215 | Hassan Badhi | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 216 | Hassan Nafiis | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 217 | Habil Mohamed Roble | Yucub | Civilian |
| 218 | Hashi Abdullahi Gudal | Yucub | Civilian |
| 219 | Haybe Abdullahi | Yucub | Civilian |
| 220 | Hussein Osman | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 221 | Hure Ahmed Adan | Danood | Civilian |
| 222 | Kamil Nur | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 223 | Kamil Ahmed Shukri | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 224 | Kàmil Ma:'àlin | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 225 | Khayro Elabe | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 226 | Mahi Ali | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 227 | Maryama Ahmed | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 228 | Mohamed Ali Aw Dubad | Waafdhuug | Civilian |
| 229 | Mohamed Abdi Mohamed | Addis Ababa | Civilian |
| 230 | Mohamed Dahir Ibrahim | Qalaaf | Civilian |
| 231 | Mohamed Arab Aw Yusuf | Garbo | Civilian |
| 232 | Mohamed Hussein | Dhagaxbuur | Civilian |
| 233 | Mohamed Nur Farah | Awaare | Civilian |
| 234 | Mohamed Rasas | Qalaaf | Civilian |
| 235 | Mohamed Sanweyne Ahmed | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 236 | Mohamoud Abdullahi Muse | Yooaale | Civilian |
| 237 | Muhumed Khalif Hirsi | Waafdhuug | Civilian |
| 238 | Mubarak Mohamed Ahmed | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 239 | Mukhtar Hussein Hagag | Yooaale | Civilian |
| 240 | Na'ib Hassan | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 241 | Omar Sheikh | Sagag | Civilian |
| 242 | Qulbad Mohamed Muhumed | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 243 | Quliyad Ibrahim | Dhanaan | Civilian |
| 244 | Qaliyad Ibrahim Yusuf | Shilaabo | Civilian |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 245 | Rashid Ibrahim Fodade | Yoocaale | Civilian |
| 246 | Rashid Mohamed Osman | Yoocaale | Civilian |
| 247 | Ruqiya Hussein | Qabridaharre | Civilian |
| 248 | Sahane Qayladid Farah | Danood | Civilian |
| 249 | Salhan Abdiqani | Garbo | Civilian |
| 250 | Sheikh Bashir Abdi | Qabridaharre | ONLF cc member |
| 251 | Shuriye Malalin | Wardheer | Civilian |
| 252 | Sigaale Ali | Dig | Nomad |
| 253 | Wali Ma'alin Khalif | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 254 | Yusuf Ali Ahmed | Shilaabo | Civilian |
| 255 | Yusuf Hussein Rabi | Shilaabo | Civilian |

Abdirahman, a businessman, was detained in Dire Dawa in 1996. He was later transferred to prison in Addis Ababa, and has never been seen again.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 256 | Abdirahman Isse | Addis Ababa | Businessman |

Oromo nationals who were abducted by hired Somali gunmen in Mogadishu, in February 1999. They were handed over to Ethiopian government and were detained in Godey military barracks. They were subjected to extensive torture and subsequently disappeared in detention.

| No | Name | Place | Occupation |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 257 | Abdulkadir Sheikh Ali | Godey | Exiled opp.member |
| 258 | Ismail Ezadin | Godey | Exiled opp.member |

For enquiries and contributions all correspondence and donations should be channelled through international co-ordination offices of the Ogaden Human Rights Committee in Europe and North America.

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