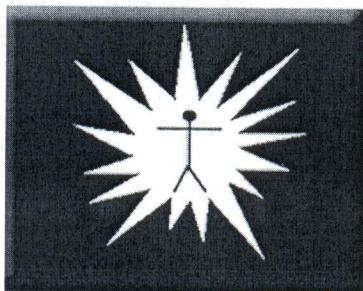


# Human Rights Council



## 136<sup>th</sup> HRCO Special Report

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### **Stop forced displacement and mistreatment based on ethnic identity!**

[www.ehrco.org.et](http://www.ehrco.org.et)

August 2015  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Registration No. 1146



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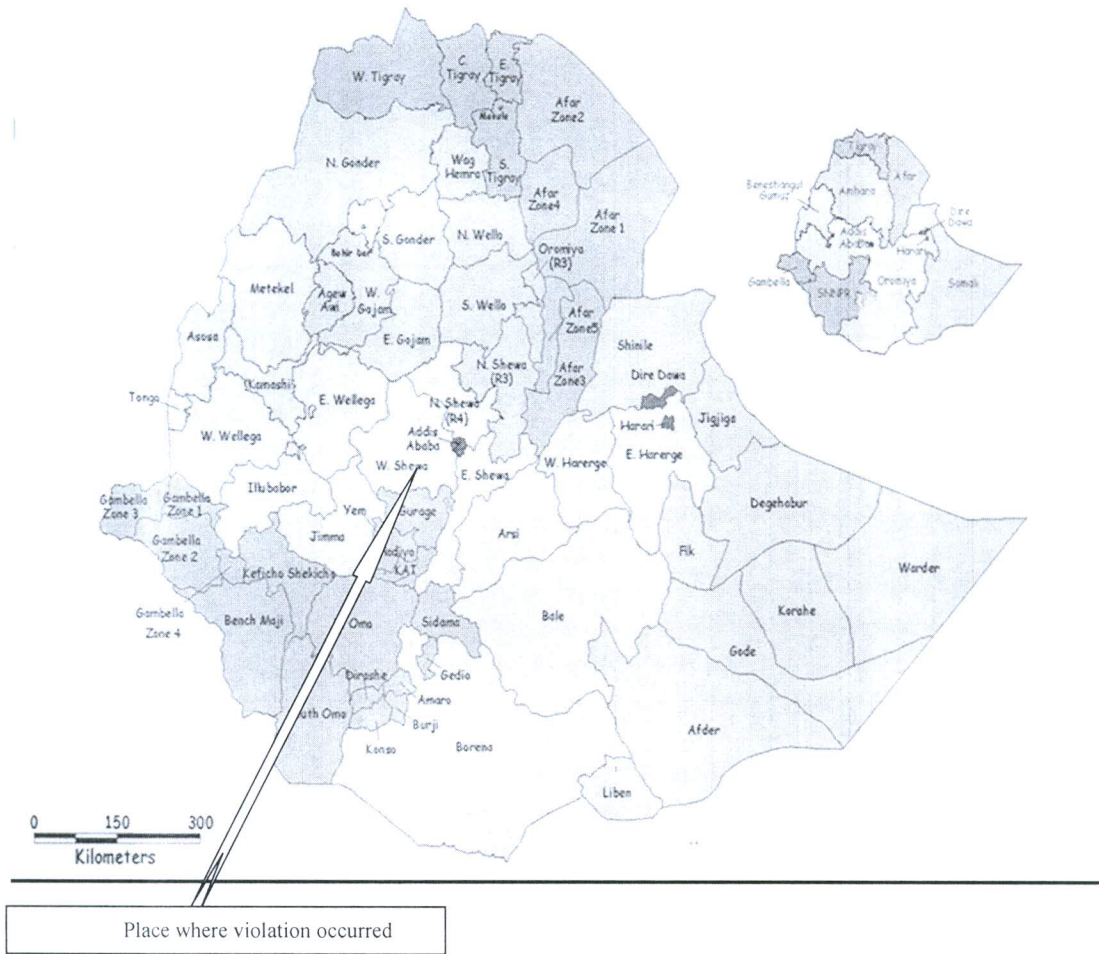


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# 1. Map of Administrative Regions and Zones of Ethiopia<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Map 'Ethiopia' <http://www.h2empower.org/aboutus/factsethiopia.html> (November 18, 2015)

## **2. The Human Rights Council (HRCO)**

The Human Rights Council (HRCO), formerly the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (HRCO), is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit making, non-partisan and non-political organization established on October 10, 1991. For the past 24 years since its establishment, the organization has been contributing through its various interventions, carrying a national mission and basing its fundamental principles, to the protection of human rights, rule of law and due process.

