

Date: 13 January 2018

**Save the life of Oromo refugees in Yemen
OSG Australia call for UNHCR immediate action**

To: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
Geneva, Switzerland

Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) call to your prompt action on a very urgent case involving 38 Oromo refugees and 10 Somalis detained in West Yemen at Sa'ada town. Most of these genuine Oromo refugees are holders of the UNHCR eligibility status. They are in prison for more than one year where they are incarcerated from accessing the UNHCR support and protection and detained under harsh condition. During this time only the Red Cross visited them once in the detention. Oromia Support Group Australia intensely concern for their physical and mental wellbeing. These genuine Oromo refugees are forced to flee persecution and desperately search for safety and protection from violence and oppression¹.

The Oromo refugees have fled Ethiopia to escape harassment, detention, torture and extrajudicial killings. The Oromo constitute the single largest national group in Ethiopia, but they are denied the fundamental democratic rights and marginalised economically, socially and politically. The Ethiopia government continues to harassment, kidnapping, imprison and kill Oromo and others by suspicious of political background. As a result, thousands of Oromos are forced to leave their country and families to escape the danger and seek protection around the world including Yemen². The repression against the Oromo is documented by several human rights organisations³.

Therefore, Oromia Support Group Australia demands your urgent action to take an immediate step and to show your kind support for intervention to release these refugees and provide them proper protection. Regarding this critical matter, Oromia Support Group Australia appealing for your immediate response to uphold the Oromo refugees' security in Yemen and looking forward to your kind-hearted immediate action to save them and are not facing any inhuman treatment. Please provide your protection show your action instantly to save these very vulnerable innocent Oromo refugees' life.

Oromia Support Group in Australia

¹ Boat Tragedy Leaves 122 Ethiopian and Somali Migrants Dead - January **12, 2016** Ethiopia, Somalia

² The migrants taking on a warzone - Ethiopians head into Yemen while refugees flee the other way
UNHCR/J.Björgevinnsson - By Rachel Savage and Mohammed Ali Kalfood - OBOCK/RABOO MATWALA, 10
May 2016

³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/06/22/un-human-rights-council-item-4-general-debate>
<https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/06/15/such-brutal-crackdown/killings-and-arrests-response-ethiopias-oromo-protests>
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/04/12/deafening-silence-ethiopia>
<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/>