



## Ethiopia: Apprehension and Detention of Oromo Nationals on Irrecha Festivals Celebration

### HRLHA URGENT ACTION

**October 5, 2012**

The Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa (HRLHA) is highly concerned about the safety and wellbeing of hundreds of Oromo Nationals who were arrested by the Ethiopian Security forces on the annual Irrecha Festival (Oromo Traditional Thanksgiving) Holiday in central Oromia Regional State in Ethiopia.

According to the information obtained by HRLHA through its correspondents in central Ethiopian, over two hundred Oromo nationals, almost all of whom were the youth, were arrested in a surprise crackdown by armed government forces around the end of the Irrecha Holiday ceremony at Hora (Lake) Arsadi in the Central Oromia City of Bishoftu/Dabra-Zayit on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2012, and taken away to Maikelawi Investigation prison and to unknown destinations. The allegations were that the holiday celebrants chanted some kinds of political slogans along with Irrecha Festival songs.

HRLHA's informants from Western and Southern Showa also reported that many Oromos who were on traveling to attend the Irrecha Festival Celebration at Bishoftu were pulled out their Buses on September 29, 2012 by the Security forces in towns of Guder, Ambo, Ginchi, Shashemene, Sebata, Dukem and other towns and taken to unknown destinations.

The very ambiguous question, as it has been the case in Ethiopia's political environment in the past fifteen to twenty years, is as to why political opinions and expressions, if any, become a crime in a country that claims to be democratic. It is very unfortunate that the Oromos and other nations and nationalities in Ethiopia are not able to see signs of democratic political changes even following the change of top political leadership. Among the hundreds of arrestees and detainees, the whereabouts of whom were not yet known, the HRLHA correspondents have been able to get the names and some other relevant information of the following:

No	Name	Age	Gender	Education Level/Status	Place of Birth	
					Region/Zone	City/Town
1	Alemitu Lemi Jabessa	19	F	10	West Showa	Bishoftu
2	Jafaro Shalama Fida	25	M	Student	West Showa	Finfinne/Lideta
3	Mamo Lemmi Terefa	20	M	10+3	West Showa	Gindabarat
4	Tesfaye Duguma Didha	22	M	10+3	West Showa	Ambo
5	Yadessa Negero Wagari	27	M	-	West Showa	Bakko/Tibbe
6	Boja Shibbiru Dheressa	25	M	10+3	West Showa	Bakko/Tibbe
7	Ayantu Mohamed Mumme	22	F	10+3	East Hararge	Haromaya

8	Kitessa Alamayehu Ayana	19	M	8	East Wallaga	Nekemt
9	Abdi Ibrahim Said	25	M	BA	East Harerge	Haromaya
10	Dadhi Gudda Balcha	25	M	-	East Showa	Dukam
11	Eliyas Bacha Amenu	24	M	10	Arsi	Shashemene
12	Gadissa Kaba Waggari	26	M	BA	West Showa	Gedo
13	Motuma Lemi Jabessa	22	M	10+3	East Showa	Bishoftu
14	Ashenafi Angessa Kotta	22	M	Farmer	West Showa	Tole
15	Diriba Tumsa Chibsa	22	M	10+2	West Showa	Ambo
16	Shimelis Aboyu	25	M	10+3	East Wallaga	Horro Guduru
17	Sanyi Jabessa Dube	22	M	12	West Showa	Tole
18	Lelisa Lache Taressa	25	M	-	West Showa	Alfata
19	Samu'el Fekadu Kalbessa	22	M	Employee	East Wallaga	Nekemt
20	Abdi Kajela Soboka	21	M	Employee	West Wallaga	Jarso
21	Badhassa Tadesse Aba Ware	27	M	BA	Jimma Zone	Jimma
22	Gemechu Habtamu Tafesse	20	M	12	West Wallaga	Jarso
22	Firomsa Rabirra Jirata	24	M	BA	East Wallaga	Jarte Jardega
23	Gemechis Girma Garassa	22	M	10	West Showa	Tokke Kutayye
24	Dame Tufa Roba	19	M	8	East Showa	Lomi, Ingumi
25	Bulti Getahun Barkessa	18	M	10	West Wallaga	Alaltu
26	Tomas Amante Ijaro	25	M	BA	North Showa	Kuyu
27	Badhassa Teshome Oljirra	35	M	Employee	West Wallaga	Nejo
28	Oluma Sufi Kajela	23	M	-	East Showa	Ziway
29	Shimelis Abebe Tesso	26	M	12	North Showa	Kuyyu
30	Fayera Abebe Yadassa	23	M	12	West Showa	Ambo
31	Girma Chimdessa Oluma	25	M	10+3	East Wallaga	Shambu
32	Zalalem Bayissa Irreti	24	M	10	South Showa	Goche/Awash
33	Chala Tolessa Badhadha	23	M	12	West Showa	Inchini
34	Geremew Dhaba Bayisa	25	M	BA	West Showa	Tokke
35	Badhasa Gamada Chukala	27	M	-	East Showa	Limban
36	Gamachis Lamessa	26	M	-	East Wallaga	-
37	Bulki Getahun	27	M	-	East Wallaga	Nejo
38	Dana Tufa Roba	25	M	-	East Showa	Lume
39	Dachasa Kebede	28	M	-	North Showa	Abichu
40	Dibbo Shumi	30	M	-	East Showa	Bishoftu
41	Badho Melka	-	M	-	East Showa	Abu Sera
42	Njgatu Legesse	-	M	-	East Showa	Sabata
43	Ayele Bayi	-	M	-	West Showa	Meta
44	Jafura Shelema	-	M	-	West Showa	Inchini
45	Sanbatu Regeassa	-	M	-	North Showa	Garba Guracha
46	Ibrahim Kala'e	-	M	-	Arsi	Asela
47	Tekilu Fromsa	-	M	-	East Wallaga	Nekemt
48	Abayi Gosa Balcha	-	M	-	East Showa	Bishoftu
49	Olana Chala Hirpa	-	M	-	West Showa	Ambo

50	Lalisa Luche Talila	-	M	-	West Showa	Alfata
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Yadassaa G. Waggari	Tomas A. Ijira	Shimalis A. Dheressa	Kitessa A. Ayana	Olana C. Hirpa	Mamo L. Tefera	Lalissaa L. Taliilaa
						
Jafaro S. Fida	Gemechu H. Tafese	Gemechis G. Dheressa	Favisa A. Yadesa	Dame T. Roba	Chala T. Bedhasa	Bulti G. Berkessa
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <div>Abdi K. Saboka</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <div>Abay G. Balcha</div> </div> </div>						

The HRLHA strongly condemns the violent actions of the Ethiopian Government, be it federal or regional; and requests that the arrestees are released unconditionally. HRLHA also calls up on all local, regional, and international human rights, democratic, and diplomatic agencies to exert pressure on the new Ethiopian head of state so that the new Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn starts re-examining the overall political courses of actions that have been very unfriendly to the majority of Ethiopians during the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's leadership.