



## **Human rights violations in Afar Region** **continue!**

The Afar Regional State in Ethiopia is well known for its repetitive gross human rights violations in the country. Despite these violations the situation remained unknown outside its borders. No human rights organisation managed yet to expose the current situation in the region. As it did in Ogaden and Oromia regions the TPLF government is systematically isolating the Afar region and make the region inaccessible to human rights organisations and other media.

Under the disguise of security problems, ordinary people are subjected to arbitrary imprisonment and harassment that may take months or years without proper legal procedure. The huge land grabbing by foreign and Woyane affiliated investors has resulted in mass displacement of thousands of civilian pastoralists. The Woyane army continue harassing and terrorising the civilian citizens and forcefully the evacuation. Due to evacuation and the illegal investments local conflicts has been intensified both within clans and with neighbouring peoples. In Gawane, where this conflict is intense over 60 tribal elders from the area were taken to prison and currently suffering without due legal process for more than four months in Abaala town, situated 45 km East of Makale. In turn Makale is over thousand km from Gawane and relatives are not able to visit the prisoners. Others from Gawane are imprisoned in Adebtole, over 100 km from their home. As late as 12 April, a 16 year old young man was gunned down and killed by the police allegedly suspected to escape from the Adebtole prison.

The situation is similar around Aysaita and Dubti, where ordinary people are imprisoned on suspicion for fear of growing people's discontent. Recently over 88 elders from Awsa were summoned by Woyane leaders who warned the afar elders for not evacuating the Awash Valley for large Sugar Cane plantations. The elders rejected this warning and due to their protest more than 200 people are imprisoned.

Afar Human Rights Organisation condemn this state sponsored human rights violation and appeal to the international community to investigate situation in Afar region.

- We call up on the Ethiopian Human Right Commission to visit the prisoners as soon as possible!
- We call up on Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Red Cross to help the imprisoned who are kept without any condition!

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