HRCO, with a view to achieve its mission has used various means and operated intensively to ensure that victims of human rights violation get justice, perpetrators of human rights are accountable for their actions, human rights awareness is promoted both among the public and government institutions and human rights violation were remedies.

The main functions of HRCO include, monitoring human rights violation and inform the relevant government bodies to provide remedy, avail free legal aid service, undertake research activities, monitor human rights situation in the country, visit prisoners and ensure their human rights are respect, investigate in to violations and publish reports.

To this date, HRCO has published 36 Regular reports, 139 special reports in addition to various declarations and press release on various thematic areas and current issues. Apart from these, it provided various trainings to raise the awareness of the public of its human rights so that it could defend them and play its role in protecting human rights. It also carried out various advocacy activities and legal aid provision. Even in the difficult situation that the organization is currently in, it is working its level best to ensure democratic system is built in light of its vision to see a democratic Ethiopian state.

International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights ratified by Ethiopia under its Article 11(1) guarantees the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living to him/her self and family, to adequate food, clothing, and housing. The government is the responsible body to ensure the fulfillment of these rights and to respect and protect the enjoyment of these rights by right holders.

Article 32(1) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Constitution explicitly guarantees the right of any Ethiopian to liberty of movement within the national territory and freedom to choose his residence anywhere in the country.

However, in contrary to the above binding provisions, the following section of this report details a situation where these rights has been grossly violated and citizens has fallen victims of a human rights violation that has not been remedied till date.

### **3. Human rights violation committed in Oromia Region West Showa Zone, Nono Alo**

#### **- Background to the violation**

Farmers living in Oromia regional state, West Showa Zone Nono Woreda are known for their diligent work ethic in producing various types of crops that feeds the local and national market of agricultural products. However, local officials and security personnel kept telling them ‘you are not native to this area yet you built your wealth while the native people earn less than what you earn’ and deprived them of their



property and liberty at different times. These officials further created division and spread hatred against the farmers by telling natives living in the area that the farmers ‘made their living out of your land....’<sup>2</sup>

Particularly on April 5, 2015 an ethnic Oromo man named Ato Zemedu Endale was found dead. After this incident a suspect whose name for the purpose of this case will not be revealed has been detained and undergoing trial. Before the end of the trial, the Nono Woreda Police Commander Inspector Hailu Diriba, Chairperson of the Nono Alo Kebele Ato Gosaye Guch and Meto Aleka Genene Beyene who is member of the police has lead the coordination of other Kebele and Police Officials of the area to instigate the population to rise against Amhara nationalities in the area and detained 85 farmer house heads. On the morning of April 18, 2015 around 9:00 am, the team have moved to burn houses and other properties that has been identified as owned by Amhara nationalities and received 300 Birr petrol fee from each of the detained house heads and told them ‘ your house has been burned! Now you go!’ and released them from their detention. These facts were shared to HRCO investigators by farmers, whose houses and properties have been burned, during their field visit.<sup>3</sup> HRCO investigators have communicated with Nono Woreda Administrator twice over the phone. The Administrator stated that the houses that have been burned are now being rebuilt (24 houses with corrugated iron) and damaged properties are being replaced with the support of the surrounding Oromo nationalities that are also providing food supply to the victims. According to the Administrator, there is now a committee established to see to it that the victims live in a peaceful manner. However, it has been confirmed by HRCO investigators that despite the fact that the surrounding community took a voluntary initiative to collect food and money, the same have not reached the victims so far.

Following the burning of property and houses of the victims, high number of women, children and elderly people were forced to flee to SNNPR Gurage Zone, Habeshege Woreda and take refuge under a tent.



Mr. Demena Gizaw died as a result of brutal beating by the Police. Buried in Darge Mariyam Church.



<sup>2</sup> Written complaint received by HRCO on 28/08/2015 A.A.

