



***Oromia Global Forum***

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**For Immediate Release**

**Subject:** Open Letter - Call to the Ethiopian Government and International Community

**Date:** April 20, 2023

We, members of the Oromia Global Forum ([OGF](https://ogfonline.org/)) - a global alliance of Oromo civic, professional, faith-based organizations, prominent human rights defenders and activists, residing in North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa are deeply concerned about the plight of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) leaders who are currently unlawfully imprisoned by the Ethiopian government. We urgently request their immediate release and unhindered access to appropriate medical care for their deteriorating health conditions.

The conditions of the political prisoners, Mr. Kennasa Ayana, Mr. Mikael Boran, Mr. Gadaa Gabbisa, Mr. Dawit Abdata, Dr. Gadaa Oljirra, Mr. Abdi Ragasa, and Mr. Lammi Benya, are dire and alarming. Mr. Kennasa is unable to walk due to serious back pain and yet, he is denied free medical treatment for his condition. Mr. Mikael Boran, who suffers from diabetes, has experienced a severe deterioration of his sight and overall health. Mr. Gadaa Gabbisa has contracted hepatitis and is unable to obtain the necessary medication and diet to improve his condition. Mr. Dawit Abdata, who has undergone spinal surgery, continues to suffer from pain and requires close medical observation. Dr. Gadaa Oljirra is reported to have foreign object in his foot that needs to be removed, causing him severe pain and suffering. Abdi has lost weight and his appearance has drastically changed, causing concern among his visitors. Lammi Benya has reportedly developed high blood pressure following the killing of his brother.

These political prisoners have had the charges against them dismissed by the court several times, and their imprisonment is purely political and unjustified. It is unacceptable to deny medical treatment to individuals who are already in a vulnerable state due to their unlawful imprisonment. We urge the Ethiopian government to immediately release these OLF leaders and provide them with proper medical care.

We also call upon the international community, including human rights organizations, governments, and the United Nations, to take urgent action to put pressure on the Ethiopian government to release the OLF leaders immediately without any preconditions and provide them with the necessary medical care. The wrongful imprisonment of these leaders is a clear violation of their basic human rights and an attempt to silence their legitimate political activities.

The OGF will be launching a campaign to raise awareness to support the release of the OLF leaders and provide them with proper medical care. We call on all individuals and organizations to join us in this effort and stand in solidarity with the Oromo people. Together, we must demand an end to the unjust treatment of Oromo political prisoners, respect their basic human rights and provide them with immediate medical care!

Sincerely,

Oromia Global Forum (OGF)