

AHRE



**ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
IN
ETHIOPIA**



Ethiopian Political Prisoners and Their Accounts of Torture



Ethiopian political prisoners and their accounts of torture

Published February 2018

Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE)

1201 Geneva | Switzerland.

Phone: +32 486 336 367 | +41 797 768 773

Email: executive@ahrethio.org | yhailema@gmail.com

Web: <https://ahrethio.org/>

Report by Hewan Alemayehu with contributions from Yared Hailemariam and Getachew Shiferaw.

All testimonies are gathered by Getachew Shiferaw.

Cover Photo by AHRE

Attribution should be made to the Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE)

This report is distributed at no charge.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International

License. You are free to share, copy, distribute, and transmit the work under the following conditions:

- Attribution: you must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in a way that suggest they endorse you or your use of the work);
- Non-Commercial: you may not use this work for commercial purposes;
- No Derivatives: you may not alter, transform, or build upon this work.



Ethiopian political prisoners and their accounts of torture



Table of Contents

List of Acronyms	6
Foreword	7
About the Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia	8
Executive Summary	9
Recommendations	10
Methodology	12
Acknowledgements	13
I. Introduction	14
II. Legal Framework	17
III. Ethiopia's prisons: A general overview	19
Maekelawi prison	
Qilinto prison	
Shewa Robit prison	
Prison uniforms	
IV. Reports of abuse and ill-treatment in Ethiopia's prisons	23
Background to <i>Qilinto</i> fire outbreak	
Abuse and ill-treatment in Ethiopia's prisons	
Reports of Torture	
Ethnic and gender-based abuse	
Prolonged legal procedures	
Reports of Ailments and death following ill-treatment in prison	
V. Government response to reports of ill-treatment	35
VI. Conclusion	40
VII. Appendix	41



List of Acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights
AHRE	Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia
ATP	Anti-Terrorism Proclamation
AU	African Union
EHRCO	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
EHRP	Ethiopian Human Rights Project
EPRDF	Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front
EU	European Union
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FPA	Federal Prison Administration
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
PG-7	Patriotic Ginbot 7
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region



Foreword

Ethiopian security forces have repeatedly been implicated in using excessive force to crack down dissent. International institutions, states, and human right organizations have in different occasions publicly raised concerns about Ethiopia's government's poor handling of political dissidents and have called the government to allow citizens to exercise their constitutional rights, including peaceful demonstrations. However, the protests and peaceful demonstrations remain to be forcibly suppressed by security forces, which often leads to arrest and even loss of life. Detainees have in different times reported to be subjected with different forms and kinds of ill-treatment which amount to torture.

In the past three years, following the protests in different parts of the country, mainly in Amhara and Oromia regions, the number of detainees has dramatically soared, that in turn augmented the reports of abuse in Ethiopia's prisons. In addition, detainees accused of burning *Qilinto* prison have also reported to suffer torture during interrogations, mainly for the purpose of extracting forced confessions that implicate the detainees to the crime. Detainees have testified in court to enduring varying degree of abuses at the hands of security officers. The abuses include beatings; verbal, physical and psychological harassment; solitary confinement; denying medical access etc.

The report documents some of the reports of abuses and ill-treatments committed against detainees, prosecuted in the last 3 years mainly following Amhara and Oromo protests; and those charged for allegedly setting Qilinto prison ablaze. It aims to record and bring to attention the different patterns and levels of abuse, detainees are subjected with by security officials, which demonstrate the grave human rights violations committed by Ethiopian authorities. In addition, the report also takes a closer look at investigations conducted by Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, under the court's order, and discusses the findings and its implications.



About the Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia

The Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE) is a non-governmental, non-partisan, and not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the advancement of human rights. The organisation is registered and based in Geneva, Switzerland. AHRE is the initiative of an Ethiopian human rights activist that fled the country and other members of the Ethiopian diaspora, as an overseas human rights organisation that carries out activities that are difficult to undertake by organisations based in Ethiopia due to financial and administrative restrictions. It is looking for new ways to continue its support to local organisations and raise awareness about human rights violations in the country on an international level.

AHRE is led by Yared Hailemariam, a long time HRD who served as a lead investigator at the Human Rights Council (HRCO) for seven years before being forced into exile in the aftermath of the 2005 election crackdown in Ethiopia. The organisation raises international awareness about the human rights situation in Ethiopia through advocacy and research. Through close cooperation with actors inside the country, AHRE seeks to raise the voices of HRDs and act as a catalyst for change. It also works to strengthen the capacity of local actors through trainings and the provision of targeted support.



Executive Summary

Ethiopia, one of the key political players in Africa and in the world, has for long maintained a poor record of human rights. After the adoption of the infamous Anti-terrorism proclamation in 2009, Ethiopian authorities have charged hundreds of citizens with terrorism by criminalising and politicizing dissident acts. Journalists, political party leaders and members, bloggers, other human right defenders and peaceful demonstrators have in different times been arrested by Ethiopian authorities, some facing lengthy prison sentences.

The Ethiopian constitution grants its citizens a guarantee to be protected from all form of cruel and inhuman treatment and punishment and accords human dignity to all persons held in prison. Ethiopia is also party to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right (ACHPR). All prohibit conducts amounting to torture.

The Federal Prison Administration (FPA) is an institution that oversees different prisons located in different parts of the country. The prisons hold the country's notable political prisoners including Bekele Gerba, Emawaysh Alemu, and Dejene Tafa. Each prison has different sections (Zones) that are used to hold different prisoners, depending on their status and/or prison terms.

Detainees are subjected with various forms of ill treatment and abuse in prison. They report to undergo severe forms of abuse and torture mainly for the purpose of extracting forced confessions. Some of the methods used by prison officials include beating, kicking, ethnic harassment and abuse, hard physical exercises, and solitary confinement.

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, up on the order of the court, has conducted investigations on reported tortures recently, on the 2 files charged for burning Qilinto. The investigations, despite acknowledging "bodily injuries", refrained from holding the prison authorities accountable. Although conducting the investigation and acknowledging the injuries were commendable, the reports failed to unequivocally condemn the abuses and hold the abusers accountable.

Recommendations

To the Ethiopian Government

- Issue official orders the Federal Prison Administration, the federal police and other law enforcement organs to immediately and without condition stop ill-treatments, torture, and all other abuses in the custody of their respective units;
- Order an impartial and transparent investigation into all reports of ill-treatment, and ensure that all personnel implicated in the abuse are brought to justice;
- Ensure that all confessions, statements, and other information extracted through coercion are discarded and are not used as evidence;
- Ensure that the Prime Minister Haile Mariam Desalegn's announcement to release political prisoners is immediately and without condition put into practice;
- Release all detainees arrested for exercising their constitutional rights without any condition;
- Ensure that all detainees have access to medical care, legal counsel, and family visits without restriction;
- Appropriately compensate all detainees that have been subjected to different kinds of ill-treatment, including torture;
- Appropriately compensate families of detainees that have lost their lives in prison or due to poor prison conditions and/or ill treatments;
- Significantly improve the conditions and facilities of the prisons in Ethiopia;
- Allow independent oversight of all prisons and detention centres in Ethiopia;
- Implement Resolution 356 adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' (ACHPR) which calls on Ethiopia's government to "ensure due process of law for persons arrested and detained in connection with protests, in accordance with regional and international standards, and release persons arrested and detained without charge".¹

To the Ethiopian Judiciary

- Ensure that an independent body promptly investigates all reports of ill-treatments;
- Ensure that all confessions, statements, and other information obtained through ill-treatment and torture are completely discarded, and are not used as evidence;
- Ensure that the reports produced by Ethiopian Human Rights Commission are impartial and ensure that further investigation is made by an independent body, and not by federal police;
- Ensure all detainees have access to medical care and family visits as per the prisons' policies and procedures, without restriction of time and number of visitors.

¹ ACHPR, 356: Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia - ACHPR/Res. 356(LIX) 2016, 4 November 2016, <http://www.achpr.org/sessions/59th/resolutions/356/>

To the Federal Prison Administration and Federal Police

- Immediately and without condition stop ill-treatments and all forms of abuse including torture on detainees;
- Bring to justice all prison officials and members that have committed violations and abuse against the detainees.

To Ethiopian Human Rights Commission

- Keep on investigating all reports of violence in prisons and all other detention centres in the country and follow up on recommendations and proposals made;
- Ensure all investigations are impartial, transparent, and independent; and publish result to all concerned bodies including to the government, the parliament, the judiciary, and human right groups;
- Issue further investigation request to independent organs, such as human rights organisations, and UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

To the United Nations and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights

- Publicly call upon Ethiopian government to invite your respective delegations for an independent investigation into all reports of abuse in all prisons and detention centres;
- Urge Ethiopian government to allow your organisations physical access to the prisons and detention centres;
- Urge Ethiopian government to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment to visit Ethiopia.

To European Union, allies, and donors

- Publicly and privately express concerns on repeated and sustained detainees' reports of ill-treatments and other human rights violations in different prisons in Ethiopia;
- Urge Ethiopian government to allow prompt independent and transparent investigation into reports of abuse in different prisons and detention centres;
- Seek access to all prisons and detention centres for human rights organisations and diplomats;
- Urge Ethiopian authorities to invite UN and other relevant institutions to physically visit prisons and detention centres;
- Monitor trials of political prisoners, including those charged under ATP.



Methodology

The accounts in this report are gathered by Getachew Shiferaw, who is a former journalist and spent 18 months in prison from December 2015- June 2017. He is a human rights defender who is monitoring and documenting several court cases of political prisoners. He obtained the accounts by visiting the detainees in prisons; visiting the detainees' families; or through documentation of their testimonies in court.

The majority of the accounts included here were originally shared to the public in Amharic language by Getachew.



Acknowledgements

AHRE would like to thank all individuals and initiatives whose stories and data contributed to this report. We would especially like to extend our appreciation to Ethio-trial tracker (<https://ethiotrialtracker.org/>) for its extremely valuable dedication in documenting terrorism cases and files.

I. Introduction

The current government of Ethiopia, Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) took power in 1991 after a bloody civil war that finally ousted the previous Marxist rule. EPRDF is a coalition of four parties structured along ethnic lines. Since coming to power, Ethiopia's government has gained acclaim for some considerable economic gains in the country, which was widely welcomed by international institutions and states.

Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa, is a key political player in Africa. The country is a seat to the African Union and other international institutions; a strategic partner in the global war against terror; a member and founder of key regional institutions, such as Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); and currently a non-permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council.