<sup>3</sup> Witness interview during HRCO investigators mission to the area.

## Amount of damage to property and life in number

- 1 person has been killed
- 10 people have sustained heavy and light body injury
- 99 cottages have been burnt down
- 25 corrugated iron houses have been burnt down

### 4. Extent of damage to property and list of farmer victims of displacement

No.	Farmer Name	Place of residence				burnt down houses		Type of burnt seeds					Burnt down properties			
		Region	Zone	Wor eda	Kebe le	corr ugat ed	cotta ge	Teff	Maize	Sorg hum	Chicken pea	Red Pepper	bed	Cap board	Money in cash(Birr)	Total estimation(Birr)
1	Mr. Tsegaye Birzu	Oromiya	w/she wa	nono	Nono alo		4	8	15	20	15	300	2	2	53,000.00	250,000.00
2	Mr. Zinaw Zeleke	»	»	»	»	1	1	8	110q	14 q	7	100 q	2	2	68,000.00	250,000.00
3	W/agegn Birzu	»	»	»	»		1	3	5	10	2	200 q	2	1	22,000.00	63,000.00
4	Mr. Teshome Ergete	»	»	»	»	2	2	8q	150	20	2	300 q	1	1	25,000.00	312,000.00
5	Mr. Degu Abayneh	»	»	»	»	1	2	12	155	30	8	500 q	2	1	30,000.00	600,000.00
6	Mr. Getiye Abayneh	»	»	»	»		2									
7	Mr. Awraris deribe	»	»	»	»	2	4	8	20	85	15	500	2	1	468,000.0	900,000.00
8	Mr. Moges Yeshanew	»	»	»	»		2	3	30	12	10	1500 q	1	1	61,500.00	275,000.00
9	Mr. Bogale Teyaze	»	»	»	»	1	4	6	40	15		200	1	1	120,000.0	200,000.00
10	Mr. Aschalew Bahru	»	»	»	»	1	2	20q	200	30	10	4	2	2	250,000.0	1,500,000.00
11	Mr. Mamo Moges ayew	»	»	»	»		4	1	10 q	3		200	3	1	11,000.00	150,000.00
12	Mr. Befikadu Anferat	»	»	»	»		2	4	32	11	5	200	2	1	11,330.00	90,000.00
13	Mr. Shumeye Habtamu	»	»	»	»		3	50 q	1q	13	3	200	1		2,500.00	50,000.00
14	Mr. Befikadu Ejige	»	»	»	»		2		30 q	15	1	150 q	1		29,000.00	69,000.00
15	Mr. Alemu Mekonnen	»	»	»	»		2	2	2	45	3	300	1			80,000.00
16	Mr. Simegn Engida	»	»	»	»		1	1	7	6	1	100 q	1		15,000.00	30,000.00
17	Mr. Bedilu Befikadu	»	»	»	»											
18	Mr. Abera Simechew	»	»	»	»					5		400 q	1		3,000.00	68,000.00
19	Mr. Alebese Taye	»	»	»	»		2		10	5	1	300	1		16,000.00	60,000.00
20	Mr. Sisay Habtamu	»	»	»	»		2	2	30	5		50 q	1		20,000.00	50,000.00
21	Mr. Adisu Tamir	»	»	»	»		1	3	40 q	9	2	300	1		18,700.00	75,000.00
22	Mr. Kuraz Taye	»	»	»	»		1		16 q	2	1	150	1		11,000.00	41,000.00
23	Mr. Taye Gebeyehu	»	»	»	»		2	1	20	1	1		1		15,000.00	46,000.00
24	Mr. Awraris Gebeyehu	»	»	»	»	1	2	5	100	20	15	100	4	1	50,000.00	4,000.00



