

**Ignoring the wave of unlawful killings and mass execution in Oromia
fuels further catastrophic in the region**

OROMIA SUPPORT GROUP AUSTRALIA (OSGA) CALL FOR UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHT COMMISSION URGENT ACTION

POLITICAL UNREST IN ETHIOPIA THROWN INTO MORE CHAOS

Following the resignation of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, on Thursday the 15th of February 2018, the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) lead Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) regime officially declared the second ‘*state of Emergency*’ in the country that effective from Friday 16 February 2018. This decree with intent targeting to silence innocent civilians claim their fundamental human rights and freedom in the country.

The protestors request in the Oromia and Amhara region as well as the rest of the country are simple: releasing all political prisoners, immediately stop the continuation of killings and generating fear through militarisation rule and command post to forcefully silence the legitimate demands of the people. This is, in particular, clearly stated in the *23rd May 2011 Oromo Qeerroo’s seven major official demands*. After more than seven years of brutal oppression and killings of thousands of innocent civilians in Oromia, recently the EPRDF regime reluctantly announced to close down Maikelawi torcher chamber and to release some of the political prisoners. This step is considered as an attempt at responding to one of the May 2011 seven Qeerroo’s demands that request “*we urge for an immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners. We demand that especially the prison Maikelawi (central investigation prison), a traditionally established central chamber of torture, mutilation and slaughtering of human beings, be immediately dismantled and closed forever*”¹.

Rather than seeking reasonable and acceptable solutions for the crisis in the country declaring the State of Emergency again not only deteriorating security in Oromia and Amhara constituency alone but also will worsen the situation and escalates grave violations of human rights that imminently intensifies more chaos and catastrophe in the region.

¹ The Demands of Qeerroo Oromia. National Youth Movement for Freedom and Democracy /May 2011
<https://qeerroo.org/2016/02/13/the-demands-of-qeerroo-romia-national-youth-movement-for-freedom-and-democracy-may-2011/>

Therefore, Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) calls for urgent action of the United Nations Human Right Commission to:

1. Press the Ethiopian Government to stop the ‘State of Emergency’ immediately, and publicly announce the abolishment of the ‘Terrorism Act’.
2. Publicly request for the immediate release of all political prisoners in the country, and closing down all known and unknown political prison centres.
3. Publicly call for the independent investigations and oversight of the victimised political prisoners, and press the Ethiopian Government ending political victimisation and to take responsibility to hold perpetrators of the security forces to account.
4. Press the government to constitute a transitional government from all major liberation movements and opposition political organisations towards instituting freedom, justice and democracy in the country².

Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) express grave concern that if the wave of unlawful killings and mass execution in Oromia is ignored it fuels further catastrophic in the region.

Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA)

February 2018

² The Demands of Qeerroo Oromia. National Youth Movement for Freedom and Democracy /May 2011
<https://qeerroo.org/2016/02/13/the-demands-of-qeerroo-romia-national-youth-movement-for-freedom-and-democracy-may-2011/>
