immediat press release

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Ethiopian Army intensifies it’s extra-judicial killings, torture, rape and confiscating the private properties in the Ogaden.

Since mid-July this year, the Ethiopian Army has intensified scorched earth campaign in the Ogaden. Hundreds of civilians from both the rural and urban areas were illegally detained and tortured. Furthermore, The Ethiopian army is carrying out ghastly exemplary extra-judicial killings in most areas and displays the bodies in public places.

In Jarar region of (Degahbur) 200 people were detained and tortured and a dozen killed. In Qorahey (Qabri Dehar) hundreds are in detention, including teenage girls. Similar detentions and killing occurred in Shebelle (Godey), Doolo (Wardher) and Nogob (Fiiq) regions.

Eleven prisoners’ dead of torture in Jail Ogaden. Mrs Qureish Mohamed Haji and her infant twins, Mrs IKran Ali Mahad and Mr Gambays Aden Sanweyne’s bodies were thrown out of prison and left on door in order to instil fear in mind of the people in Jigjiga.

Around seventeen thousand detainees are scattered in prisons and military detention centres across the Ogaden. Of these, about five thousand are women, who are routinely raped and often get pregnant in prison with no care for both the mothers and infants.

In Addition, the detention centres, specially the notorious Jail Ogaden in Jigjiga were ordered to deny relatives to bring food to the detainees, who depend on food brought by the relatives since the Ethiopian prisons services finance their large detainees by forcing the relatives of prisoners to food the food bill.

Ethiopia ordered International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) out of the ethnic Somali region in July, 2007 and since then rejecting the ICRC to go back to resume humanitarian operations in the restive Ogaden region. Doctors with out border is also banned.
Ethiopia's security forces killed dozens of unarmed demonstrators from the Muslim community across the country who have been holding a peaceful demonstration since last year against government's human rights abuses and interference in their religion.

ARM calls the UN and the international community to make the Ethiopian government accountable for its human rights violations and pressure to open the Ogaden for the international human rights and humanitarian organizations to operate freely.

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