No	Farmer Name	Place of residence				burnt down houses		Type of burnt seeds					Burnt down properties			
		Region	Zone	Woroda	kebele	corrugated	cottage	Teff	Maize	Sorghum	Chicken pea	Red Pepper	bed	Cap board	Money in cash(Birr)	Total estimation(Birr)
25	Mr. Zemedkun Dagne	Oromiya	w/she wa	nono	Nono alo		2	2		1	1	3		2		80,000.00
26	Mr. Shewandagne Gebeyehu	»	»	»	»		3		50q	30					20,000.00	80,000.00
27	Priest Shifera Teju	»	»	»	»	1	2	3	15 q	10	1	200		1		181,000.00
28	Mr. Birku Delelegne	»	»	»	»		2	2	50 q	7		50	1		7,000.00	40,000.00
29	Mr. Gochel Delelegne	»	»	»	»	1	1	4	32	24	4	300	2	1	32,000.00	110,000.00
30	Mr. Demis Delelegne	»	»	»	»		2	4	22	4		100	1		6,000.00	35,000.00
31	Mr. Demoz Abebe	»	»	»	»		2	4	30	4	1	100	1	1	6,000.00	120,000.00
32	Mr. Habtamu Kibret	»	»	»	»	1	1	15	32	25	4	200	1	3	75,000.00	586,000.00
33	Mr. Deje Tenagashaw	»	»	»	»	1		1 q		3	2	50	1	1	46,500.00	78,000.00
34	Mr. Zegeye Nega	»	»	»	»			7 q	40 q	3		300	1	1	15,000.00	80,000.00
35	Mr. Sitotaw Eshetu	»	»	»	»		1	2		8	2	300			18,000.00	50,000.00
36	Mr. Anawtew Tesfaye	»	»	»	»	1	2		60 q			200	1			50,000.00
37	Mr. Shewakena Tadese	»	»	»	»		1			3		150	2	1	6,000.00	35,000.00
38	Mr. Tibelt Abebaw	»	»	»	»	1	1	5 q	75 q	13	7	300	2	1	108,000.00	280,000.00
39	Mr. Abera Ahidew	»	»	»	»		2	2	10	8	2	300	2		5,000.00	63,000.00
40	Mr. Ayle Girma	»	»	»	»	1	1		65	9	1	300	1		36,000.00	300,000.00
41	Mr. Aregahegn Tade	»	»	»	»		2	2	20	10	2	300	1			90,000.00
42	Mr. Bafekede Admasu	»	»	»	»		1	1	32	7	1	300	1		5,000.00	75,000.00
43	Mr. Awraris Admasu	»	»	»	»	1	2	5	35	10	10	100	2	2	10,000.00	95,000.00
44	Mr. Geletaw Sitegin	»	»	»	»		2	4	35	12	4	300	2	1	18,000.00	85,000.00
45	Mr. Aykuru Tibebu	»	»	»	»		2		30	24			2	1	70,000.00	113,000.00
46	Mr. Asfaw Worke	»	»	»	»		1									30,000.00
47	Mr. Minda Girmaye	»	»	»	»			1	25	7		60			7,000.00	50,000.00
48	Mr. Shewandagne Niguse	»	»	»	»		1		30	15	1	200	1		5,000.00	81,000.00
49	Mr. Mamo Asefa	»	»	»	»	1	2	4	100	25	15	1000	2	1	40,000.00	325,000.00
50	Mr. Atlaw Abebaw	»	»	»	»		2	2	50	8	3	200	2	1	30,000.00	97,000.00
51	Mr. Tasew Tefera	»	»	»	»											
52	Mr. Abebe Mamo	»	»	»	»	1			22		8					150,000.00
53	Mr. Mesele	»	»	»	»		2		8	2					3,000.00	20,000.00





	Aleye															
54	Mr. Tamer Tsegaw	»	»	»	»	1	1		47	11		150	1			100,000.00
55	Mr. Silewendim Anferat	»	»	»	»	2	2	8	180	30 q	4	200	1	1	10,000.00	300,000.00
56	Mr. Yemiru Gebeyehu	»	»	»	»		2	1 q	27	6	1	50	1			40,000.00
57	Mr. Siyamregne Gebeyehu	»	»	»	»		2			6	1	150	1			20,000.00
58	Mrs. Etimalsh Niguse	»	»	»	»		1	2				50	1			17,000.00
59	Mr. Geto Gebeyehu	»	»	»	»		1					50			8,000.00	35,000.00
60	Mr. Fasikaw Libse	»	»	»	»		2	2	5	6	2	150	1	1	5,000.00	15,000.00
61	Mr. Mekonnen Worku	»	»	»	»	3	2	50 q	500	60 q	40	6000	3	1	200,000.00	1,900,000.00
62	Mr. Dejene Mekonen	»	»	»	»		1	2	3	4	1	1000				94,000.00
63	Mr. Taye Bayu	»	»	»	»							800			40,000.00	125,000.00
64	Mr. Aydefer Ergete	»	»	»	»										5,000.00	20,000.00
65	Mr. Kasaw Melesew	»	»	»	»				2	20	10		20	1	5,000.00	60,000.00
66	Mr. Getachew Ametawe	»	»	»	»			2			1			1	10,000.00	14,000.00
67	Mr. Asetile Tegaw	»	»	»	»										12,000.00	12,000.00
68	Mr. Kibeb Girmay	»	»	»	»					82						40,000.00
69	Mr. Aschalew Adeferis	»	»	»	»					40			400		5,000.00	37,000.00
70	Mr. Gurumse Alayu	»	»	»	»			1			2					5,000.00
71	Mr. Bayu Mekuriya	»	»	»	»			1								20,000.00



