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Urgent Action

As the Ethiopian national election is approaching, another mass arrest is foiling in various parts of Oromia region. According to OHRRO's correspondents, right from Oromia, the scale of the mass arrest is an all out action all over the region. But, first, precisely because of the widely spread nature of the mass arrest and, secondly, because of the extremely tight control and monopoly of information by the regime, OHRRO's sources of information couldn't come up even with a reasonably partial lists of the arrested.

It is generally reported that the arrest campaign is largely concentrated in eastern and central part of Oromia.

Alone in Hararge it is estimated that more than 500 people have been arrested in only two consecutive dates 14th and 15th January. The arrested are from all walks of life, with no discrimination of age, gender or occupation. About 350 of the arrested are from Haroomaaya locality, while the rest are reported to be from Kombolcha, Dadar, Karroo, Dhangaggoo and Qarsaa villages of the Hararge region. Among those from Haroomayaa, two senior university students of computer science were mentioned in their first names as **Gaadisaa** and **Beekamaa** both of whom were reportedly abducted by the regime's security forces from the university campus under extremely confidential circumstances. It is also reported that a 7th grade pupil named

Caalaa was shot dead by the local security forces in the local town known as Qarsaa. Other two more students named **Toofiq Aliyyii** and **Abdujabbaar Aliyyii**, most likely brothers, were also shot and severely wounded. Their where about is not yet known, because they have been taken away by the TPLF authorities in order to keep the incident secret from the public under the pretext of medical treatment. It is reported that these shooting cases have caused uproar and a serious social unrest in the community as this have been testified by an escalating confrontation between government forces and the community at large.

This being the situation in Hararge, two other students from Awaasaa University, with names Jaataniin and Dhaabaa (a female and male respectively), were also secretly abducted and reportedly sent to the notorious central prison of the federal government known as Ma`ikelawi.

As already mentioned, the mass arest campaign is not limited to the Hararge region. Many Oromos in eastern Shoa were also victims of the campaign in mass. Here most of the victims were reported to be school teachers and pupils.

Accordingly, the following are few names OHRRO received so far as arrested, alone from the locality known as Dugdaa in eastern Shoa, as a part of the mass-abduction-campaign in Oromia:

1. **Daraaraa Baqqalaa** – a school teacher
2. **Maaramaa Mulugeetaa** – a school teacher
3. **Dhugaa Miidhagsoo** – a school teacher
4. **Gabbisaa Doorii finance officer**
5. A person only with first name **Isheetu** and two other students whose name are not yet disclosed were all abducted together.
6. **Magarsaa Bultoo** from Dukam town at Aqqaqi district abducted while he was on teaching duty in the local school
7. A person with only first name **Tamirat** – a teacher at Odaa Nabee secretly abducted
8. **Gamachuu Baqqalaa** – a student at Bishooftu (Debrezeit) high school abducted from home early in the morning before he was awake by the regime's police force.
9. **Bulbulaa Takkaa** – a student also from Bishooftu (Debrezeit) abducted under similar circumstances

These are the few names disclosed so far among hundreds of Oromos herded into prison. As it has always been, their circumstance is extremely precarious. No one can tell about their final fate. It is highly probable that they will be liable to physical torture, long imprisonment or even death without due jurisdiction. As most of the arrested are likely family heads and communally important individuals, the further humanitarian consequence of their arrest would be immense both in terms of quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Therefore this indiscriminate action of the TPLF/EPRDF regime is tantamount to declaring a war against the Oromo people at large.

Given such over all flagrant human right abuse, the Oromo Human Right and Relief Organization (OHRRO) is gravely concerned about the devastating humanitarian consequences and its socio-political aftermath. It appeals therefore to all freedom and peace loving governments and non-governmental organizations to react and put the necessary pressure on the TPLF/EPRDF regime before things go out of every one's control.

The Oromo Human Right and Relief Organization, OHHRRO, better known as OMRHO e.V., after its German acronym for Oromo Menschens Recht and Hilfs Organisation, is a non political and non profitable organization. It was founded in 2005 in Hannover, Germany as a legally registered human right organization.

The executive board of OMRHO e.V