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## PARTIAL RECORD OF DISAPPEARED OROMO POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

Not only the international conventions and covenants that Ethiopia ratified, but also a lot of legal proclamations and constitutional documents issued by the regime of Ethiopia grant the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Constitution from Article 14 to Article 44 all grants the Human and democratic rights. But, all remained on paper. As a result, Ethiopians from all walks of life, age, and gender, religious and ethnic groups have been paying so dearly including in their lives. The oromos are at most targeted to these atrocities committed by Ethiopian government.

The Oromia Support Group (OSG), a non-political organisation, which was established in the UK in 1994 in its report on human rights abuses for Ethiopia to its Universal periodic Review report Submission of 2014 reported that it documented **1031** disappearances of individuals in Ethiopian custody since EPRDF assumed the power. 187 interviewees in Kenya, Djibouti, Somaliland, South Africa and Egypt reported 87 disappearances, of which 69 were first degree relatives. **Eight** disappearances after mid-2009 were reported.

The Oromo Liberation Front Information and Research Unit has outlined below a very few examples out of many disappearances. These are:-

**AMANTI (SHAFEE) ABDISAA:** was born in 1970, in Mana Sibuu, Western Wollega. He graduated in Geography from Addis Ababa University in June 1988. He worked for the Ethiopian government until the end of 1990. Later employed with ORA until 1995 and served as the head of the development department of the Oromo Relief Association (ORA) before its offices were closed and its assets seized in 1996. Amanti was abroad, obtaining a M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia, UK, when the office of ORA closed, and on his return, he was employed by EENGO, the Ethiopian environmental organisation in Addis Ababa. On 20 August 2000, he had boarded a plane in Addis Ababa and was bound for a conference in Nairobi, when he was escorted from the plane by Ethiopian Airport Security men. Since his abduction in August 2000 never seen again. (OSG Press Release nr. 38)

**AKILILU AYELE SAQATA:** abducted in Finfinnee on 25 May 1994

**ENGINEER BANTII GUDDATAA HIRPHAA:** Benti Gudeta was born in 1958, in Jaarsoo Daallassii, Sibuu Siree, East Wollega. He attended



his Primary and Secondary School in Sibuu Siree and High School in Nekemt Comprehensive High School. After his completion of High School he got an Scholarship award to Havana University, Cuba. He got his first and second degree in Engineering from Havana University. Engineer Bantii is a father three children and was living in Woreda 10, Addis Ababa. On the day he was abducted he was called by his friend Mr. Waaqshum Booranaa who is residing in Addis Ababa around Behere Tsige to collect Kuntal Teff what his friend brought for him from countryside. However maliciously his friend was not at home in accordance with their appointment and he has been told by the family members of his friend to wait for a while until his friend comes back. Before his friend coming back armed men abducted him and took him with defender car. Since this date, 5 January 1998, no one has seen him again. (OSG press release nr.23 and his friend currently residing in USA)

**BEKELE DAWANO HEBANO:** a geologist who was then aged 34, disappeared while



in detention in 1993. Bekele was a graduate of Addis Ababa University and held a master's degree from a Dutch university. He was a senior official for the OLF when they were part of the transitional Ethiopian government and was among the 20- 45,000 OLF supporters who were detained in late 1992, within months of the OLF leaving the transitional administration because of electoral abuses. On 25 October 1992, he was detained and tortured at the military camp in Dodola, Bale. He was transferred to a detention centre at Agarfa, where his detention was documented by the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was last seen at Agarfa, being escorted away from the centre by heavily armed men, on 14 September 1993. Efforts made by his family to locate him have been unsuccessful.

**Col. BEFEKADU DISASSAA:** Col. Befekadu was born in Iluu Abbaa Bor. When the Derg regime was over thrown as a person who has never been involved in any anti human activity, there was not any pretext for the TPLF Gestapo to apprehend him. However, he was collected from his home in Addis Ababa H. 10 K. 02/275 on 21.04.1992. Since then Col.Befekadu has never been seen.

