

ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO

DAMEE DANTAA ALAA

OROMO LIBERATION FRONT

FOREIGN RELATIONS DPT

Gaafa: 16.04.2014
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To: The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
Folketinget, Christiansborg
1240 København K
Denmark

Your Excellency,

I am writing this letter to your good office to express my deepest concern about the systematic human rights atrocities committed against Oromo people and other nationals by Ethiopian People Revolutionary Front (EPRDF)-led Government of Ethiopia. The ongoing act is heralding for a massive Genocide to be seen. Genocide Watch in its report released on 12th of March 2013 considered Ethiopia to have already reached **Stage 7**, genocidal massacres, against many of its peoples, including the Anuak, Ogadeni, Oromo and Omo tribes.

Your Excellency,

I have attached herewith three valuable documents that are indicating horrendous atrocities either directly or indirectly committed by Ethiopian regime. These three documents indicate execution of individuals as result of excessive force, mass execution and instigated ethnic conflicts. These well documented gross violations of human rights in Ethiopia for the last twenty plus years are mainly and systematically directed on the Oromos, Ogadeni, Gambellas (both Anuak and Nuer), Sidama, Omotic, Shakko and Majanger nations and nationalities. After 1992 “snap” election when Oromo Liberation Front won by landslide in Oromia region TPLF led EPRDF started to focus on politics of power protection and consolidation consequently intimidation and planned manipulation of democratic processes eventually resulted in the departure of the second strong political force, namely, the OLF, and other forces such as All Amhara People Organisation (AAPPO), Ethiopian Democratic Action Group (EDAG), GPDO, ONLF and SLM from the election. Since then Oromos were massively arrested, tortured, unlawfully disappeared, and extrajudicial killed by the government security force. Several mass graves and thrown corpse were instantly reported in countryside. Mainly in river valleys and forests nearby to the military camps.

Your Excellency,

For this human rights violations the present Ethiopian regime masque raiding under the name of “Terrorism”, “Narrow Nationalism”, “Territorial integrity”, “Act of Treason” and “Ethnic conflict”. However the true causes behind this mask are :- for having attended a course in Oromo language and history, for their protest against banning of Oromo civic organisations such as Human Right League, Oromo Relief Association, Metcha-Tulama self-help association and various Newsletter such as Urjii, for their demand for freedom of press and release of political prisoners, for the protest against derogation of Oromo Culture, for their demand to exercise religion freedom, for their demand to help to extinguish the fires which destroyed up to 600,000 hectares of forest, for their demand on new educational, taxation and agricultural policies, for their protest against the Removal of Oromia Region seat from Finfinnee (Addis Ababa) to Adama (Nazareth) and for their support of OLF.

Your Excellency,

The Ethiopian government's human rights record has been criticised by various human rights organisations, various media outlets, US State Department reports on human rights practices and the European Union (EU). Individuals like defectors from the regime, victims from the atrocities all witnessed about the gross human rights violations of Ethiopia.

The March 1992 massacre of oromos along the streets of Water town Harrarge region, the Massacre of oromos at Babo Gambel village West Wollega in April 1995, the Massacre of oromos at Sigo and Gattira Districts in March 1995, the Massacre of Oromos Gara Sufi in February 2007, the February 1994 Massacre Ogadeni in Wardheer, the 2009 mass murder of Ogadeni in Kabiribayah Ogaden, the Massacre of Sheko and Majenger people on 11 March 2002, The Locke, Sidama, Massacre of May 2002, the December 2003 mass killings of Anuaks, the Massacre after turmoil of 2005 National election in Addis Ababa, the massacre of members of the Suri tribe(Omo) of December 2012, the Massacre of Muslim protestors April and August 2013 in Asasa and Kofele Oromia and the Massacre by special (Liyu) Police 2013/2014 on Ogadeni and Oromos are some of the living testimonies of the state terrorist act of the TPLF regime and are true historical records.

Your Excellency,

Since there is no peace in Ethiopia the Oromos flee from their country to escape atrocities of the Ethiopian government. After they fled from their country they also face and faced unparalleled atrocities either by hosting governments or by the cross border raids undertaken by the Ethiopian government. Not only individuals assassinated but also the Mass Murder in Bossaso (Puntland, Somalia) 5th of February, 2008 is a fresh memory for EPRDF across border atrocities.

The TPLF leading body is always known for its unleashed false accusations and blatant propaganda against its oppositions. The regime is well known for terrorizing and savagely massacring innocent people in the country and of fabricating news to slander and blackmail opposition organizations. WikiLeaks file id: #06ADDISABABA2708 of US Embassy clandestine communication of 2006 is one of the typical witness to be mentioned.

Your Excellency,

Not only against its political opponents but also the Ethiopian regime's track record of the past 22-years also reveals that the regime pursues a malicious divide and rule policy by instigating a chain of conflicts between different nations. Some to be mentioned are between Sidama and Oromos, Somalis and Oromos, Gedyos and Oromos, Anyuwak and Nuers, Oromo and Afar, Oromo and Konsos, Oromo and Amharas, and currently between Gumuzis and Oromos, Oromos and Oromos and etc. These peoples who have lived together as good neighbours for centuries are culturally intermingled and share valuable social, political and economic set-ups. It is this mutually interdependent person that the EPRDF regime turned against each other for its "**divide and rule**" policy.