Sample pictures: Two farmers standing on the ashes of what used to be their houses. Oromia regional state of Ethiopia, west showa zone nano werda nano alo kebele August 2015.



**Priest Geremew Nadew** has lived in the above mentioned area more than 30 years with his family and established life as a farmer. In the year 2008 he was forcefully displaced and was made to flee from his residence leaving his property and family behind. It is to be recalled that HRCO denounced this particular human rights violation and requested immediate restoration of status quo in its previous report. There has been no measure taken to amend the harm done against Memhir Gremew and he has re-lodged his complaint and stated that he remains homeless and ended up on the streets.



Sample Picture: Some of the farmers who lost their house and property. Oromia regional state west sowa zone Nano wereda Nano Alo Kebele 2007 EC





## 5. Cu

Sample Picture : One of the farmers' home which is burnet by fire, taken from Nano Alo Kebele

While this report is being compiled, the plaintiffs has informed HRCO that they are being intimidated and undergoing unlawful arrest due to the fact that they lodged complaints to several federal and regional bodies that has the mandate to look into the matter.

The plaintiff informed HRCO that they did not get any solution despite lodging complaint regarding the violation they sustained to several regional and federal authorities. Rather they are being intimidated and unlawfully detained. While compiling the final draft of this report, it has been reported that two houses belonging to Mr. Demis Mekuria and Ato Befekadu Bisetegn in Dikoshimo Kebele has been burned down and eight among the complainants has been under the threat of being unlawfully detained due to a wanted warrant that labeled them as 'Bandits to be hunted down!!'. Accordingly, they are now forced to flee their residential area and leave under a constant fear for their life.

## 6. Conclusion

While citizens has the right to movement around the country's legal borders and make a living guaranteed by the constitution, this right has been violated due to their being 'not native to the land' they are residing in with the leadership of public officials, police and their members. They were labeled as 'unlawful and bandits' and their houses and properties were burnt down. HRCO believes that this in explicit violation of the constitution and regional and international human rights law instruments the country has ratified. In summary, it is against human rights principles adhered by the country to discriminate people based on their ethnic background stating that they do not belong to a particular area or nation of the country and persecute them on this basis.

Moreover, it could be noted from the various reports issued by HRCO that such violations are not limited to Darge Woreda but, are also spread across the country among various Woredas, Kebeles and are routinely exercised and organized by law enforcement officials and administrators.

Victims of such human rights violations has not accessed any type of assistance or got justice from government and are found scattered all over the country, short of food and shelter. The elderly, women and children were forced to live on the street with limited access to health care and food which violates



human rights obligation the country has entered into. Therefore, HRCO calls up on the government and the public to take notice of the violations sustained by the claimants, to give adequate attention to their claims and give them appropriate remedy.

## 7. Recommendation

The Government is the primary duty bearer of the obligation to meet the food, shelter and health rights of its citizens in a manner that is increasingly improved. The citizens that are subjects of this report should also be able to enjoy these rights and the government has the duty to respect and protect these rights. By conclusion, HRCO requests the government to take the following measures to remedy the rights that has been violated. It also requests end to the intimidation and persecution that is being exerted on the claimants due to the fact that they reported their case to relevant government authorities.

- Provide humanitarian assistance to individual citizens whose houses has been burned down and are currently scattered in various places or living in the streets;
- Ensure that individuals whose houses and properties were burnt down get adequately compensated;
- The number of citizens that are being displaced due to racial/ethnic based discrimination is increasing in an unprecedented manner. Accordingly, HRCO requests the government to take a decisive measure to look in to such violation of human rights, and take a decisive measure to put an end to it.