However, Ethiopia's government has for almost 3 decades held a tight grip on power, and currently controls all seats in the parliament. The country stages national election every 5 years, and the government claimed a 100% win in the last election held in 2015. The 2005 election was by far the most controversial and

memorable. After highly heated and televised campaigns and debates among different political parties, the government was finally declared a winner. Opposition parties contested the election result, and many including political party members, leaders, and journalists were sent behind bars. In June 2005, demonstrators took to the streets protesting the election, and accusing the government of election fraud; security forces responded by killing at least 36 unarmed civilians and wounding more than 100, according to a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report.²

This was a new turning point that unleashed a new wave of crackdown against dissent in the following years. In the years 2008 and 2009 the Ethiopian parliament adopted 3 stifling and highly controversial proclamations that laid a further setback to the already fragile civic space in the country; one of which was the Anti-terrorism proclamation (ATP)³. Since its inception, the ATP has generated severe criticism from states, human rights groups, and international institutions such as the African Commission on Human and People's Rights⁴ (ACHPR). Currently, over 900 individuals are

² Human Rights Watch, "Ethiopia: Events of 2005," 2016, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2006/country-chapters/ethiopia>

³ For detailed analysis on the proclamations, see AHRE's recent report. Association of Human Rights in Ethiopia, "Ailing Civic Space in an Authoritarian State: The State of Human Rights Defenders and Cost of Dissent in Ethiopia", January 2018, https://ahrethio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AilingCivicSpace_large-1.pdf

⁴ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, "218: Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia," 2 May 2012, <http://www.achpr.org/sessions/51st/resolutions/218/>

charged under different articles of the ATP⁵. AHRE has covered the problematic articles of the ATP in a recently published report.⁶

Treatment of Detainees

Human right groups have in different times recorded accounts of abuse at the hands of prison officials; these include groups such as Human Rights Council (Formerly called Ethiopian Human Rights Council)⁷, HRW⁸ ⁹, Amnesty International¹⁰, and Ethiopian Human Rights Project (EHRP)¹¹ (an initiative dedicated to recording human rights violation of detainees in Ethiopia). Reports of abuse vary and include intimidation, verbal and physical harassment, solitary confinement, and torture. Many detainees allege that prison authorities torture them especially during interrogations, mainly to extract forced confessions.

Reports of torture of detainees in various prisons in Ethiopia have soared following the wide-scale protests in the last few years, particularly in Amhara and Oromia regions.

There are consistent and repeated reports of ill-treatments and abuse that amount to torture in Ethiopia's different prisons and detention centres in recent years. Many have testified in court to enduring various forms of abuse, including beating, kicking, forced and hard physical exercises, solitary confinements, etc.

AHRE has received credible reports of abuse of political prisoners in Ethiopia at the hands of prison officials. Detainees are mistreated and tortured mainly to extract forced confessions that can be used to incriminate them in to alleged crime. The report documents accounts of abuse in Ethiopia's prisons, mainly *Maekelawi*, *Qilinto*, *Shewa Robit*, and *Zeway* prisons. Detainees have been testified to endure different forms of abuses, and some of the allegations have partially been confirmed recently by Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRCo) (discussed in chapter 5).

The report also introduces and provides an outlook on the overall conditions of 3 of the main prisons in Ethiopia that hold several

⁵ Ethio-trial Tracker, Latest: vital information on Ethiopians charged with terrorism 17 January 2018, <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/latest-vital-information-on-ethiopians-charged-with-terrorism/>

⁶ Association of Human Rights in Ethiopia, "Ailing Civic Space in an Authoritarian State: The State of Human Rights Defenders and Cost of Dissent in Ethiopia", January 2018, https://ahrethio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AilingCivicSpace_large-1.pdf

⁷ HRCO, <https://ehrc.org/>

⁸ Human Rights Watch, "Human Rights Watch, They Want a Confession" Torture and Ill-Treatment in Ethiopia's Maekelawi Police Station, October 2013, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ethiopia_1013_ForUpload.pdf

⁹ Human Rights Watch, Ethiopia: Terrorism Law Used to Crush Free Speech", 27 June 2012

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2012/06/27/ethiopia-terrorism-law-used-crush-free-speech>

¹⁰ Amnesty International, Ethiopia: widespread violations feared in clampdown on Muslim protests, July 25, 2012 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR25/010/2012/en/>

¹¹ EHRP, <http://ehrp.org/>

political detainees. AHRE believes that the report depicts the highly concerning degree of

abuse being endured by detainees, mainly in the last few years.

II. Legal Framework

2.1 National legal framework

The FDRE constitution, Article 18 guarantees the right of everyone to be protected from all forms of cruel, in human and degrading treatment and punishment, and the observance of human dignity of all persons held in custody and those serving prison terms. The constitution also states that the right to be protected from torture would not be also subjected for derogation under any circumstance, even under extraordinary situations like in state of emergency.¹²

Ethiopian Criminal Code also criminalizes torture in all its forms with severe penalties ranging from five to twenty years imprisonment. Articles 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 of the Criminal Code provide clear establishment of jurisdiction over acts of torture and attempt to commit same in the cases mentioned under (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 5 of the Convention Against Torture.¹³ The Federal Police Commission Proclamation No. 313/2003 and the Federal Police Commission Administration Regulation No. 86/2003 clearly stated that among others duties and responsibilities, any police officers should perform any of its activities by fully complying and observing human and democratic rights ensured by the Constitution. Any violations of human rights and democratic rights, specifically, any inhuman or degrading treatment or act that have prohibited under the constitution would entail rigorous penalties and disciplinary measures.

There are also different legislations and administrative regulations that govern the rules of detention and imprisonments. This include the Criminal Procedure Code; the Federal Wardens Administration Council of Ministers Regulations No. 137/2007; and the Treatment of Federal Prisoners Council of Ministers Regulations No. 138/2007. Other directives that contain basic standards and the fulfilment of prison conditions include the right to sufficient and adequate facilities; the right to family visit; the right to consult a lawyer and to legal advice, the right to be treated in clinics and to hospital in time of sickness, the right to complain before the prison administration, the right access books, newspapers, magazines, and radio, the right to practice their religion, the right to physical integrity and honour, and other basic rights of prisoners that have guarantee under the constitution.

2.2 International legal framework

Since 1994, Ethiopia has been a party to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right (ACHPR).

Article 7 of ICCPR forbids torture in absolute terms. The article reads:

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

¹² The 1995 FDRE Constitution:
<http://www.ethiopianembassy.be/wp-content/uploads/Constitution-of-the-FDRE.pdf>

¹³ Ethiopian Criminal Code:
[http://www.fsc.gov.et/content/Negarit%20Gazeta/codes/Criminal%20Code\(%20New\).pdf](http://www.fsc.gov.et/content/Negarit%20Gazeta/codes/Criminal%20Code(%20New).pdf)

In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.”¹⁴

The United Nation Convention Against Torture defines and specified key elements of torture under its Article 1(1): “... "torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.”¹⁵

The Convention Against Torture requires States Parties to ensure that their domestic legislative framework prohibits conduct amounting to torture and that State Parties abstain from them. It also requires States Parties to take specific and positive measures to ensure practical implementation of the prohibition of torture and measures of prevention, ensuring adequate and effective mechanisms to investigate allegations of torture and where sufficient evidence exist to initiate prosecutions.

¹⁴ UN, ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/ccpr.pdf>

¹⁵ UN, CAT: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cat.pdf>

III. Ethiopia's prisons: A general overview

Federal Prison Administration (FPA) oversees different prisons in various regions of the country, namely Addis Ababa Prison Administration (administers *Kaliti* prison and *Qilinto* prison); *Zeway* Prison Department; *Shewa Robit* prison Department; and Dire Dawa Prison Department¹⁶. The FPA along with nine state prisons and the federal police report¹⁷ to the Ministry of Federal Affairs¹⁸. FPA's stated vision reads: to "aspire to see the institution whereby good governance and rule of law is prevailing by promoting humanly treatment of prisoners so as to bring behavioural change and enable them to become peaceful, law abiding and productive citizens".¹⁹

This chapter takes a closer look at three of the prisons; namely *Qilinto* Prison, *Shewa Robit* Prison, and *Maekelawi* (Federal Police Investigation), so as to give a general picture of the overall condition of the prisons.

The prisons detain the majority of political prisoners in Ethiopia. Many political detainees detained in these prisons report to suffer various forms and degrees of ill-treatment that amount to torture.

This chapter was originally written in Amharic by ex-prisoners, who were held in the respective prisons in the last couple of years, and translated to English with some modifications for clarity, length, and additional content. Detailed information about the prisons (especially *Shewa Robit* and *Qilinto*) is scarce, and access to the premises is highly restricted. AHRE did not physically visit the prisons.

3.1. Physical layout and conditions

1. Federal Police Crime investigation bureau (*Maekelawi*)²⁰

Maekelawi (meaning central in Amharic) is located in the heart of the capital Addis Ababa. The bureau is authorized by the federal police, which reports to the Ministry of Federal Affairs²¹.

For successive governments, *Maekelawi* has served as a principal site of confinement of detainees prosecuted for alleged involvement of serious criminal offences. During the current government, it is mainly used to temporarily

¹⁶ Federal Prison Administration, <http://www.fpa.gov.et/index1.html>

¹⁷ US State Department, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – 2012, Ethiopia," April 19, 2013, <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2012/af/204120.htm>

¹⁸ World Prison Brief, Ethiopia, <http://www.prisonstudies.org/country/ethiopia>

¹⁹ *ibid*

²⁰ The section about *Maekelawi* was written by Getachew Shiferaw who was sentenced to 18 months in prison from December 2015- June 2017. Getachew was

originally detained in *Maekelawi* and later transferred to *Qilinto*, *Kaliti*, and *Zeway* prisons. Valuable additions were also made in the report from: Addis Standard, "why is Ethiopia still running a 'torture chamber' from the past?" 28 June 2016 <http://addisstandard.com/analysis-Maekelawi-ethiopia-still-running-torture-chamber-past/>

²¹ US State Department, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practice – 2012, Ethiopia," April 19, 2013 <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2012/af/204120.htm>

hold suspects before they are officially charged; if charged, they are transferred to other prisons. Several high profile political prisoners have been detained in *Maekelawi*.

The infamous *Maekelawi* is known for its poor handling and ill-treatment of detainees where upon detainees are subjected to torture mainly during interrogations²². Interrogations run 24 hours a day in the interrogation rooms located right above *Tawla Bet*; detainees report to sustain torture during interrogations often in the middle of the night.

There are three main blocks in *Maekelawi*.

i. *Siberia*:

Named after the freezing *Siberia* region in Northern Russia, *Siberia* holds detainees that are under investigations. Each cell is numbered 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, and 10; no 1 is not currently functioning. Each cell, except no 8, holds up to 25 detainees. Inside each cell lie mattresses, food items, and plastic bottles used for urinating. Detainees sleep crammed in the small cells in the evenings; and take turns for naps during day times. It is often dark as the light that enters through the small windows is too weak. Detainees in *Siberia* can use the toilets twice a day and go outside for fresh air daily for 10 minutes.

Number 8 is the most recognized *Dark Room*²³ in *Maekelawi*. The room is divided into 4 cells named 1, 2, 3, and 4. Other than the vague light that comes from the corridor in front, the cells are otherwise completely dark, and shelter only one detainee in each cell. Number 8 holds the

most tortured detainees that are mainly interrogated in the middle of the nights. Those who refuse to admit to coerced confessions are left here for longer periods; and they are not allowed to talk to other detainees. If and when they give a forced testimony, they are then moved to other sections of the detention centre.

ii. *Sheraton*

Detainees in this block enjoy a relative freedom such as going to other cells in the same block and talking to other detainees; sitting at the door steps for an access to a sunlight; and access to family visits. The block is named after the luxury hotel in the capital Addis Ababa due to the relative comfort it provides. Detainees who completed their interrogation and are awaiting official charge are detained here. The block is partitioned into 12 cells.

iii. *Tawla bet* (Amharic for wooden house)

Is partitioned into four cells, of which two are used to keep female detainees. The block also houses detainee witnesses who gave consent to testify against fellow detainees. Sitting at the door steps for an access to a sunlight and relative movement is allowed here.

