

Mass killings and destruction of lives should not become normal in Oromia
Statement by Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA)
13 December 2017

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR)
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It is incredibly shocking to observe gross civilian killings in *Chalanko* of Oromia region by the 'Agazi', the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) dominated Ethiopian Federal militant forces. The Ethiopian Federal forces violently opened fire and killed more than 50 and wounded hundreds of people including kids on Monday, 11 December 2017.

Particularly, since 16 September 2017 every day we are seeing and hearing heartbreaking images and videos of hundreds of Oromo civilians (including children) being beaten to death and killed by shooting in Eastern Oromia by the Somali regional state of Ethiopia's special military in collaboration with the Ethiopian Federal Forces.

By this brutal action, more than half a million people are displaced from their homeⁱ. (See *attached Internal Displaced Monitoring Centre - IDMC report*). There are credible reports of severe injuries in many locations that the government authorities are ignoring admitting the killings. Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) concerned that this pattern will continue to worsen.

Irritably, no accountability for grave violations of human rights committed especially since the September 2017 by the Somali regional state of Ethiopia's special armed forces. So far, not alone the Ethiopian Federal government authorities have failed to accept the hundreds of unlawful killings, thousands of cases enforced displacesⁱⁱ. The worst cruelty by the Ethiopian Federal army remains widespread. It is a systematic wage of a campaign of ethnic cleansing and commits of crimes against humanity against Oromo people mainly, in the Eastern region of Oromia. As a result in response to this brutality of trained and well equipped armed forces attack in the area more than 588,000 Oromo civilians have displaced over the past two months.

It is critical that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urgently act on the severity and scope of the Ethiopian Government Federal military's ethnic cleansing campaign with effective action. Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) express its grave concern that if the wave of killings and mass execution in Oromia is ignored it fuels further catastrophic in the region.

We look forward to hearing back from you as to what action plans you have come up with to address the killings of hundreds, wounded, tortures, and displaces of thousands of civilians in Eastern Oromia, especially over the past two months.

We, therefore, urge you to:

1. Raise this case with the international community and other relevant United Nations bodies, and punishment of the perpetrators, in line with the UN Guidelines on the right to remedy.
2. Urge the Ethiopian officials to invite relevant UN and AU human rights mechanisms. It must include the UN Special Rapporteur on killings and displacement and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to life, liberty and security to visit Ethiopia, in particular, the affected area of Eastern Oromia regions, including *Chalanko*.

The Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) expect that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should immediately act to the fullest to prevent disastrous consequences for the country's future and send an unmistakable message and signal to the rest of the world.

No one can allow the destruction of lives to become normal. No one can govern the nation by killings.

Thank you for your giving attention to this very urgent matter.

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ⁱ Internal Displace Monitoring Centre - ETHIOPIA - With about 213,000 new displacements in the first half of 2017, the total number of conflict-related IDPs in Ethiopia has now risen to more than 588,000

ⁱⁱ Ethiopia: Ethnic clashes, floods displaced 250,000 people from Oromia, Somali regions - <http://hornaffairs.com/2017/09/30/ethiopia-ethnic-clashes-floods-displaced-250000-people-romia-somali-regions/>