The Human Rights Council (HRCO) calls up on all citizens and international organizations to pressure the government to respect, protect and fulfill human rights by calling, writing and sending requests to the underneath addresses:

- FDRE House of Peoples' Representative Speaker of the House Secretariat  
P.O.Box 80001 ; Email [national.parliament@telecom.net.et](mailto:national.parliament@telecom.net.et) ; Fax (+251)011 155-0400  
Tel. (+251) 011 124 -1000  
Addis Ababab,  
Ethiopia.
- FDRE House of Federation, Speaker of the House  
P.O.Box ; 20122/1000 Email [kumashih@gmail.com](mailto:kumashih@gmail.com)  
Fax ; (+251) 124-1208/011 124-2308  
Tel. (+251) 011 122-3322  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.
- FDRE office of the President  
P.O. Box 23698 Fax ; (+251) 011 551-8656 Tel. (+251) 011 551-8186  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.
- FDRE Office of the prime minister  
P.O Box ; 1031 Fax (+251) 011-1226292 Tel. (+251) 011-1241155  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.



- FDRE Ministry of federal affairs office  
P.O.Box ; 5608 Email [mofatr1@yahoo.com](mailto:mofatr1@yahoo.com) Fax ; (+251)011 551 -1200  
Tel. (+251) 011-515 3204  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.
- FDRE Ministry of Justice  
P.O.Box 1370 Email ; [justabr@ethio.et.et](mailto:justabr@ethio.et.et) Fax ; (+251) 011 551-7775  
Tel. (+251)011 551-3620  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.
- FDRE Office of the Ombudsman  
P.O.Box 2459 Email; [Ombudsmaneth@ethionet.et](mailto:Ombudsmaneth@ethionet.et) Fax ; (+251) 011-5532073  
Tel. (+251) 011-553-2073  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.
- FDRE Human Rights Commission  
P.O.Box 1165 Email; [hrcom@ethionet.et](mailto:hrcom@ethionet.et) Fax (+251) 011-5504031  
Tel. (+251) 011 550-4031  
Addis Ababa.  
Ethiopia.
- FDRE Federal Police director general Office  
P.O.Box 199 Tel. (+251) 011-5512744  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.
- Afar regional state president's Office  
Tel.(+251) 0336660056  
Semera,  
Ethiopia.
- Tigray Regional state President's Office  
P.O.Box 291 Fax: (+251) 034 441 6564 Tel. (+251)034 4416564  
Mekele,  
Ethiopia.
- Amhara regional State Office of the speaker of the house  
P.O.Box 1324 Fax ; (+251)0582202511 Tel. (+251)058220-2659  
BahirDar,  
Ethiopia.
- Oromiya Regional state office of the speaker of the house  
P.O.Box 101769 Email [oromiawiev@ethionet.et](mailto:oromiawiev@ethionet.et) Fax (+251)011 551-9633  
Tel. (+251)011 5524247  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.
- Somali regional state office of the speaker of the house  
P.O.Box 392 Fax (+251)25 7753429  
Jigjiga,  
Ethiopia.



- Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples regional state, Speaker of the house  
P.O.Box 1546 Fax; (+251) 046220-2408 Tel. (+251) 046-2214778/0462205848  
Hawasa,  
Ethiopia.
- Benshangul Gumuz regional state, speaker of the house  
P.O.Box 44 Fax; (+251)057775-0814 Tel. (+251)0557775-0109  
Asosa,  
Ethiopia.
- Gambela regional state, speaker of the house  
P.O.Box 25 Fax; (+251)046-2202408  
Gambela,  
Ethiopia.
- Harari regional state, house of the speaker  
P.O.Box 952 Fax; (+251)025-6662530 Tel. (+251)025-666-1723/025666-1746  
Harar,  
Ethiopia.

**HRCO Stands for Democracy the rule of law and the respect for human rights in Ethiopia.**




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HRCO stands for democracy, the rule of law *and* the respect of human rights.

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HRCO has an observer status with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, is a member of World Organization Against Torture and is also a corresponding member of the International Federation of Human Rights.

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