



---

## **Saudi Arabia: Extreme Brutality against migrants**

From Ethiopia

### **HRLHA Appeal and Urgent Action**

---

November 13, 2013

#### ***For Immediate Release***

**Honorable ABDULLAH bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia;**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

Riyadh, Royal Court: 1-488-2222, Jeddah: 2-665-4233

Taif: 2-736-5200, Makkah: 2-823-4111, Madinah: 4-857-2500

**His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz,**

Upon the expiration of the three months extended deadline for migrant workers to renew their residency and employment status ( November 4, 2013), thousands of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia most of whom believed to be from Ethiopia were apprehended in various regions of the Kingdom by Ministry of Labor inspection squads formed for this purpose under the pretext of flushing out workers who violate rules regarding work and residency permits.

The most victimized of the raids to flush out illegal workers were the free visa holder migrant workers of Ethiopian Origins. ‘Free visa’ holders are considered among the most exploited, lowest paid and abused workforce in Saudi Arabia. The sponsor, who keeps the worker’s passport and other travel documents with him/her, plays a crucial role in the worker’s life. All dealings with the government such as renewal of ‘iqama’ or residency permit are through the sponsor. Sources from the capital city, Riyadh, reported that among the total of 28000 surrounded migrants , authorities detained around 16,500 migrant workers in the first four days (November 5 – 9, 2013) in a nationwide crackdown across seven provinces The Saudi officials confirmed that among the seven provinces nearly half of the migrants were arrested

---

*HRLHA is a non-political organization (with the UN Economic and Social Council – (ECOSOC) Consultative Status) which attempts to challenge abuses of human rights of the people of various nations and nationalities in the Horn of Africa.*

*Tel: (647) 280 7062, E-Mail: [hrldirector@mail.org](mailto:hrldirector@mail.org), Web site: [www.humanrightsleague.com](http://www.humanrightsleague.com)*

---

---

near the southern border with Yemen and in Mecca where some Muslims stay on illegally after their pilgrimage.

Though the police officials in the capital city claim that the security forces killed the African migrant worker in el-Manhoufa because he and others tried to resist arrest, the information from the migrants and from the publicly released video confirmed that the three Ethiopians killed were murdered by the brutal action of police. Among the victims was Umere Abdurahiman Ali , 24 an Oromo national from Ethiopia who was gunned down on November 5.



Umare Abdurahman Ali

After the crackdown resumed, more than 10 Ethiopians were killed and thrown into the bush and eaten by hyenas

**Your Majesty**, the government of Saudi Arabia has an international obligation to treat a person who finds him/herself inside the borders of Saudi Arabia according to International law. The Universal declaration of Human Rights and International conventions on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families Article 9 & 10, states “*The right to life of migrant workers and members of their families shall be protected by law*”, “*no migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*” respectively. In

---

*HLRHA is a non-political organization (with the UN Economic and Social Council – (ECOSOC) Consultative Status) which attempts to challenge abuses of human rights of the people of various nations and nationalities in the Horn of Africa.*

*Tel: (647) 280 7062, E-Mail: [hrldirector@mail.org](mailto:hrldirector@mail.org), Web site: [www.humanrightsleague.com](http://www.humanrightsleague.com)*

---

---

case these migrant workers are illegal, they should be treated as human beings with human dignity and deported in a civilized manner to the destination of their choice.

The Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa calls upon all world community, UN member states, International Civic and humanitarian Organizations and diplomatic communities and agencies to exert pressure on the Saudi Arabian government so that it discloses the whereabouts and the current situations of the confined migrant workers, and compensates the victims for their loss and renews their status. The HRLHA also calls on the Saudi Arabian government to sign all international covenants and treaties that it hasn't yet signed.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send appeals to

The **Honorable ABDULLAH bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**, King of Saudi Arabia and other concerned Saudi Arabian government officials and to diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia who are accredited to your country as swiftly as possible, in English, Arabic, or your own language expressing:

- Your concern regarding the apprehension and possible torture of the citizens who are being held in different detention centers; and calling for their immediate and unconditional release;
- urging the Saudi Government authorities to ensure that these detainees are treated in accordance with the regional and international standards on the treatment of prisoners,
- Adhere to international conventions on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families
- to bring to justice those Police and Security agents who committed crimes against innocent civilians by using excessive force