Your Excellency,

Ever since the Ethiopian state took its present form, change in government always emanated from the barrel of the gun rather than the ballot box. Opposition to the state has always remained a deadly business. Thus, the only recourse for a serious opposition is to resort to arms resistance. This phenomenon has created a cyclical vicious circle. If the International community and all democratic forces vest a credible interest to end that cycle, they need to exert a pressure on Ethiopian government to settle the political conflict it has with other democratic forces and so that free people of Ethiopia will elect their government by free will without intimidation; a government that is by the people and for the people.

The root cause of Ethiopia's political conflict lies in its history of State formation. The formation of the modern Ethiopian empire state contemporaneously coincides with the European "scramble for Africa". The process of state building of Ethiopia involved no more than conquest and subjugation of conquered peoples, accomplished under the auspices of monarchy that expanded its power from the central highlands to disparate areas of the periphery. The annexation of this independent polities left fundamental political problems, which became chronic to the human rights violations in the empire state of Ethiopia. Permanent conflict and war, total wretchedness and poverty, deeply rooted dependency and famine remain to be some of those chronic problems.

Ethiopia is categorised as "soft state" whose economy is under developed and mainly dependent on external aid. We feel that democratic governments including Denmark conveniently ignored this gross violation of Human rights by the regime that is reaching to genocide level every passing day.

Your Excellency,

It is true that the major hotspots of conflict at the Horn of Africa are the first priority concern for Democratic governments and other international organisations. Ethiopia is geopolitically situated to determine the stability of the Horn. The Oromo People who are about half of the Ethiopian population are economically and politically determinant for the stability of Ethiopia. The EPDRF that rules by force will neither bring peace to Ethiopia nor to the Horn as far as Oromos and other nations and nationalities of Ethiopia are excluded for the polity.

Generally the government should demonstrate its total opposition to extrajudicial executions and the unlawful use of lethal force against prisoners or demonstrators. The government should also ensure that law enforcement officials execute in accordance with its constitution. The constitution of Ethiopia Concerning Human Rights PART ONE which covers Article 15 the Right of Life, Article 16 The Right of the Security of a person, Article 17 Right of Liberty, Article 18 Prohibition against inhuman treatment, Article 19 Right of a person Arrested Article 20 of a person accused and Article 21 concerning a person held in custody all protect the individual rights of a person. The democratic rights from Article 29 to Article 44 also protect for the students or any individual of the nation to exercise their right in accordance. The denial of the above all is the violation of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which Ethiopia ratified in 1993. It is also a violation of Article 1, 2, 3 of Universal declaration of human rights.

Such continuous genocidal act of the Ethiopian government is simply witnesses the hidden Agenda of its policy from the very beginning which was indicated in its party journal, *Hizbaawi Adera* [People's Custodian – 4, 7. December 1996 – February 1997 (Tahsas, 1989, Ethiopian Calendar)], called for the elimination of 'narrow nationalist tendencies' in Oromia State Region, 'fighting the higher intellectual and bourgeoisie extensively and resolutely'. It is with this objective that it targeted to Oromo students, elders, politically prominent figures, intellectuals and businessmen. As a legislative body, Foreign Affairs Committee has a responsibility to inquire Denmark government. The Committee has also an influence on the Development Aid policy. The Denmark as a Member of Development Assistance Group (DAG) in Ethiopia has strong influence to exert a diplomatic pressure on Ethiopian regime and for searching peaceful way of resolving the conflict.

Therefore, we appeal to Democratic Governments, Parliamentarian and NGOs to work closely with democratic forces for a democratic power transformation in Ethiopia. Denmark government as the member of EU has bilateral and multi-lateral agreements with Ethiopia. Most of these agreements enshrined human rights protection, good governance and democratic freedom. We feel however that the Denmark and EU has failed to force Ethiopia to abide with these agreements. For those who care for humanity, Ethiopian has been a killing field of innocents just because of their identity or their support for opposition. The massive detention and killings perpetuated so far against Oromo students, businessmen and peasants is a living testimony for the EPRDF's bad record on humanitarian issues.

Ethiopia needs to honour its commitments to internationally accepted human rights principles. Hence I appeal to the Foreign Affairs Committee to play its role that:-

1. The international community publicly censure Ethiopia over its human rights record;
2. The Ethiopian government should be held responsible for infamous mass killings, disappearances, arbitrary arrests, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
3. Perpetrators of extra judicial executions and other atrocities should be brought before an international tribunal;
4. The international community refrain from aiding and supporting the Ethiopian government without preconditions as long as it violates human rights and fundamental freedoms in the empire-state of Ethiopia;
5. The Ethiopian regime recognizes the rights of the prisoners to have access to lawyers and family or the relatives.
6. That the regime to stop using unofficial places and military camps as hidden prisons.
7. Search peaceful way of resolving the political conflict with the oppositions and resistances.

Sincerely



Dr. Shigut Geleta

Head of Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) Diplomatic Division