Services and Facilities:

Food is served three times a day, but quality of the food is poor. Many detainees receive food from family members. There is a library in the premises, but depending on the type of charge, detainees can be denied from using the library. Prisoners take turn to use the library which

²² Human Rights Watch, "They Want a Confession" Torture and Ill-Treatment in Ethiopia's Maekelawi Police Station, October 2013, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ethiopia_1013_ForUpload.pdf

²³ In prisons, *Dark Rooms* is a term used for rooms which hold detainees who are undergoing severe punishment for various reasons; they have no light and are often used as a segregated confinement.

could sometimes take up to more than one month until a detainee gets his turn.

2. Qilinto prison²⁴

Qilinto is a maximum-security prison located in the southern outskirts of Addis Ababa. It has 5 zones, known as Zone 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Zone 4 is a two-room detention centre, also known by the name Chelema Bet (Dark Room); zone 5, is a newly built two-room detention house.

Zones 1-3 hold 8 cells each, and each cell is shared by around 140 detainees. Two additional cells were newly built out of metal sheets and were added as part of zone 2 because of the soaring number of detainees. Each of the three zones has 3 toilets and 2 shower rooms.

Qilinto prison was largely damaged following the fire outbreak²⁵; including many of the beds except few found in the newly built two cells in Zone 2. The two are shared by detainees who also work in the prison as cooks and labourers, and the elderly; the rest of detainees sleep on mattresses.

Around 20 of the high profile political prisoners such as Bekele Gerba, Dejene Tafa, Masresha Sete, and Angaw Tegengne are held in Zone 4; and has a strict security presence.

Zone 5: is a new two room detention centre, built after the fire outbreak, and has a higher security than all the other zones. The rooms were exclusively used to detain all the 159 detainees, charged under 2 files, of setting the

prison ablaze. Many of the detainees moved to this zone were later transferred back to the other zones.

Qilinto prison serves as a detention centre for those who are officially charged and awaiting a verdict. But sometimes when the number of prisoners rise, the prison also holds convicted prisoners.

Facility and Services

Relatively, *Qilinto* prison has a better facility than other prisons in the country. Because there is groundwater in the prison, water is more abundant in *Qilinto* than any other prison. However, the water is not clean, and prisoners use cotton cloth to filter and drink the unclean groundwater. In the last couple of years due to the soaring number of prisoners, two prisoners sleep crowdedly together on one 80cm size mattress.

3. Shewa Robit Prison²⁶

Located around 211 KM north east of Addis Ababa, *Shewa Robit* prison has 4 separate zones, covering an area of at least 11x11meter each or bigger. The bigger cells hold around 350 prisoners and the smaller ones shelter around 160 detainees. Prisoners sentenced to prison terms ranging from 1-5 years are detained in *Shewa Robit* prison. Prisoners are assigned to each zone according to their respective prison sentences: Zone 1 houses those sentenced between 3-5 years. Minors under the age of 18 are held in a separate hall inside zone 1; up to 150 minors can be held together in this hall.

²⁴ Written by Getachew Shiferaw

²⁵ Al-Jazeera, "Ethiopia: Fire at Addis Ababa prison 'leaves 23 dead'", 6 Sept 2016
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/160905195308734.html>

²⁶ This section was originally written by Natnael Yalemzewd. He was detained in Maekelawi and Shewa Robit prisons serving a two years and 3 months sentence between May 2015 and August 2017. He was a member of Semayawi party, a legally registered political party.

Zone 2 holds prisoners whose sentence range between 13 months to 25 months. Prisoners sentenced between 12 months and 13 months are detained in Zone 3. Prisoners left with 3 months or less to finish their terms, and those sentenced for one year are held in Zone 4.

Services and facilities

Food is served three times a day; breakfast is usually bread with tea. Lunch and dinner are often *enjera* (traditional Ethiopian flat spongy bread) and *shiro wot* (stew made of chickpeas), except on holidays, where stew made of meat is served. Prisoners wear their own clothes. Those who are lucky enough to get beds also receive blankets. Others sleep in mattresses using any type of coverings they brought to prison with them.

There are two buildings with toilets and showers. One has 14 toilets and the other has 30 toilets and shower rooms. The toilets are in poor conditions and untidy.

3.2. Prisoners' Uniform

Uniform was introduced to *Kaliti* and *Qilinto* prisons in the summer of 2016 following Oromo protests. Prisoners routinely wore black during their court appearances, to honour the protestors that were killed by security forces. Their attempt to remember the dead was ill-received by prison officials; leading them to take actions such as confiscating the prisoners' black outfits and moving the prisoners to *Dark Room* as punishment.

When all these wouldn't work, the FPA introduced uniforms. The uniforms are distributed randomly; the quality is very poor, and the sizes often do not fit. There are yellow and red colours of uniforms; those who are already convicted wear red, and those who are

awaiting court decision wear yellow. Prisoners return the uniforms when they are released, and the uniforms would then be reused by new prisoners.

Few months after uniforms were introduced, prisoners in *Qilinto* protested about the poor quality and size of the uniforms; they are now allowed to wear their own outfits inside the prison premises. However, they are expected to wear the uniforms during court appearances, when meeting their lawyers and going to clinics. However, in *Kaliti*, prisoners are required to wear their uniforms every day from 8:30AM-6:00PM. The remaining prisons do not have uniforms.

IV. Reports of abuse and ill-treatment in Ethiopia's prison

AHRE gathered several reports of abuse from defendants prosecuted for different alleged crimes; including for alleged involvement with proclaimed terrorist organisations. Many detainees who are accused of ostensibly setting *Qilinto* prison ablaze have reported various ill-treatments which amount to torture. These defendants have in different occasions testified in court about the abuses they suffered during interrogations. Before directly proceeding with the reports of abuse, providing a background story on the fire outbreak would be appropriate.

4.1 Background to *Qilinto* fire outbreak

On September 3, 2016, *Qilinto* prison, one of the maximum-security prisons in Ethiopia was set ablaze leading to the deaths of dozens of inmates and loss of millions of cash worth of property. Prominent and high profile political leaders and journalists were held in *Qilinto* when the fire out.

The public was kept in the dark for days about Prominent and high profile political leaders and journalists were held in *Qilinto* when the fire broke out. The public was kept in the dark for days about the cause of the cause of the fire; family members of the prisoners were not given

any information for days about the status of their loved ones; and access to the prison premises was denied. The government simply said that the police was conducting an investigation and refrained from giving further details.²⁷

After more than two months of deliberation, government prosecutors opened file under the name Masresha Sete et al on November 24, 2016, accusing 38 inmates for “causing fire and beating 23 prisoners to death and making them burn” violating the ATP and penal code.²⁸ On February 7, 2017, more than two months after the initial charge and over 5 months after the fire broke out, prosecutors opened a second file accusing another 121 prison inmates, of setting the prison ablaze, “with the intent to cause the death of a human being, committing the offense of aggravated homicide” and related charges²⁹. All the defendants were already in prison; few were convicted and others defending a prior ongoing criminal charge.

Questions remain unclear regarding the case of the incident; the charge brought up against the defendants contradicted with earlier government account, which had previously claimed that 21 inmates died due to suffocation

²⁷ The Independent, “Kilinto fire: Ethiopian government accused of gunning down political detainees as they flee burning jail” 6 September 2016 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/kilinto-fire-ethiopian-government-accused-of-gunning-down-political-detainees-as-they-flee-burning-a7228756.html>

²⁸ Ethio trial tracker, Masresha Sete and 37 others, 21 February 2017, <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Masresha-Sete-Bire-and-37-others.pdf>

²⁹ Ethio trial tracker, Yared Hussien Ibrahim and 120 others, 20 February 2017, <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/yared-hussein-ibrahim-and-120-others/>

and two were killed trying to escape³⁰. Some found it hard to believe given the high security presence in the prison that prisoners could actually orchestrate and undertake such a coordinated manoeuvre;³¹ others outlined the confusion surrounding the incident and alluded that it was premeditated act.³²

After over a year on trial, the charges are still open and are followed with controversy and reports of varying degree of human right abuse and concerns over the independency of the court that is seeing the cases.

4.2 Abuse and ill-treatment in Ethiopia's prisons

In prison, detainees are subjected to a range of ill-treatment which includes torture; harassment on grounds of ethnicity; prolonged legal process; and denial of medical access which sometimes led to death. The accounts below depict the different forms of abuse prisoners endured mainly at *Qilinto*, *Maekelawi*, *Shewa Robit*, and *Zeway* prisons. This is in violation of the stated principle of the FPA which states that prisoners shall have the right to be treated with conditions of respect for human dignity.³³

In this section, we have decided to narrate the accounts as the victims shared them with only minor edition for length, and largely refrained from making our commentary or analysis. We

believe reading the stories as it is, shades a light to the scale of the problem and provides the platform for the detainees' voices to be heard. It also delineates the many facets of challenges prisoners face in these prisons.

4.2.1 Reports of Torture

Prisoners' testimonies of torture are strikingly similar; several reports AHRE gathered indicate repeated cases of varying forms of torture caused by prison officials, mainly to extract confessions during interrogations and implicate the detainees in alleged crime. It is also sometimes used as a form of punishment. Many have reported that security officers tortured them by hanging them on a ceiling, putting them in a solitary confinement for hours; beating them with sticks, electric cables, and other hard objects; or tying water bottles to men's testicles.

Bisrat Abera is a 32 years old man from Addis Ababa, and is one of the 121 defendants under the file name Yared Hussien et al³⁴, charged for burning *Qilinto* prison.

He testified about the torture he endured in two different prisons.

Bisrat Abera is a 32 years old man from Addis Ababa, and is one of the 121 defendants under

³⁰ BBC, "Ethiopia fire Kills 23 at prison 'holding Oromo protestors'", 5 September 2016,

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-37274883>

³¹ The Independent, "Kilinto fire: Ethiopian government accused of gunning down political detainees as they flee burning jail" 6 September 2016

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/kilinto-fire-ethiopian-government-accused-of-gunning-down-political-detainees-as-they-flee-burning-jail-a7228756.html>

³² Addis Standard, "Opinion: the *Qilinto* Massacre: The truth shall be revealed." 14 September 2016.

<http://addisstandard.com/opinion-Qilinto-massacre-truth-shall-revealed/>

³³ Federal Prison Administration,

<http://www.fpa.gov.et/index1.html>

³⁴ Ethio Trial Tracker, "Yared Hussien Ibrahim and 120 others," <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/yared-hussein-ibrahim-and-120-others/>

the file name Yared Hussien et al³⁵, charged for burning *Qilinto* prison.

He testified about the torture he endured in two different prisons.

I was taken to Shewa Robit prison after Qilinto fire incident. They started beating me as soon as I entered the car; they were alleging that I killed somebody during the fire outbreak. Once we reached in Shewa Robit, they took me to one room and tied my two thumbs together; then they chained my hands and put them behind my legs. Then they put a long stick between my hands and knees, and hanged the stick I was hanging on, between two pillars. Then they began rotating my body against the stick; they tortured me so badly. They also electrocuted me with a cable.

Later, they handcuffed me and tied me on a ceiling. They tied one of my feet against the wall and left my other feet hanging in the air, leaving a painful pressure on my foot, and then they beat me. The beating continued for three days. Finally, I couldn't take it anymore, and admitted to killing the person they alleged I killed, a crime I didn't commit.

The prisoners, including Bisrat, who were moved from *Qilinto* prison after the fire outbreak were later transferred back. However, twenty-two prisoners were suddenly taken to another prison, this time, *Zeway* on June 18, 2017. As Bisrat remembers, the ill-treatments continued there.

We were crammed in a small Dark Room called Ereiru for 6 months. The room was too hot, and the way they gave us water was by pouring it

underneath the closed door. We would then eagerly fetch the water with our hands from the floor; from the same floor we used to sleep and walk on.

