



የኢትዮጵያ

ሰብዓዊ መብቶች ጉባዔ (ኢሰመጉ)

ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (EHRCO)

HUMAN RIGHT IN ETHIOPIA

UPR Pre-session on ETHIOPIA

Geneva, [DATE]

By EHRCO

Focus areas of recommendations

Freedom of Opinion and Expression:

Liberty and Security of Persons:

Free and Fair Election:

Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

Freedom of Opinion and Expression

By Maldives and Chile

- ▶ Expedite efforts to amend the Proclamation on Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information Proclamation No. 590/2008 to protect citizens' rights to the freedom of expression and press and to
- ▶ ensure that journalists and human rights defenders undertake their work in a free environment which guarantees the rights to freedom of opinion and expression

New development since the last review

Ex-post the recommendation of the Maldives, the FDRE government made some efforts concerning legal reform vis-a-vis the Media Proclamation (no. 1238/2021). Although this is progress, the Proclamation is very much wrought with drawbacks. Parallel to this, Chile's recommendations are yet to be enforced alongside the Maldives, in the fullest sense.

various conflicts that had erupted in different parts of the country ex-post the 3rd UPR Cycle, the FDRE has been increasingly and arbitrarily arresting and abducting journalists, activists, political party members, as well as human rights defenders, and members of the national Upper House (House of People's Representatives-HOP).

Recommendations

- ▶ Direct the security agencies to refrain from threatening, attacking, arresting, detaining, and prosecuting citizens or journalists, who are critical of government officials or who express critical opinion.
- ▶ Establish an independent commission of Inquiry to investigate rights abuses by members of the Ethiopian police and security including acts of torture and harassment of civil society activists and journalists seeking to expose rights abuses and corruption
- ▶ Attacks on and threats to journalists, human rights defenders and political figures must be publicly condemned by government officials. And Release unduly detained political party members, human rights defenders and journalists

Liberty and Security of Persons

As per the recommendation given by the United Kingdom during the 3rd UPR cycle, the government of Ethiopia is advised to enhance its efforts to provide security for its citizens and to prevent abuses by intervening in conflicts to ensure the rule of law and the facilitation of local peace settlements.

France also made a recommendation supported by Ethiopian for the government to protect individuals across the country against rising inter-ethnic violence, guarantee respect for human rights in the regions, and promote conditions allowing security forces to intervene to ensure the protection of populations in the event of threats.

New development since the last review

The government's commitment to implement the recommendations, concerns still remain. Various reports show the liberty and security of people is violated under different guise.

For example

- During the conflict between the Federal government and TPLF, Tigrayans were restricted from moving in and out of Tigray by both by warring parties. A targeted arrest of ethnic Tigrayans was commonly practiced in Addis Ababa based on an overall assumption that all Tigrayans are a potential risk to the federal government The Danish Immigration Service, Ethiopia: An update on the security and human rights situation since February 2022, September 2022.
- Dembi Dollo University students from Amhara were kidnapped on December 3, 2019, when they were traveling to Addis Ababa via Gambella.

several citizens are deprived of their liberty and security by government authorities and groups. The government has not achieved peaceful co-existence amongst the different ethnic lines in the country.

Recommendations



- ▶ Ensure detaining officials inform arrested or detained persons of the reasons for arrest or any criminal charges against them.
- ▶ Speed up the trial of all detainees who have been arbitrarily held and in the absence of evidence, release them without further delay.
- ▶ Conduct independent investigation against officials responsible for illegal arrest and detention of individuals and accountability must be established.
- ▶ Take legislative and institutional measures for compensation for unlawful or arbitrary arrest or detention.

Free and Fair Election:

In relation to the right to participation in public affairs and the right to vote Ethiopia received 4 recommendations from the governments of Switzerland, Namibia, France and Japan.

- Recommendation 1 63.204 (Namibia);
- Recommendation 1 63.205 (France);
- Recommendation 1 63.206 (Japan);
- Recommendation 1 63.207 (Switzerland).

New development since the last review

After receiving the 3rd UPR recommendations, changes have been made in Ethiopia regarding elections and the right to vote.

- The government established the National Electoral Board in accordance with the country's constitution. The previous electoral law, Proclamation No. 532/1999, was replaced by the “National Electoral Board of Ethiopia Establishment Proclamation No. 1133/2019,”
- “Ethiopian Electoral, Political Parties Registration, and Election’s Code of Conduct Proclamation 1162/2019” were issued in 2019. Since 2019,
- Ethiopia has also issued more than ten election-related directives, including the Directive on the Establishment of Special Polling Stations.

Recommendations

- ▶ Collaborate with local civil society organizations and media houses.
- ▶ Ensure proper participation of women, persons with disabilities, persons from minority communities and internally displaced persons.

Freedom of Peaceful Assembly



By Ghana

Put in place adequate guidelines, equipment and training of law enforcement officials on the use of force when policing public assemblies'

New development since the last review

In the first one and half years of implementation period there have been some improvement in freedom of peaceful assembly the recommendation of Ghana is not implemented as it should be for instance

- ▶ On June 24, 2022, university students held a peaceful demonstration at Gondar University condemning the killing of civilians at Western Wollega zone Gimbi woreda. Two days later, police arrested those who took part in the demonstration and those who facilitated the demonstration.
- ▶ On June 25 and 27, 2022 in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar universities respectively a demonstration was held protesting the killing of civilians at Western Wollega zone Gimbi woreda but this demonstration was dissolved by government security forces using tear gas and force, many that took part in this demonstration were beaten and arrested by the police

Recommendations

EHRCO call on the Ethiopian government to

- ▶ Ensure a conducive environment for citizens and members of labour unions to realize their constitutional right to protest for improvement human rights.
- ▶ All journalists, demonstrators and human rights defenders detained for exercising their right to freedom of assembly should be unconditionally and immediately released.
- ▶ Every case of injury and death caused to protestors by security forces should be subjected to mandatory and transparent investigation by an independent commission.
- ▶ Repeal provisions under Proclamation No. 3/1991 - Proclamation to Establish the Procedure for the Peaceful Demonstration and Public Political Meeting – that requires individuals and groups to secure approval from the government to hold demonstrations.

THANK YOU ALL