**To:**

❖ **HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud:**

Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Defense

Airport Road, Riyadh 11165

TEL : 1-478-5900/1-477-7313 FAX: 1-401-1336

---

*HLHA is a non-political organization (with the UN Economic and Social Council – (ECOSOC) Consultative Status) which attempts to challenge abuses of human rights of the people of various nations and nationalities in the Horn of Africa.*

*Tel: (647) 280 7062, E-Mail: [hrldirector@mail.org](mailto:hrldirector@mail.org), Web site: [www.humanrightsleague.com](http://www.humanrightsleague.com)*

---

---

Jeddah Office TEL: 2-665-2400

Web site: <http://www.moda.gov.sa>

❖ **SAUD al-Faysal bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud :**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124

TEL: 1-406-7777/1-441-6836 FAX: 1-403-0159

Jeddah Office TEL: 2-669-0900

web site <http://www.mofa.gov.sa>

❖ **AHMAD bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud:**

Ministry of Interior

PO Box 2933, Riyadh 11134

TEL : 1-401-1944 FAX : 1-403-1185

Jeddah Office TEL: 2-687-232

web site: <http://www.moi.gov.sa>

❖ **Muhammad bin Abd al-Karim bin Abd al-Aziz al-ISA :**

Ministry of Justice

University Street, Riyadh 11137

TEL : 1-405-7777/1-405-5399

Jeddah Office TEL: 2-665-0857

web site: <http://www.moj.gov.sa>

**Copied To**

▪ **League of Arab States Headquarters**

His Excellency Dr. Nabil El Araby, Secretary Genral

---

*HLRHA is a non-political organization (with the UN Economic and Social Council – (ECOSOC) Consultative Status) which attempts to challenge abuses of human rights of the people of various nations and nationalities in the Horn of Africa.*

*Tel: (647) 280 7062, E-Mail: [hrldirector@mail.org](mailto:hrldirector@mail.org), Web site: [www.humanrightsleague.com](http://www.humanrightsleague.com)*

---

---

Egypt Cairo – Secretariat –Tahrir Square

Telephone: 5752966 - 5750511

Fax: 5740331 - 5761017

PO. Box: 11642

• **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

United Nations Office at Geneva 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Fax: + 41 22 917 9022 (particularly for urgent matters) E-mail: [tb-petitions@ohchr.org](mailto:tb-petitions@ohchr.org)

• **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)**

48 Kairaba Avenue, P.O.Box 673, Banjul, Gambia

Tel: (220) 4392 962 , 4372070, 4377721 – 23 Fax: (220) 4390 764

*E-mail: [achpr@achpr.org](mailto:achpr@achpr.org)*

• **U.S. Department of State**

Laura Hruby

Ethiopia Desk Officer

Tel: (202) 647-6473, [HrubyLP@state.gov](mailto:HrubyLP@state.gov)

• **Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada**

125 Sussex Drive

Ottawa, ON

K1A 0G2

Tel: 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free in Canada), 613-944-4000

• **Amnesty International – London**

Clairy Beston ( Clairy or Claire?)

Telephone: +44-20-74135500

Fax number: +44-20-79561157

---

*HRLHA is a non-political organization (with the UN Economic and Social Council – (ECOSOC) Consultative Status) which attempts to challenge abuses of human rights of the people of various nations and nationalities in the Horn of Africa.*

*Tel: (647) 280 7062, E-Mail: [hrldirector@mail.org](mailto:hrldirector@mail.org), Web site: [www.humanrightsleague.com](http://www.humanrightsleague.com)*

---

---

• **Human Rights Watch**

Felix Horn/ Leslie Lefkow

Tel: +1-212-290-4700

Fax:+1-212-736-1300 Email: [hrwnyc@hrw.org](mailto:hrwnyc@hrw.org)

---

*HRLHA is a non-political organization (with the UN Economic and Social Council – (ECOSOC) Consultative Status) which attempts to challenge abuses of human rights of the people of various nations and nationalities in the Horn of Africa.*

*Tel: (647) 280 7062, E-Mail: [hrldirector@mail.org](mailto:hrldirector@mail.org), Web site: [www.humanrightsleague.com](http://www.humanrightsleague.com)*

---