Sometimes they took us outside and made us roll on the dusty ground by splashing water on us. Then they beat us with their sticks and boots. It was very painful, and we were hurt. One of the prisoners died from the beating in front of my eyes.

(His testimony on Armaye's beating and subsequent death is discussed in Section 4.4.2 of this chapter.)

Bisrat is now detained in *Kaliti* zone 3; his file is still open.

Agbaw Setegn, is the third defendant under the file *Masresha Sete et al*³⁶, prosecuted for burning *Qilinto* prison. On August 7, 2017, he appeared at *Lideta* higher court 19th Criminal bench for a hearing and described his abuse:

They took me to Zeway and beat me. They rolled me naked on the ground for six days and beat me for six days. My buttock was bleeding. It was beyond control and I passed out. This was done under Super intendent Assefa's instruction. They took away my clothes. This is all because I am Amhara.

Agbaw asked if he could show take off his clothes and show his body to the court, but the judge said that his testimony was enough.

³⁵ Ethio Trial Tracker, "Yared Hussien Ibrahim and 120 others," <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/yared-husseini-ibrahim-and-120-others/>

³⁶ Ethio trial tracker, *Masresha Sete and 37 others*, 21 February 2017, <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Masresha-Sete-Bire-and-37-others.pdf>

Agbaw is currently detained in *Qilinto* prison, Zone 2; his case is open.

Ill-treatments often begin in police stations of the local districts where the suspects were originally detained. Several of those who live outside Addis Ababa already go through previous abuse and ill-treatment ahead of their transfer to Addis Ababa.

Tesfaye Liben, age 42, is a teacher and resident of Oromia Regional State, South West Shewa, Woliso town. He is charged under the ATP for alleged involvement with Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) - a proclaimed terrorist group by The House of People's Representatives of Ethiopia - under the file name Gurmesa Ayana et al³⁷.

Tesfaye said this about the abuse he suffered:

I was originally detained in Woliso Police Station, where a group of individuals wearing a federal uniform and civil attire brutally beat me with their sticks; it was so severe that I finally passed out. At the time, one Oromia police officer was also beaten by the federal police when he tried to defend me. I woke up the next morning and did not remember what had happened to me the previous day. The officers were surprised that I survived when they saw me the next day. Later, they sent me to Maekelawi prison in Addis Ababa. I was beaten, tortured, and was made to do a heavy physical exercise for 43 days. As I was doing the exercise, they kicked my back and my feet with their boots. They used their fists, their boots, and electric wire to beat me. It was so painful and beyond anyone can bear. There was a time I tried to kill myself.

After a while, I went for a hearing at Arada First Instance Court; and I took off my clothes and showed the bruises on my body to the judge. He just advised me to admit everything before they kill me and said I could later deny and tell the court it was a forced confession when my file is officially open. That was exactly what I did that night; I confessed to everything they alleged I did. They then immediately moved me from Dark Room to Sheraton.

Tesfaye was arrested on November 2015 following Oromo Protests. Prosecutors later filed charges against him and 21 other defendants on April 2016. He is currently detained in *Qilinto* prison Zone 3 and the case is still open.

Tying plastic water bottles to men's testicles is also another method of subjecting detainees to painful torture. HRW had previously documented accounts of detainees who suffered similar torture³⁸; this has continued through the years. AHRE has gathered testimonies from detainees who testified to have had water bottles tied to their testicles. Two of the accounts are shared below.

A 42-year old, **Abebe Kasse** is from North Gonder in Amhara Regional State, and was a former member of Patriotic Ginbot 7 (PG7)- a proclaimed terrorist group by The House of People's Representatives of Ethiopia. He is charged under ATP for his involvement with the group.

Abebe said the following about the different kinds of torture he endured:

³⁷ Ethio-trial tracker, active cases Gurmesa Ayano and 21 others <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/gurmesa-ayano-weyessa-and-21-others/>

³⁸ Human Rights Watch, They Want a Confession" Torture and Ill-Treatment in Ethiopia's Maekelawi Police

Station, October 2013, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ethiopia_1013_ForUpload.pdf

I was arrested on January 20, 2014 and was taken to Maekelawi. I remained at Maekelawi for more than 5 months and endured excruciating torture. The interrogators demanded that I tell them everything about my involvement with PG7. They injected something in my body and I passed out; and when I finally woke up, some of my finger nails were gone. Another time they pulled out the rest of my finger and toe nails while I was conscious. They also tied my hands and legs and tied me upside down in a freezing room located below the interrogation room and left me there for some time. Then they came turn by turn and swang my body left and right.

Men and women in different times tied my feet and hands against a chair. Once a group of women came naked in the room, undressed me, and sat me naked on the chair. They chained my hands up and tied a water bottle to my testicles. Then they kept swinging the bottle left and right. They also did something to me that I don't want to say here; they were taking drugs while doing that. I am now castrated, and unable to be a father.

Abebe was found guilty of a terrorism charge and was convicted 7 years in January 2016. He is now in *Kaliti* prison, Zone 2 serving his sentence.

Birhane Tsegaye, age 25, is 2nd defendant under the file name of Kassahun Shege et al charged under the ATP³⁹. He was a member of Tigrean People's Democratic Movement (TPDM), a proclaimed terrorist group based in Eritrea. Birhane described his story as follows:

I confessed that I defected TPDM and returned to Ethiopia to plea clemency, but they did not believe me. They demanded that I confess everything, and violently beat me. They used electric wire, their

sticks, and other things; it was very painful. They tied a water bottle to my testicles and tortured me. I was very sick for many days. They refused to provide medical treatment alleging that as an ethnic Tigrean, I should have never been a member of a terrorist organization; therefore, denying medical treatment was my punishment.

Birhane was arrested on December 2015. He is now detained in *Qilinto* prison, his case is still open.

Other male prisoners have also reported that prison officials have used similar method of tying water bottles to their testicles. Names of the prisoners AHRE collected are:

1. Adnew Teshome-currently detained in *Qilinto* prison
2. Getachew Mekonnen- released from *Qilinto* on January 2018 after serving time.
3. Awoke Moghnode- released from *Qilinto* on January 2018 after serving time.
4. Aschalew Desse- currently detained in *Qilinto* prison Zone. During a court hearing, Aschalew took off his clothes during a court appearance and showed his castrated genitalia to the court.

4.2.2 Ethnic and gender-based abuse

Prisoners also report that they are specifically targeted and harassed on grounds of their ethnicity and/or gender.

Nigist Yirga a 24-old woman from Northern Gonder, in Amhara Regional State was arrested following Amhara protests; she is detained in *Kaliti* facing terrorism charge under the file

³⁹ Ethio-trial tracker, "open cases, Kassahun Shegie and one other" <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/kassahun-shegie-endalehu-and-one-other/>

name Nigist Yirga et al.⁴⁰ In a written letter submitted to the court, Nigist and 5 other suspects in the same file submitted their objection to the prosecutors' charges. An excerpt from her testimony reads:

I was apprehended on September 15, 2017 at the town of Sanja in Gonder. I was beaten and was unconscious, and they took me to Addis Ababa. I was heavily beaten and unconscious for 3 days. They pulled out all my toe nails except one; they insulted me on grounds of my ethnicity, which has left me with a physical and psychological scar. I was detained in solitary confinement and was forced to sign on a blank piece of paper.

EHRP has made a short animation on the gender and ethnic based abuses Nigist suffered in prison⁴¹

Misbah Kedir was in prison on a pending corruption charge, a charge he was later cleared of, when *Qilinto* prison caught fire. He is now one of the 38 being tried under ATP for allegedly burning *Qilinto*. He said he was tortured and abused, and also faced harassment because of his ethnic identity.

I have faced a severe abuse and torture for a crime I did not commit. The interrogators alleged I am related to Dr. Birhanu and Dr. Tadesse Biru (leaders of PG7) just because I am an ethnic Guraghe. They were demanding I tell them everything I know about them though I don't know and have never even met them before. Here,

⁴⁰ Ethio trial tracker, "Open file, Nigist Yirga and 5 others" <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/nigist-yirga-tefera-and-5-others/>

⁴¹ Ethiopian Human Rights Project, the abuse of a young Ethiopian activist, Nigist Yirga/አከቲሺስት ንግስት ይርጋ የእስር ቤት ስቃይ በአኒሜሽን ቪዲዮ August 14, 2017 https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=T-Xz3LnD0dMo

*everyone is subject of abuse on grounds of his identity: if you are Guraghe or Amhara, you're labelled member of PG7; if you are Oromo, you are labelled a member of OLF; and our Muslim brothers who were members of 'Dimtsachin Yisema' are branded as Al-Shabab.*⁴²

On October 26, 2017 hearing at Lideta Higher Court 4th criminal bench Zemene Geta told the court he is physically and psychologically harassed because of his ethnic identity.

Zemene Gete, a 31-year-old, is from North Gondar of Amhara regional state, from a town named Maksegnit. He is the 2nd defendant under the file name Kindu Dube et al⁴³. He told the court the following:

The investigators beat me and verbally assaulted me because of my ethnicity. They used the words donkeys and hyenas to describe Amharas. We never chose to be Amharas or Oromos when we were born, but we are simply abused for something we had no control of. I didn't recover from my broken bones, eye and ear injuries I sustained from the beating in Maekelawi only to face more torture in Qilinto. I do not have any guarantee of life.

4.2.3 Prolonged legal procedures

Several legal cases of Ethiopian political dissidents take years before judges reach a verdict. Charges of 3 members of Zone 9

⁴² Dimtsachin Yisema was a movement that called for an end to the government's interference in religious affairs of the Muslim community. For more on the movement, Addis Standard, "Ethiopian Muslims and the State: Arrests, Twists, and Anger," 30 October 2012, <http://addisstandard.com/ethiopian-muslims-and-the-state-arrests-twists-and-anger/>

⁴³ Ethio-trial tracker, "open cases, Kindu Dube and nine others" <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/new-file-name-kindu-dube-and-nine-others/>

bloggers are still pending after over 3 years on trial.

Most of the cases in this report have been open for at least over a year, and the suspects are denied bail. Among those, is the case against the 38 defendants that were accused of burning Qilinto prison.

The 19th Criminal Bench of the Lideta high Court was expecting to hear more prosecutor witnesses between January 1, 2018-January 11, 2018 out of the 85 registered by the prosecutors, of which more than half had already testified 5 months ago.

However, it was unable to bring 31 witnesses it claimed to have in those days claiming that the prosecutors had changed, and that they were new to the case, and needed another day to bring the witness. This was repeated five different times and the court was adjourned five times to hear the 31 witnesses.

Finally, the defendants looked understandably distrusted, and expressed their anger to the court. **Masresha Sete**, a former pilot of FDRE National Defence Force, is the first defendant. Masresha described his frustration in court following repeated failure of prosecutors to bring their witnesses to stand.

The prosecutor's office in an institution, it is not a collection of individuals. For prosecutors to repeatedly appear before court and say they are unfamiliar with the case is a real shame. As an institution you should be the ones to know your

cases. You are the legal experts; it was your responsibility to respect and abide by the law. The society that raised me says even running water stops when called in the name of law. I am only defending myself, so it can be recorded in history, not because I am expecting justice from this court or from the dictator government.

EHRP had documented the severe abuse and ill-treatment he endured in prison⁴⁴.

