

ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO

DAMEE DANTAA ALAA

OROMO LIBERATION FRONT

FOREIGN RELATIONS DPT

Gaafa: 24.11.2013
Date:

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To: Your Excellency Mr. Per Stig Møller
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament
Folketinget, Christiansborg
1240 København K

Your excellency,

This is an urgent appeal to your good office on the unlawful imprisonment of Oromo activists and other nationals in Ethiopia. I have attached herewith the prisoner's data from the prisons of **Kalliti**, **Kilinto**, **Zuway**, **Maikelawi** and **Torhayiloch** in Ethiopia. Various human rights Organizations had already indicated that Ethiopian government is skilled in displacing the prisoners from one prison to the other. It is also accustomed that the Ethiopian government release on pardon at the eve of New Year and again arrest and put them into its "**Bermudas**" (secret detentions places behind the bars, offices, military bases or residential areas). As a result of such orchestrations sometimes it is difficult to locate whereabouts of victims. The collected data is by no means complete; it is a drop of an iceberg. Various human rights advocates and Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) information sources gave an estimated figure of 30,000 Oromo political prisoners in Ethiopia. It is likely that some have been died because of severe torture or maltreatment after the data has been collected or few been released. Most of these activists in their twenties and a few are between 30 and 40 years old, have received death sentences on dubious charges of terrorism, violating territorial integrity, and instigating war. Nearly all activists that have been given life sentences are on charges of violating territorial integrity and acts of terror. The government crackdown on Oromo activism has been disproportionate and has specifically targeted this nation. The Ethiopian government has espoused heavy-handed policies in dealing with any form of opposition, and has silenced human rights activists by unlawful detention and extrajudicial executions with pretext of terrorism. The Oromo people currently suffer from a number of persecutions at the hands of the government, including the suppression of their freedom of speech and assembly, arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings, and extreme torture at the hands of the Ethiopian police. The restrictive Anti-Terrorism Proclamation (adopted in 2009) has been used to justify arrests of

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both journalists and members of the political opposition leaders and members. Considering the on-going tribulations that the Oromo people, the political prisoners in particular, and the lack of progress towards democratic change in Ethiopia, we earnestly appeal to the international community and legislative bodies to use its influence on the Ethiopian government and facilitate the release of all political prisoners, and to take practical action to promote real democratic changes in the country. It is our believe that the change of your government policy that is cooperating with Ethiopia as one of its thirteen partner of African countries will significantly change the political situation of Ethiopia for good. As a legislative body being of member for EU parliament and Danish Parliament you have a say on the Danish government and Organs of EU. The Committee has also an influence on the Danish and EU Aid policy. Both Denmark and European commission 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. Ethiopia will also appear before Human rights Council for its second Universal Periodic review in April 2014. Considering all these opportunities you have, we specifically urge you to:

1. use your diplomatic influence to put political, economic, and social pressures upon the Ethiopian government to unconditionally release these prisoners, who face death and life-long sentences on purely political grounds.
2. advise the government of Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, ironically led by Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) from its incipient until today, to respect the current Ethiopian Constitution and International human Rights bill, and to stop the extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests of innocent people and prolonged detention without trial.
3. demand the repeal of all new laws that violate the fundamental freedom of citizens: particularly the “Anti-terrorism Law”, and the “Press Law”.
4. demand to stop the unlawful evictions of Oromos and illegal selling of Oromo land immediately.

Sincerely



Dr. Shigut Geleta

Head of Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) Diplomatic Division