

October, 10th 2012

**To: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),
Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland**

Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) expresses its deep concern, and appeal to your office for your urgent intervention in relation to the arbitrary arrest of Oromo civilians on 30th September 2012, by Ethiopian armed forces, during celebration of '**Irrechaa**' Festival – Thanks Giving Day - in Oromia region.

So far, OSGA has confirmed that Fifty two (52) civilians were unjustly imprisoned because the government authorities charged them with wearing unapproved clothing, including the wrong colour of clothes.

The names of the 52 detainees are:

Name**Birth Place (location)**

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Yaddessa Nagari Waqqari | West Shawa, Bako Tibe district |
| 2. Mammo Lammi Tarrafa | West Shawa, Gindabarat district |
| 3. Qixxessa Alamayyo | West Wallagga, Gutu Wayu district |
| 4. Dhaba Gudda Balcha | East Shawa, Aqaqi district |
| 5. Badhaane Gammada | East Shawa, Liban Cuqala district |
| 6. Gammachis Lammeessa | East Wallagga, |
| 7. Bulti Getahun | West Wallagga, Nedjo district |
| 8. Dana Tufa Rooba | East Shawa, Lume district |
| 9. Dachasa Kabbada | North Shawa, Abichu Nya'a district |
| 10. Tomas Amante | North Shawa, Kuyu district |
| 11. Dilbo Shuumi | East Shawa, Bishoftu district |
| 12. Badho Malka | East Shawa, Abu Sera district |
| 13. Fayyeera Abbaba | West Shawa, Ambo district |
| 14. Nigatu Laggasa | South-West Shawa, Sabata district |
| 15. Zalalam Bayisa Irreettii | South-West Shawa, Gachi district |
| 16. Cala Tolosa Badhadha | West Shawa, Incini district |
| 17. Gammachu Habtaamu | West Wallagga, Jaarso district |
| 18. Abdi Qajela | West Wallagga, Jaarso district |
| 19. Yonas Dabala | Horo, Finca'a district |
| 20. Shumi Shiifarra | West Arsi, Arsii Nagelle district |
| 21. Gammachis Girma | West Shawa, Tokko Kutaye district |
| 22. Ashanafii Angaasa | South-West Shawa, Tole district |
| 23. Shimmallis Abboyyu | Horro Guduru, Jimma Rare district |
| 24. Lalisa Lacco | West Shawa, Alfata district |
| 25. Ayyala Bayi | West Shawa, Meta district |

26. Jafura Shallama	West Shawa, Incini district
27. Sanbatu Raggasa	North Shawa, Garba Gurracha district
28. Ibrahim Kal'e	Arsii, Assallaa district
29. Taklu Firomsa	East Wallagga, Naqamte district
30. Gammachis Girma	West Shawa, Toke Kutaye district,
31. Ashanafi Angasa	South-West Shawa, Ona Tole district
32. Gaddisa Tarressa	South-West Shawa, Ilu district, Taji town,
33. Shimallis Abbiyyu	Horro Guduru, Jimma Rare district,
34. Gutama Tasisa	Horro Guduru, Abbayi Comman district,
35. Lalisa Luce Tolasa	West Shawa, Ilfata district,
36. Bayisa Tarraffa	West Shawa, Ilu Galan district,
37. Tamasgen Raggasa	West Shawa Jaldu district,
38. Ababa Gaddisa	Horro Guduru, Hammuru district,
39. Tomas Amante	North Shawa, Kuyyu district,
40. Fayyera Ababa	West Shawa, 03 Ambo town,
41. Gammachu Habtamu	West Wallagga, Jarso district,
42. Zalalem Bayisa	South-West Shawa, Gachi district,
43. Tamasgen Qajela	South-West Shawa, Ilu district,
44. Cala Tolasa	West Shawa, Incini district,
45. Yaddessa Nagaro	West Shawa, Bakko Tibbe district,
46. Fayisa Namomsa	West Shawa, Danno district,
47. Mammo Lammi	West Shawa, Abuna Ginda Barati district,
48. Qixxessa Alamayyo Ayyana	East Wallagga, Guto Wayyu, district
49. Bultuma Getahun	West Wallagga, Nadjjo district,
50. Mazgababu Tolasa	Bishoftu town,
51. Dhuguma Ittana	Bishooftu town,
52. Yohanis Kabbade	Bishoftu town

(Note: some of the pictures captured as for reference):



Unjust and inhumane treatment of the detainees has included being handcuffed and beaten, as well as the systematic denial of visitation rights from relatives. The Ethiopian government authorities have asserted on various media outlets that these Oromo civilians are a risk to national security merely by the colour of clothes they wore to the celebrations. The Ethiopian government authorities have no proof or rationale that the Oromo civilians' presence in a colour of clothing will negatively impact national security. The government constitution, namely Article 29, addresses the democratic rights of citizens, particularly, rights of thought, opinion and expressions by stating, "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression without any interference. This right shall include freedom In the form of art... and freedom of artistic creativity is guaranteed." The Ethiopian government authorities are acting against this constitution.

Therefore, in order to bring an end to this flagrant violation of human rights OSGA appeals for your intercession in this matter and to requests the Ethiopian government immediately release the detainees, and compensate for the occurrence of any unreasonable damages.

Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA),

Cc: All Human Rights organisations and Embassies in Ethiopia