Dr. Fikru Maru, a Swedish citizen physician who was initially facing corruption charges, and later cleared, is among the 38 charged. He has been in prison for a total of 4 years and 8 months now. Dr. Fikru was not in the prison premise when the fire broke out. He was in a hospital, seriously ill from lung complications that led to a surgery⁴⁵. Similarly, he expressed his disappointment in court as follows.

Everything has its limit. I am very tired. I'm dragged here like an animal for years without justice. The prosecutor is playing on our lives. History will remember what you're doing to us. The prosecutors couldn't bring their witnesses, and the few they managed to bring lied in court. If they don't have any witnesses, then we should be set free.

Earlier Dr. Fikru also repeatedly asked the court to go to the cardiac hospital he founded, under the accompanying high security, to treat patients, but was allowed only once. He sadly told the court that the number of heart patients who died due to his absence had reached 20.

⁴⁴ Ethiopian Human Rights Project, "They threatened to kill me during interrogation." 19 July 2017, <http://ehrp.org/they-threatened-to-kill-me-during-interrogation-masresha-setegn/>

⁴⁵ Swedish doctors operate on surgeon jailed in Ethiopia" 8 December 2016

<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=2054&artikel=6582624>

Finally, the court hearing was summoned without hearing the 31 witnesses, as the prosecutors failed to bring them to a stand.

4.2.4 Reports of Ailments and death following ill-treatment in prison

1. Reports of ailments and denying medical access

Denying medical visits in Ethiopia's prisons is an all too familiar story that has been recurrently recorded by different institutes in different occasions. Few notable examples include, Andualem Aragie⁴⁶, Reyot Alemu⁴⁷, Temesgen Desalegn⁴⁸, Ahmedin Jebel⁴⁹, Olbana Lelissa⁵⁰, and Woubshet Taye⁵¹. Due to poor prison conditions, ill-treatments, and malnutrition, inmates often suffer from diseases such as, stomach ache, kidney failures, and neurological complications. Prisoners and families report about not getting medical access. This is even

⁴⁶ OHCHR, Opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at its seventy-ninth session, 21-25 August 2017, 5 October 2017

⁴⁷ Change.org, Free Reyot Alemu - Imprisoned Award-winning Ethiopian Journalist with Breast Tumour, <https://www.change.org/p/free-reyot-alemu-imprisoned-award-winning-ethiopian-journalist-with-breast-tumour>

⁴⁸ Ethiopia denies Temesghen Desalegn access to medical care in jail, March 16, 2015, 2:31 <https://cpj.org/2015/03/ethiopia-denies-temesghen-desalegn-access-to-medic.php>

⁴⁹ Ethiomedia.com, Seriously sick Ethiopian Muslim leader denied treatment, Nov 18, 2017, <http://www.ethiomedia.com/1000bits/ahmedin-jebel-prominent-muslim-leader-denied-treatment.html>

⁵⁰ Amnesty International, Ethiopia: further information: opposition leaders denied medical treatment 25 April 2014,

more true especially during earlier stages of illness; this often complicates what could have been easily treated. Some die because of lack of treatments; others, like Ahmedin Jebel, are allowed treatment following public outcry after their condition reaches a critical stage⁵².

Bekele Gerba, a prominent and highly respected leader of Oromo Federalist Congress has been detained for more than 18 months⁵³. A twitter campaign with the hashtag MedicalCareforBekele was held to call upon the government to allow him medical treatment, as his eye sight was deteriorating and has a high blood pressure. Bekele still did not receive medical care until this report was launched. This is not the first time that Bekele was denied medical access⁵⁴.

Ferede Kindshato Yirga a 21-year-old farmer from Western Tigray, Tegede Woreda is one of the prisoners that have been through much ordeal to get medical treatment. He is the 74th

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr25/001/2014/en/>

⁵¹ The daily Journalist, Imprisoned Ethiopian Journalist Denied a Medical Treatment <http://thedailyjournalist.com/pen-and-pad/imprisoned-ethiopian-journalist-denied-a-medical-treatment/>

⁵² Ethiomedia.com, Seriously sick Ethiopian Muslim leader denied treatment, Nov 18, 2017, <http://www.ethiomedia.com/1000bits/ahmedin-jebel-prominent-muslim-leader-denied-treatment.html>

⁵³ Addis Standard "Federal court hands six more month in contempt of court against high profile opposition party defendants" 5 February 2018, <http://addisstandard.com/news-federal-court-hands-six-more-month-in-contempt-of-court-against-high-profile-opposition-party-defendants/>

⁵⁴ Addis Standard's Twitter page 24 December 2017 <https://twitter.com/addisstandard/status/945179592935067648>

defendant under the file name of Miftah Sheikh Surur et al⁵⁵. Ferede was apprehended in his hometown and later transferred to Addis Ababa after suffering torture at different locations in Northern Ethiopia. He said *Qilinto* prison official denied him medical visits for three months despite his deteriorating conditions caused by the torture he suffered, mainly in detention centres in Northern Ethiopia. He was finally treated in *Kaliti* health centre, and later admitted to Police Hospital where he had a surgery.

2. Prisoners who died due to ill-treatment and lack of medical care

AHRE has collected list of names of prisoners who lost their lives as a result of ill-treatment and absence of medical care. These are the names that AHRE was able to confirm within a limited capacity and timeframe, and despite precluding prison conditions that make such efforts extremely difficult. The figure is very likely to be higher.

1. **Tesfahun Chemed**: died in August 2012 while he was detained in *Kaliti* prison.
2. **Nimona Tilahun**: died in July 2014 while he was detained in *Kaliti* prison.
3. **Mubarek Yimer**: died in January 2015 while he was detained in *Qilinto* prison.
4. **Ayele Beyene**: died in August 2017; he was detained in *Qilinto* prison.
5. **Abdeta Olansa**: died in January 2015; he was detained in *Qilinto* prison.
6. **Armaye Wake**: died in October 2017; he was detained in *Qilinto* prison.

7. **Mohammed Chane**: died in October 2017; he was detained in *Qilinto* prison.

One of the deceased Ayele Beyene was a 29-year-old prosecuted for terrorism for alleged involvement with OLF under the file name under the file name Melkamu Kinfu et al⁵⁶. His wife gave a detailed account of his last days.

Ayele had an appointment on July 7, 2017; I was also there. He raised his hands for complaints, but the court refused. The next day, Saturday, I went to Qilinto to see him. His neck and chin were covered with a towel when he came; he told me he had a tooth ache. He was very sick when I visited him on Monday July 10, 2017. I went back the next day, but his brother Bonsa (a third defendant on the same file) came and told me that Ayele was too sick to come and talk to me. The Qilinto health centre had already sent him a referral on Monday, but the prison officials refused to take him to a hospital.

On Thursday July 13, I talked to the prison officials, but they told me they have no sick patients in their premise. I insisted and told them I would not leave their office unless they told me how he was. Later, they confirmed he was admitted in the clinic. He had a scheduled court appearance the next day, but he did not come. I went straight to Qilinto; after a lot of bargaining, the officials pointed to a car from a distance and told me he was being taken to Kaliti Clinic.

I went to Kaliti on Saturday, July 15. I saw that his chest and neck had swollen; he could not talk. I asked him what had happened. He wrote on a piece of paper that he was beaten. He could not tell me where, how, or by whom; he promised he

⁵⁵ Ethio-trial tracker, Miftah Sheikh Surur and 76 others <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/miftah-sheikh-surur-and-76-others/>

⁵⁶ Ethio-trial tracker Melkamu Kinfu and 7 others, <https://ethiotrialtracker.org/melkamu-kinfu-and-seven-others/>

would tell me everything once he feels better. There was a bucket in the room that had blood in it. When I asked he wrote that it was coming from his aching tooth, but I was confused because it was too much blood.

The next day, Sunday, he was still spitting blood when I went to see him. But despite affirmation from the health professionals, I just couldn't believe all that blood would come from a toothache. His phlegm was also filled with blood, I thought to myself that it had to be something more serious. On Monday July 17, I got a permission to nurse him day and night. On Wednesday, I saw blood in his urine which I did not notice before. On Thursday July 20, he had a surgery because the swelling and the pain got worse. That day, he was transferred to St. Paul Hospital because the doctors at Kaliti could no longer help him.

The doctors at St. Paul were shocked when they saw the blood and ultrasound result and asked if he was beaten. The ultrasound showed that one of his kidneys was not functioning, and the second one was also malfunctioning because of his complicated ailment. They told me that, this happens either due to accident or physical beating.

On Saturday July 22, he was transferred to Kidney treatment ward. They said he needed to have dialysis treatment, but they did not have the machine. They told me I should take him to a private hospital that has the machine as soon as possible, but the police officers refused. I begged them a lot, but they would not give in. We couldn't do anything; the doctors at St. Paul didn't have the means to treat him, so they could not. He died the next day; he died simply because he was denied better treatment. He had always been healthy and fit; his death is entirely due to his abuse at the prison and lack of medical treatment.

Armeye Wake is another prisoner to die in prison. He and his brother Tewodros Waqe were serving time in *Qilinto* and *Kaliti* prisons for possession and sale of drugs. Armeye was later charged for burning *Qilinto* prison.

Armeye's father, Mr. Waqe said the following:

He was moved to Showa Robit prison following Qilinto fire outbreak. When I went to visit him, his hands and face had swollen; he told me they were beating him. He couldn't talk freely because security guards were closely monitoring us. He was wearing shorts and was almost naked. I saw that there were bruises on his feet. He told me they hit him every evening, and said they tied a plastic water bottle to his testicles; he had difficulties wearing trousers.

Later, they moved him back to Qilinto, but the beating got worse. In the summer 2016, they took him to a solitary confinement for 15 days, claiming he provoked other prisoners to rebel. He was born and raised in Addis Ababa, but they claimed he was OLF member simply because his family members were born in Ambo. He told me they were threatening to kill him. We used to visit him once a week, but he asked us to visit him at least three times a week so we could at least receive his body on time if they kill him.

A complaint letter signed by his father, his mother, his sister, and one other family member was filed to court. Excerpt from the letter reads:

We went to prison to see him on September 12, 2017, but prison officials told us he was in the hospital for stomach ache and told us to come back the following day; so, we went back home. That same night they called his sister from prison and told her that he had passed away, and that she could take his body from St. Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College.

When we went to take his body, we saw that his head was crushed from violent beating; his belly was cut open and stitched back. (In another testimony, his father requested for autopsy saying, “it looks like Armaye’s organs were taken out”) His body was laid to rest in St. Rufael Hospital on September 13, 2017 at 3:00 PM.

We kindly urge the court to hold accountable Zone 5 the security officials who were on duty on September 11 and 12 and bring them to justice. We also plead the court, taking what happened to Armaye into consideration, to provide legal protection to his brother Tewodros Waqe who is detained in Kaliti prison.

During a court hearing on October 25, 2017, prisoner Bisrat Abera, who said to have seen Armaye described Armaye’s death to the court.

They kicked Armaye to death in the chest with their shoes; I was there when it happened. They beat many of us in the presence of the prison head Superintendent Assefa Kidane. We have already asked the court last time to move us to another prison. We are at the hands of killers; where can we go? What can we do?

The court issued an order to investigate the cause of his death and is awaiting a reply.

4.2.5 Restrictions on family visits and time

Some prisoners are denied visits by family and friends outside the already pre-registered visitors. Below is the list of prisoners in *Kaliti* who have limitations to the number of people that can visit them. In addition, they can also be

visited for 30 minutes only from 12:00-12:30PM.

