

Oromia Global Forum
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Date: Thursday, February 04, 2021

Subject: Urgent Press Release on Oromo Political Prisoners Hunger Strike and Appeal to:

To: UN Human Rights Commissioner
To: European Union Human Rights Commissioner
To: The Incoming US Secretary of States
To: The Incoming US Assistant Secretary of States for Africa
To: Human Rights Watch
To: Amnesty International

After the political assassination of Oromo artist Hachalu Hundesa on June 29 2020, the Ethiopian regime rounded up prominent Oromo political leaders: Jawar Mohammed, Bekele Gerba, Colonel Gemmechu Ayana, Hamza Borena, Shamsuddin Taha, Michael Boren, Kennasa Ayana and a large number of Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) and Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) members across Oromia. These leaders were held in makeshift prisons including in solitary confinement in dark underground locations until some of them were recently moved to regime's notorious prisons of Kaliti and others. Since their illegal imprisonment they have been paraded in front of the regime's Kangaroo Courts under politically motivated trumped up charges. The Oromo mass has been horrified by the mistreatment of its leaders and the gross denial of their rights enshrined under the constitution of the country. Recently the Oromo public launched a solidarity movement by wearing yellow shirts under the banner of: #OromoYellowMovemnet and #WeAreAllPrisonersTheYellow-
(<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1225170934567568&set=a.140129223071750>)

Instead of listening to the public's outcry, the regime responded by rounding up any Oromo individual who wears a yellow shirt and scaling up the abuse of imprisoned leaders by relocating one of the prominent Oromo political leaders Colonel Gemmechu Ayana to a dangerous prison location, where hard-core criminals, that are infested with violence are held.

In protest of the rounding up of innocent Oromos, who peacefully expressed solidarity with Oromo leaders and the relocation of their comrade, Colonel Gemmechu Ayana, to a dangerous prison, leaders: Jawar Mohmmmed, Bekele Gerba, Hamza Borena, Shamsuddin Taha, Michael Boren and Kennasa Ayana have been on a hunger strike. Jawar, Bekele, Hamza and shumsuddin are on their 8th day of a hunger strike. There has been a rapid deterioration in the health conditions of Oromo leaders, who have been on hunger strike over the last 8 days.

Oromia Global Forum(OGF) stands in solidarity with Oromo political leaders, who are on hunger strike and continue to fight for the rights of our people even from the notorious prison cells of Ethiopia.

OGF holds the Ethiopian government fully responsible for harming the lives of our leaders by denying them justice and criminalizing our people for peacefully expressing their solidarity with Oromo political prisoners.

Finally, OGF calls on:

- The Oromo public to rise up and standby our leaders who are on hunger strike by joining the #OromoYellowMovemnet and #WeAreAllPrisonersTheYellow movement campaign
- The international community and human rights organizations to intervene immediately and put pressure on the Ethiopian regime to release all political prisoners immediately.

Sincerely,

Oromia Global Forum