**DACHASA (MASFIN) BAYANA ITICHA:** He was born in 1966 in Karsa village, Jiddaa Ayanaa, KIRAMU district, E.Wollega. At the time of his first arrest in 1992, he was a pensioned ex-Lieutenant living with his parents. He was taken to Didessa camp, released in March 1993 and rearrested on his return to his parents' house in the capital. Thereafter, he spent a further 3 months in Didessa and his pension was stopped. He developed tuberculosis in Didessa and had just finished treatment in Addis Ababa when he was abducted by government security men around "Mesalemiya", near to the City Hotel, in September 1995. He was driven away after his hands had been tied behind him with plastic rope. According to friends and co-operative policemen, he was taken to the criminal investigation centre and tortured repeatedly. He was taken from there to a secret underground prison at Menelik II Palace. Since then, persistent attempts to discover his whereabouts have failed.

**DAGAAGAA BAYISAA:** Born in Najjo, western Wollegaa, abducted in 1993 while traveling by bus between Siree and Nekemt. He was last seen in an underground cell at Bakko.

**DANIEL (IDA'AA) AKKUMMAA:** Daniel Akkuma was a senior member of the OLF and was unarmed civilian cadre when he was arrested in Finfinnee (Addis Ababa) in 1992. Since then the whereabouts of him is unknown.

**DEREJE QANA'AA:** a teacher at Bodji in Wallaga. He is one of the long term disappearances. He was missing since February 19, 1992

**EFREM (XIBABU) KABA:** Born in Najjo, West Wollega. He was detained in Addis Ababa after visiting a friend of his in November 2000. His acquaintance and he had been detained for ten days in March 2000. According to his friend, now seeking asylum in England, his disappearance was reported on abducted from Addis Ababa 17 November 2000 by Seife Nebelbal newspaper and subsequent enquiries by family and by ICRC have failed to reveal his whereabouts (OSG press release nr. 39)

**HUNDUMAA KABAA:** Hunduma Kaba was a senior member of the OLF and was a member of the Election Committee of the OLF in 1992. Hunduma Kaba disappeared since October 2, 1993.

**JAMAL HUSSEIN:** Jamal Hussein, whose imprisonment reported was in Maikelawi Interrogation Centre, has been disappeared from there and last heard of in 1994. Jemal Hussein was unarmed civilian cadre of the OLF and was member of the OLF since 1979.



**JIRENYA AYANA:** Jireenyaa Ayana and Temesgen Adaba disappeared from Addis Ababa in August 1995. Jireenyaa was a well-known singer and member of the Gada Theatre and Music Club. He had recordings published and had performed on radio. He was born in Arbi village, Limu district, E.Wollega.



**KASAHUN HABTE:** Kasahun Habte, born in Gojjam (Wambara), arrested in Addis Ababa in 1992). Kasahun Habte who was reported to have disappeared was seen in "Maikelawi" prison in April 1996. Since then his where about is not known. The probable place of him will be like other prisoners of conscience could be in ITANG prison in Beni Shangul regional state of Gambela, in Tigray region or any other" bermudas"



**LAMMESSA BORU:** One of the founding members of the Macha Tulama



Association and the OLF, Lammessaa Boru was imprisoned for five years under Emperor Haile Sellasie, spent ten years in prison under Mengistu Haile Mariam. He was reported to have been arrested on 17 September 1992. He was seized near Dembi Dollo by armed men in a Toyota land cruiser, who were believed to be EPRDF soldiers. He was later seen in a military hospital in Jimma but reportedly "disappeared" from there on 23 October 1992. He has not been seen since then. (

AI Index: AFR 25/06/95)

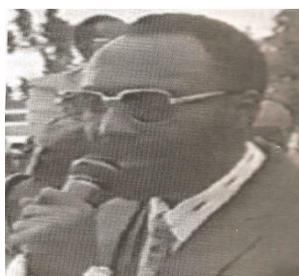
**MITIKU WADAJO:** Mitiku Wadajo, worker of Oda Share Co. He was last seen on 31 May 1994

**MUSTAFA IDRIS:** an employee of the Ethiopian Telecommunications Agency in



Addis Ababa, and a former long-term prisoner of conscience under the former government (Dergue regime), "disappeared" on his way home from work in Addis Ababa on 31 May 1994 and last seen at 17 hrs. of this date

**NADHI GAMADA:** Born in Ziway, south central Oromia, he studied pharmacy at Addis Ababa University. One of the most charismatic and beloved leaders of the OLF, Nadhi was detained in 1994 by



the Ethiopian security forces with a tip from another prisoner who was forced to disclose his whereabouts from torture. Little is heard from him. There was a report that he was held in Mekelle, capital of Tigray region. According to some other reports, he was still being held at the notorious Maikalawi central prison.

