



# ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

**Press Statement**, 08 December 2015

Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE) is a non-governmental, non-partisan, and not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of human rights protection in Ethiopia by providing support to the work of Ethiopian Human Rights Defenders and performing research, consultancy, advocacy and other related tasks on the situation of human rights in Ethiopia.

## **Stop Killing Civilians in Ethiopia!**

**AHRE Condemns killings of Students and peaceful Protestors in Oromia region, and Killings at Gondor Prison, Ethiopia.**



In the last two weeks, a number of students and civilians in Oromia region were attacked by Ethiopian authorities while they were peacefully protesting against the controversial Addis Ababa's master plan. The protest is widely spreading throughout Oromia region and continues in the last two days. AHRE's sources confirmed that a number of students have been shot dead and many others were injured.

AHRE confirmed that at least six students and another one person were shot dead and three others were gunshot and sustained serious injuries. It is also reported that hundreds of protesters were arrested and detained in different detention centers. AHRE received a report that most of the detainees were subjected to ill-treatments and torture.

On 1 December 2015, Gezahegn Oliqa, a student at Haromaya University in the Eastern Ethiopia, was shot dead during the student protest in Haromaya. Gezahegn was a resident of Horo Guduru Woreda, in Walaga Zone. Another three people were also shot dead on 2 December 2015 in West Walaga and Fiche Zones. Gutu Abara Dheressa, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student

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at Chaliya High school and Karasa Chala a resident in Gyliso Woreda, West Walaga Zone were also shot dead during a student protest in Gyliso town.

On 3 December 2015, a former political prisoner, Dabala Tafa Robi was also shot dead in his home town Chancho Woreda, Fiche Zone while he was in a march with students and residents of Chancho. The same day, Dejene Serbessa, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Bantu Secondary Shool in Tole Woreda, South-West Shawa Zone was shot dead at the student protest. On 5 December 2015, Miftah Juneydi Bushra, a high school student in Furda Town, Badano Woreda, Eastern Hararge was also shot dead during the student protest. In another incident, a 9<sup>th</sup> gread student, Murad Abdi at Bate High School in Haromaya Woreda was shot dead in front of Haromaya University on 7 December 2015.

Two Ambo University students, Aliyi Usmael and Tiso Gobena, respectively a 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 5<sup>th</sup> year, have sustained serious injury and admitted at the local hospital after the gunshot by police. In the neighboring woredas the same incidents and clashes between police and protestors were happened. In Muger town another student was shot by police and injured. He is Bekele Seboqa, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Inchini Preparatory School in Muger town.

Pictures of those killed and wounded students in Oromia region:





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Among many others, AHRE also has received list few names of students who have been arrested in connection with the ongoing protests. Six students: Asade Ali Shuba, Afandi Mohammed Adam, Shakim Hishak, Mohammed Abas Duri, Redwan Musa Saido and Aknu Ahmad Hamido have been arrested in Fuda town, Bedeno district, West Hararghe Zone. In Tulu Bollo Woreda, South West Shawa Zone five teachers also have been arrested. These are: Girma Chala Lata, Alemu Lticha (Director of Secondary School), Tesfaye Saka, Getu, and Bahru Namooni. All five teachers have been arrested in connection with the student protest.



AHRE also concerned about the killing of at least 17 prisoners in Northern Ethiopia, Gonder town. On 1 December 2015 around 12:30 PM local time the Gondor prison was on heavy fire which was spreading all over the prison. According to our sources while prisoners were trying to escape the fire and few others were also trying to help to extinguish the fire the prison guards and federal police officers were opened fire towards the prisoners. At least 17 prisoners shot killed and many others wounded.

The Ethiopian authority must stop terrorizing its own people and killing of peaceful protestors. The government should also ensure that police and security forces stop using excessive forces against civilians and peaceful protestors. The killing of 7 protestors in Oromia region and 17 prisoners in Gonder town, including those injured should be investigated by an independent and impartial inquiry. Those responsible government authorities and perpetrators also must be accountable for their unlawful acts. The Ethiopian government should respect its constitutional and international obligation for the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of assembly and protest.

Statement