1. **Eskindr nega**: a journalist convicted 18 years for terrorism.
2. **Andualem Arage**: a former leader of an opposition party serving life sentence
3. **Sena Solomon**: a musician; case still open
4. **Qeneni Tamru**: a musician; case still open
5. **Emawaysh alemu**: serving life sentence since 2008
6. **Nigist yirga**: case is still open

The stories demonstrate the multi-faceted forms and nature of the ill-treatment. Prisoners are maltreated and abused based on their ethnic identity; on alleged involvement with terrorist groups; based on their religious grounds; based on gender identity and more. This signals the seriousness and pervasiveness of the problem. As a recently released blogger told the VOA, there is no better place to know Ethiopia now than the prison; people from every direction of the country are in prison because they dared to have a different opinion and cared for their country.⁵⁷

Furthermore, the accounts are also a shocking display of the current prison conditions in Ethiopia. As Michel Foucault⁵⁸ once noted “power constantly investigates and records; it institutionalizes the search for the truth.” The statement is a fitting description of the prison system that subjects political dissidents to unlawful detention, torture, and other ill-treatments under the disguise of the law and the search for the truth.

⁵⁷ VOA Amharic “እስር ቤት ውስጥ የሰብዓዊ መብት ጥሰቱ የት እንደደረሰ ለማየት ችያለሁ” ጦማሪ ዘላለም ወርቃገኘው, February 2, 2018 <https://amharic.voanews.com/a/4235246.html>

⁵⁸ Foucault, Michel, and François Ewald. " *Society Must Be Defended*": Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-1976. Vol. 1. Macmillan, 2003.

Not only do the reports manifest the abuse and misuse of power, they also largely exemplify the inability of the judicial system to protect citizens. Instead of ruling against the abuses by interrogators, the court merely functions an instrument of the abusers, by failing to stop the

various forms of ill-treatments and failing to reach verdict in due time.

V. Government response to reports of ill-treatment

The Convention against Torture upholds that states must ensure that competent authorities proceed to a prompt and impartial investigation, wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed in any territory under its jurisdiction. It also notes that individual who alleges he has been subjected to torture has the right to complain to, and to have his case promptly and impartially examined by, its competent authorities.⁵⁹

In the past, some organs of the government have acknowledged the conditions of prisons to some degree including legal counsel lengthy detention pending investigation of police investigation, but largely attributed problems to lack of awareness or resources⁶⁰.

The Judiciary: EHRCO has carried out few investigations, up on the order of the court to investigate allegations of ill-treatments and abuse which amount to torture. This in itself is a positive step on the part of the judiciary. Nevertheless, against the backdrop of several testimonies of abuse by detainees to, its responses are minuscule and its impartiality highly questionable. The case of Tesfaye Liben's

testimony is a good testament that demonstrates the court's inability to stop to ill-treatments.

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission: EHRCO was established in July 2010 as an autonomous organ of the Federal government having its own juridical personality under proclamation No. 210/2000. Accordingly the commission has the power and duty to ensure that the human rights and freedoms provided for under the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia are respected by all citizens, organs of state, political organizations and other associations as well as by their respective officials.⁶¹

The commission, upon request from the court has conducted investigations on allegations of torture and submitted its findings. Although this is commendable, no one is held accountable or has faced justice for reports of abuse so far. AHRE has viewed copies of 2 of the commission's reports⁶². Both implement similar methodology to conduct the investigation; the data on both reports were collected by interviewing the victims and the prison officials,

⁵⁹ The Convention against Torture, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>

⁶⁰ Cited in Human Rights Watch, They Want a Confession" Torture and Ill-Treatment in Ethiopia's

Maekelawi Police Station, October 2013, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ethiopia_1013_ForUpload.pdf

⁶¹ **Federal Negarit Gazeta**, Proclamation no. 210 /2000, 4 July 2010, <http://ehrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ethiopian-human-rights-commission-procl.pdf>

⁶² Reports attached in appendix section

and by examining victims' body parts and personal files.

Key points of the two reports are briefly summarised below.

1. On reports of human rights violations against Masresha Setegn and 37 others

Upon request by the 12th Criminal Bench of the Lideta high Court the commission conducted investigations and produced a 5 page report the alleged abuses of the 38 detainees charged over Qilinto prison fire. In its report, dated on October 31, 20017, the commission presented the information collected from the detainees; from prison officials; examination of detainees' body parts; and through detainees' personal files. Accordingly:

i. Complainants' testimonies

The report indicated that the 38 detainees accused of setting Qilinto prison on fire were transferred to Shewa Robit, and suffered different kinds of abuse. The abuses include beatings on different parts of their body; tying water bottles to their testicles; being electrocuted, receiving slurs targeted at Muslim detainees; being transferred to Dark Room for three months from December 22, 2017 to March 20, 2018 as a punishment for telling their abuses to court, during which they could not go outside during the day for fresh air; and being denied family visits. They also indicated in the report, that they requested the court to have pictures taken of the wounds on their bodies, which the court declined.

ii. Prison officials' testimonies

Prison officials denied all accusations. Superintendent Assefa, head of Addis Ababa prison said that following the fire incident, detainees were relocated to Shewa Robit and Zeway prisons because the rooms in Qilinto prison were lost to the fire. He said they received no ill-treatments in the prisons. He also dismissed the allegations of being detained in Dark Room; saying Qilinto does not have what is referred as a Dark Room.

lii. The commission's observation from the detainees' body parts

The report listed names of 16 detainees from whom it said to have seen sustained wounds on different parts of their body, including

- Broken limbs
- Removed nails
- Scar on hands and feet
- Broken limbs
- Bruises of chains on hands and feet
- Bruises on two detainees
- The torture inflicted on Agbaw was corroborated in the report, which indicated that there were bruises on his left foot caused by nail piercing; a big scar on the right leg; and a bruise from what appears to be caused by flogging.

iii. Detainees' files

According to the report, the file has a list of names of 7 detainees, whose files indicated different scars on their hands, feet, knees, forehead, and a mark under the nose of one of

the 7 detainees. The report says that the others had no record of any mark upon entering the prison.

Conclusion and proposal

Based on the evidence collected, the commission in its report confirms that the suspects had in fact sustained “bodily injuries”. In addition, based on witness interviews, its own earlier investigation, and visiting the prison physically, it was able to verify that 38 defendants were indeed detained in segregated confinement, which has two rooms, a shower room, and toilets. The rooms, the report notes, are too small to hold 38 detainees.

The commission ends its report by proposing a list of recommendations including informing Qilinto prison to appropriately record detainees’ body bruises that are “formed after detainees are jailed”; requesting Addis Ababa Police commission and medical experts to investigate the cause of the scars, and the police commission to also investigate the issue regarding the detainees’ properties⁶³.

It is a significant step that the commission confirmed the detainees had “bodily injuries”. However, it failed to hold authorities accountable and simply made a request for investigations into the injuries. Even after seeing the evidences on detainees’ bodies, such as metal nail pierced into a foot, the commission did not equivocally condemn the abuses. In fact,

it refrained from using terms like abuse or torture, and simply made a reference as “bodily injuries”. Furthermore, what makes the commission’s call for further investigation even more dismaying, is that the request was made not to an independent body, but to the federal police; the same institution that runs Maekelawi and is accused of abuses and torture. It is highly unlikely that an institution would hold its own office responsible for committing severe human rights violations, including torture.

1. On reports of human rights violations against Bisrat Abera and 20 others

The court also ordered EHRCo to investigate the allegations of Bisrat Abera and 20 others after they reported they were tortured in *Qilinto*, *Shewa Robit* and *Zeway* prisons. After conducting similar investigation which included interviews with the 21 detainees and the prison officials, examining detainees’ bodies and their prison cells, and reading detainees’ personal files, the commission reported:

i. Complainants’ testimonies

The report indicates that detainees told the commission that they were beaten because prison officials claimed the inmates were responsible for burning *Qilinto* prison.

⁶³ It does not specify what it means by investigating on detainees’ properties, it may be that the properties they handed in upon prion may have been missing.

1. The hand of each detainee was chained together with another detainee whenever they went to a toilet and they were forbidden to wash their hands after using the toilet; and were made to eat food without washing their hands; their feet were also chained when they went to sleep;
2. They were electrocuted, and their inner feet were beaten while they were hanged upside down; they were not allowed to take a shower for 22 days in *Shewa Robit*; they were not given food for two days in *Shewa Robit*; they were made to sign forced confession; and they were beaten while rolling on the sand and doing heavy physical exercise.

ii. Response from prison officials:

In his response to the commission, Addis Ababa Prisons Administration head Mr. Assefa Kidane, denied all allegations of human rights violations in *Zeway* and *Shewa Robit* prisons⁶⁴. He said no detainee was beaten and the prison had already conducted an investigation upon request by the court and had submitted its findings. He also said no detainee was denied of medical treatment.

Furthermore, he said, much of the detainees' belongings were lost to the fire; and detainees had not handed in their belongings to the officials when they were moved to the other prisons, so a committee that was set up to oversee the situation had burnt all remaining detainee belongings in presence of the police.

⁶⁴ He did not mention *Qilinto* prison and the report did not elaborate the reason.

iii. Findings after examining the victims' bodies

The report indicates that it has already been months since the alleged violations occurred, and the victims had told the commission that many of the wounds have healed as time passed, but the commission was still able to see scars on different body parts of 9 individuals.

- Six detainees showed scars on their hands, fingers, feet, and head.
- Two detainees showed dislocated hands.

iv. Detainees files

The report notes the file had no record of the bodily bruises/scars mentioned above, when the detainees initially entered the prison.

The commission writes:

1. "The prison denied the allegations in which the detainees said to have lasted from 10:00 AM-7:00PM. Though the detainees unanimously made the same accusations, they could not bring witnesses or present medical evidence. This, according to them was because there was no witness present while they were being beaten, and because they were not allowed medical visit. Therefore, it is not possible to reach at a decision whether or not they were in fact beaten.

The accusers also said they were beaten and their human rights were violated in *Shewa Robit*,

and even showed the commission scars of 3 accusers from the beatings. The commission checked the files of the three individuals and confirmed that the bruises were not there when they entered Shewa Robit. Nevertheless, further investigation must be conducted to examine the cause of the scars; police and medical staff must carry out an investigation and submit their findings. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether or not they were beaten at this stage.”

2. Regarding the allegations of torture described under 2 and 3 above (from complainants’ testimonies), the commission said

“Because the prison administration is the one that may commit these acts, and because they are committed without the presence of individual witnesses or substantiating document, it makes it hard to find out the truth easily. Nevertheless, it can be seen from the bruises on their hands, that their hands were indeed handcuffed. However, to say whether or not every two person was handcuffed together, and that they were chained while they were sleeping, by only taking the detainees’ words, and to subsequently conclude that they were tortured and punished in ways that were inhuman and degrading is not possible.”

The report makes similar request to the police for further investigation on observed scars and wounds. In addition, not only does the commission fail to hold any party accountable, it takes a rather nonsensical stance regarding the bruises. The report hints that the prison administration committed the abuse, but fails to hold the administration accountable for lack of witnesses. It is not clear how the commission would think that prison officials would commit the abuses in the presence of witnesses.