**SADDIQ UMAR:** Born in Begi District western Oromia, he studied his primary



and Junior Secondary School in Begi and Asosa. Then he joined The OLF at very young age in 1985. He was arrested in Finfinnee in 1994 personally by Kinfe Gebremedhin for unknown reason. Kinfe Gebremedhin used to know this young member of the OLF in 1985 when Kinfe lead the TPLF unit that went to OLF base in the lowlands of Begi to fight with OLF Army in that direction. The expected relation was cut short when disagreement sharpened on various political issues between the fighters of the two Fronts on

the ground. Then Kinfe withdrew the TPLF unit back to Tigray via Sudan.

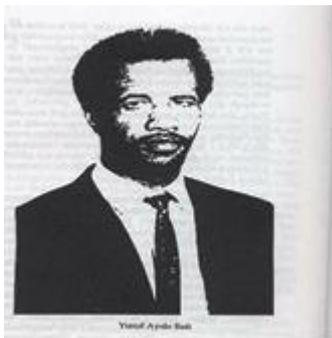
**TAKELE OLJIRRAA :** Takale Oljira, born in 1967 in Dagam village, Lemu district, E.Wollega, graduated from the department of Political science & International Relation of Addis Ababa University in 1989 and was working in the Visa and Immigration Department in the capital. While he and a friend were walking in the area near "Teklehaymanot" in November 1992, he was abducted by government intelligence men. A journalist detained in 1994 believes he saw Takale in the Kasa Inchis secret detention centre in Addis Ababa (OSG August 1995 press release report, p.13). Efforts to locate him before and after this possible sighting have failed.

**TAKALINYI DAGO:** Born in Nekemt. Graduated from Addis Abba University in 1988 from Political Science and International Relations worked for the Ethiopian Government before abducted/kidnaped by the Ethiopian Secret Service personnel. Abducted from Finfinnee (Addis Ababa) on 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1996.

**TEMESGEN ADABA :** Temesgen had completed 12th grade when detained in Didessa camp from 1992 to March 1993. Born in Dimma village, Limu district, E, Wollega, he had been living in Addis from 1994. In July 1995, Jirenya and Temesgen were abducted by government security men when walking near "Urael Church" in Addis. According to eye-witnesses they were first taken to a place called "horse house" behind the 1st Police Station, near to Menelik II hospital. After a month there, they were taken for a few days to the criminal investigation centre. Since then, they have been untraceable.



**YOSEF AYELE BATI:** Yosef Ayele Bati was in the Dergue Prison for more than 15 years for allegedly being OLF Member. He was released in 1989 shortly before the fall of the Dergue regime. Yosef then fled to Kenya and stayed under the protection of the UNHCR until the fall of Mengistu's regime. After the downfall of the Mengistu government in 1991, the OLF joined the transitional government. But in 1992, following the establishment of a new government (Amnesty International: <http://bit.ly/yosefbati>) unidentified security officers arrested Yosef, a former school teacher from the Bale region in southern Ethiopia, on Nov. 27, 1992 in Addis Ababa. Bati was still in poor health as a result of torture and ill treatment during a 15 years' detention under the brutal government of Mengistu Haile Mariam.



**ZERIHUN KINATI DHERESAA,** 37 years old contract worker, of Woreda 10, Kebele 03, Addis Ababa, was abducted by armed plain clothed men and uniformed police

in front of a small bar in Woreda 10, Kebele 02, on 17.10.97, about 6.15 pm. His whereabouts are unknown since he was driven off in a car with a private number plate. (OSG press release 20)

Enforced disappearance is one of the worst human rights violations. It is imperative for civil society and International communities to forge solidarity in bringing to an end the practice of enforced disappearance and to ensure that the right to truth, justice, reparation and memory are guaranteed.

Ethiopia has neither signed nor ratified Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED). The Oromo Liberation Front feels that it is an obligation for Development Assistant Groups (DAG) to inquire Ethiopia to ratify CED and to bring to the day light all the political activists it kidnapped from Oromo and other nation and nationalities of Ethiopia.

Peace shall prevail!

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