The report also makes a deeply regrettable assertion on the detainees’ allegations about being chained in pairs. The commission was able to see the bruises due to being handcuffed, but it said it could not confirm whether or not they were chained in pairs. This is highly lamentable. Seeing that the prison administration had already denied committing any violation, the bruises from handcuffs would have been enough evidence to hold the prison officials accountable. There is no other way that the detainees would have been handcuffed, unless by prison authorities. And to gloss over the fact in the name of absence of evidence to being chained in pairs is a huge injustice. Even if the commission had assumed they were not chained in pairs, it would have still been enough to condemn the act and call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

VI. Conclusion

Security forces in Ethiopia have for long been accused of using torture and other ill-treatments against detainees; the subjects of abuse include political party members, peaceful protestors, bloggers, and other alleged terrorist suspects. The reports documented by different human rights institutions^{65 66}, including AHRE⁶⁷ largely depict the consistency and repeated patterns of abuse by security forces towards alleged criminals.

Over the past three years, following the protests in different parts of the country, mainly in Amhara and Oromia regions, security forces have scaled up the use of disproportionate force to disperse demonstrations, which led to the killing and arbitrary arrest of protestors. In its 59th ordinary session, ACHPR condemned the deterioration of human rights situation in Ethiopia following the protests and called the Ethiopian government to refrain from the use of excessive and disproportionate force against protestors and, more generally, take the necessary measures to guarantee the security and safety of its population

Despite the government's measure to quell down dissent through sustained repression and varying degrees of abuse by prison authorities. Ethiopia's government has for long been trying to suppress dissident voices by criminalizing and

sending them to long prison sentences. The government has repeatedly used extrajudicial force, including detention, imprisonment that includes different kinds of ill-treatment to quell down dissent. Nevertheless, anti-government protests have not abated. This is a clear indicative of the fact that coerced suppression does not bring lead to solutions; in fact, it aggravates problems.

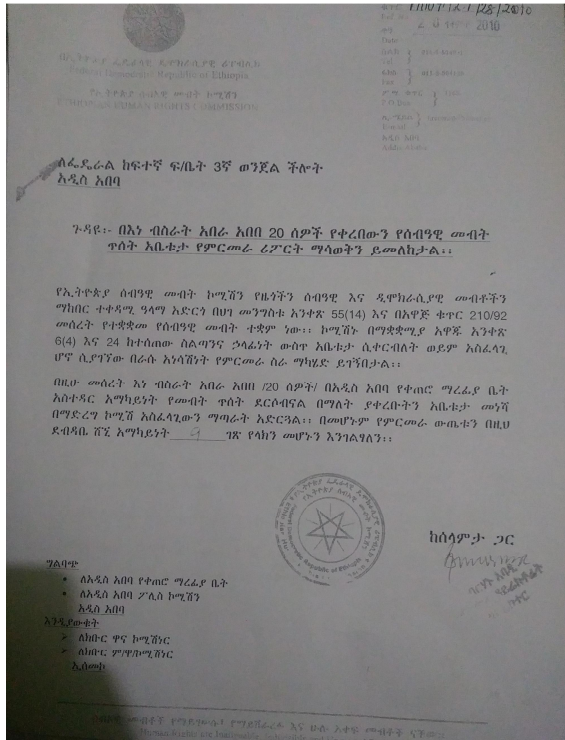
Prime Minister Mariam announced on 3rd January 2018, that his government would release prisoners who were already convicted and those whose cases still pending. Thus far some political prisoners, including Dr. Merera Gudina are released. This is admirable, and an important step to the right direction, but must be followed with releasing all remaining political prisoners to bring the desired an much need stability in Ethiopia.

⁶⁵ Human Rights Watch, They Want a Confession" Torture and Ill-Treatment in Ethiopia's Maekelawi Police Station, October 2013, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ethiopia_1013_ForUpload.pdf

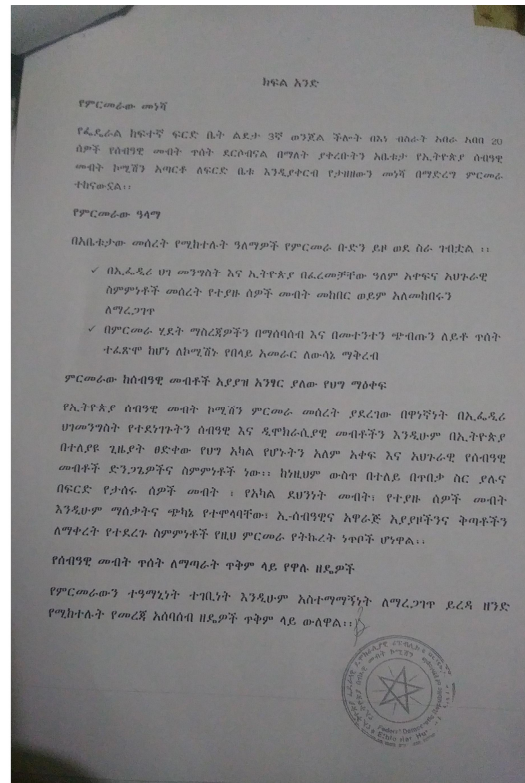
⁶⁶ Amnesty International, Ethiopia 2016/2017 "<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/ethiopia/report-ethiopia/>"

⁶⁷ Association of Human Rights in Ethiopia, "Ailing Civic Space in an Authoritarian State: The State of Human Rights Defenders and Cost of Dissent in Ethiopia", January 2018, https://ahrethio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AilingCivicSpace_large-1.pdf

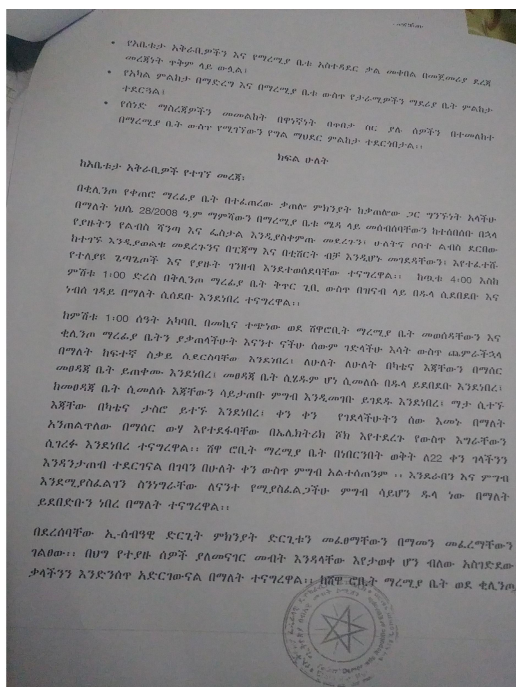
VII. Appendix



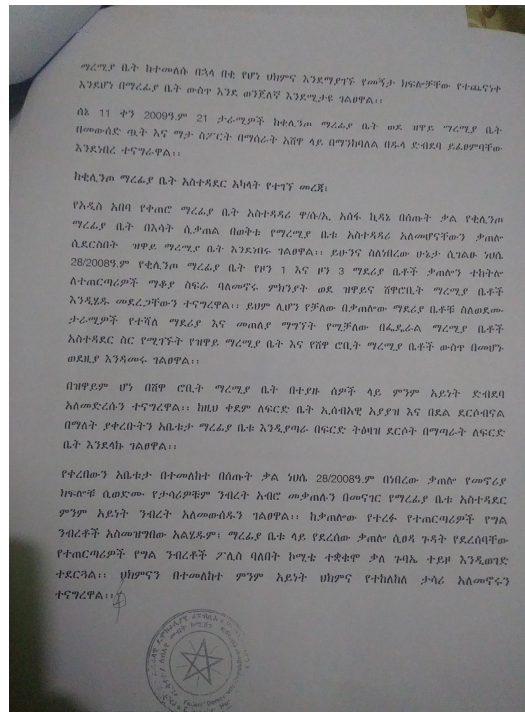
Scanned by CamScanner



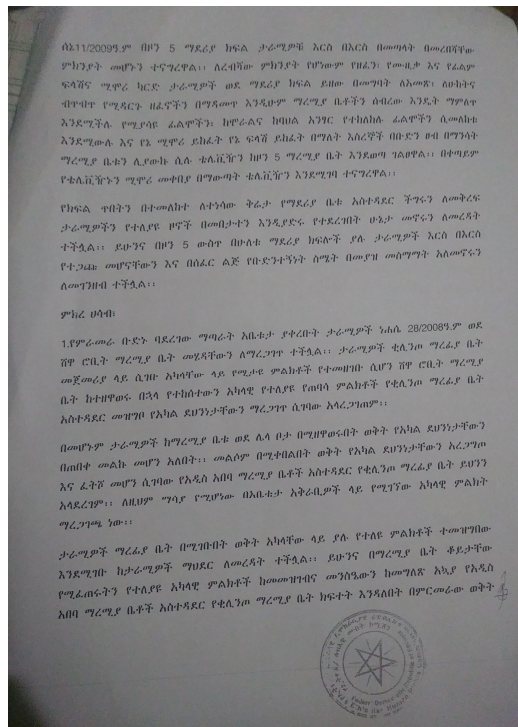
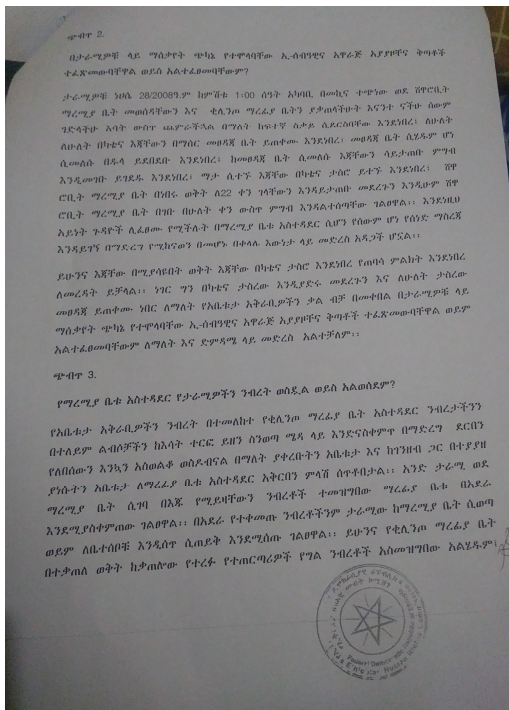
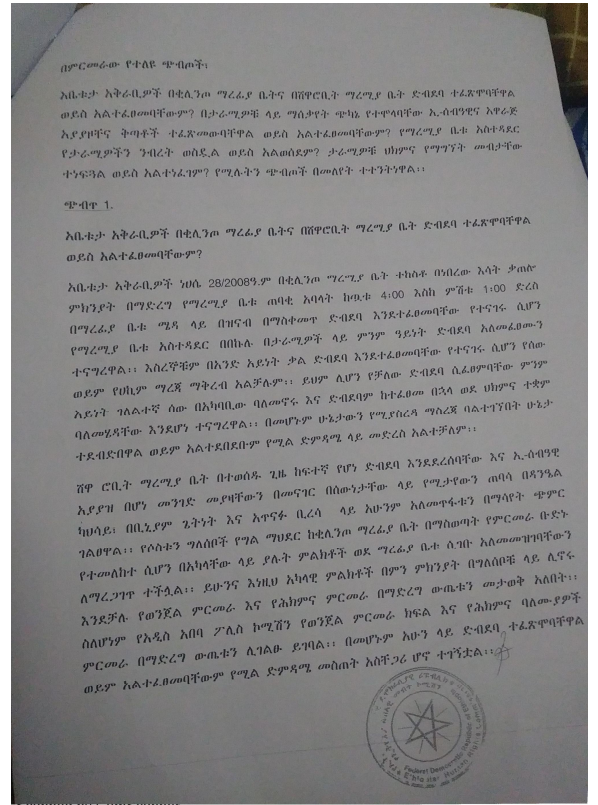
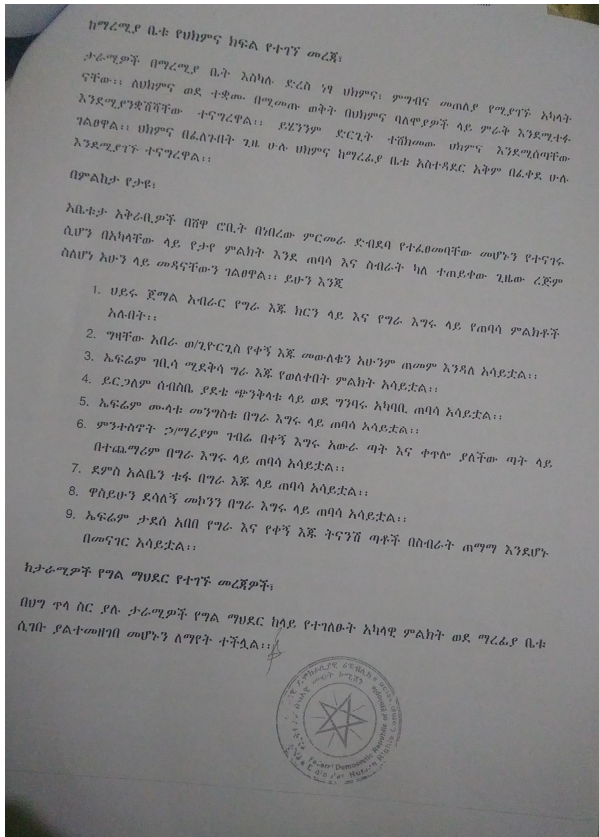
Scanned by CamScanner

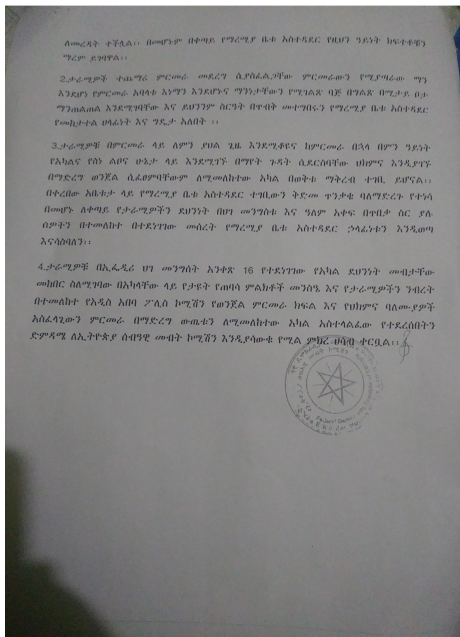


Scanned by CamScanner

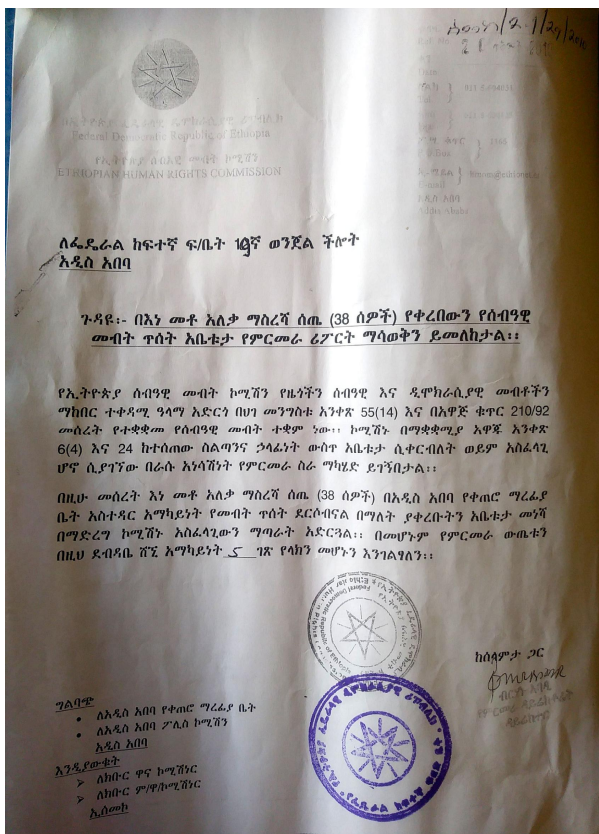


Scanned by CamScanner

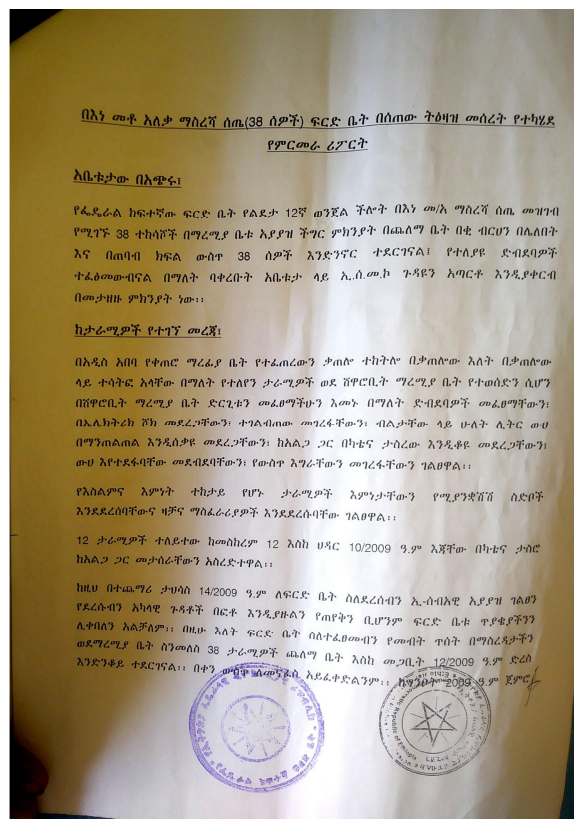




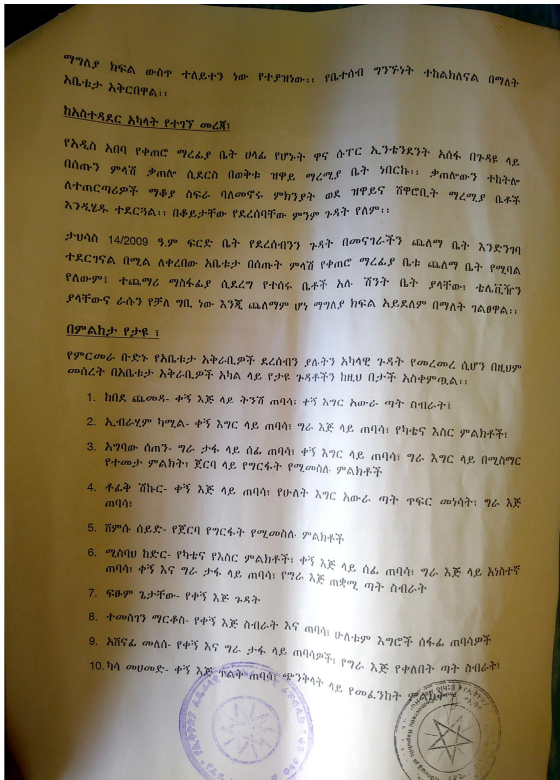
Scanned by CamScanner



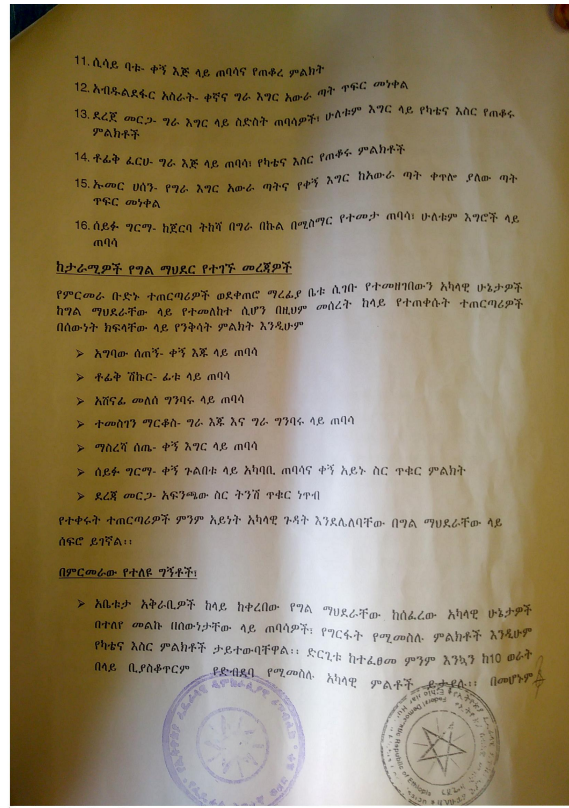
Scanned by CamScanner



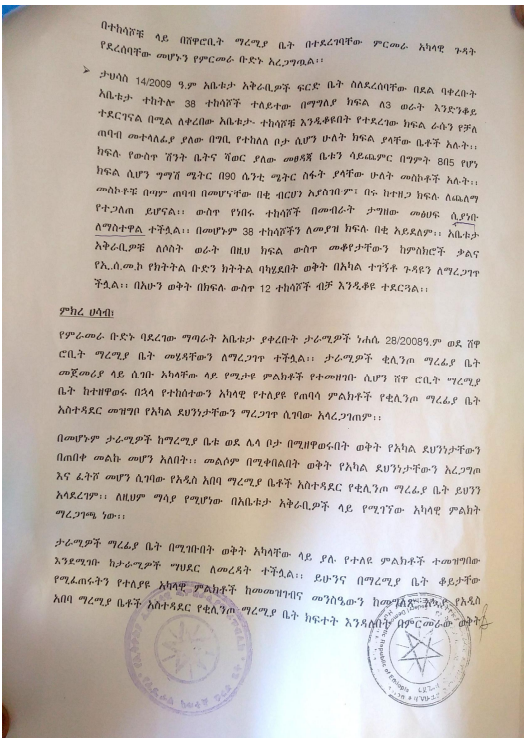
Scanned by CamScanner



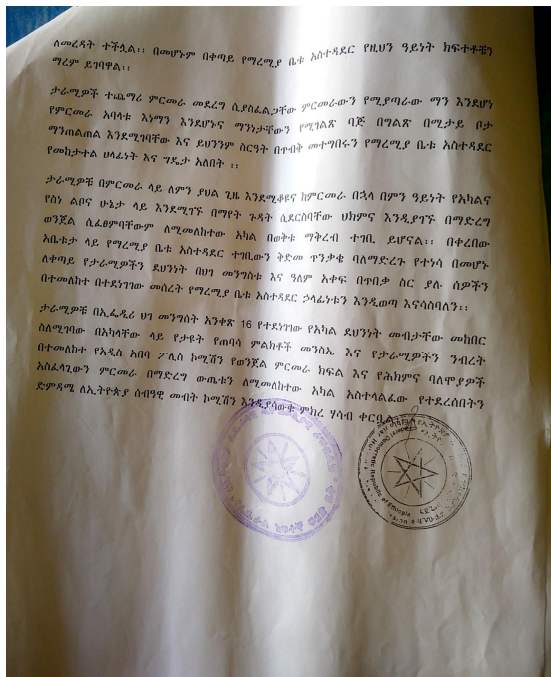
Scanned by CamScanner



Scanned by CamScanner



Scanned by CamScanner



Scanned by CamScanner



Some of the Political Prisoners in Ethiopia