Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic (UN UPR) Review of

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

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Submitted by

Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CEHRO)

Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO)

Inclusive Vision for Democratic Ethiopia (IVIDE)

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Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CEHRO)
Mr. Mesud Gebeyehu, Executive Director
Tel: +251) 0118 54 58 97
Email: cehro2010@gmail.com

Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO)
Mr Dan Yirga, Executive Director
Tel: +251 15 51 44 89
Email: ehrco@ethionet.et

Inclusive Vision for Democratic Ethiopia (IVIDE)
Tel: +25191 101 8394
Web: https://www.ividethiopia.org/

About the Participating CSOs

Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CEHRO) is a Consortium of 18 CSOs working on Human Rights, democracy and peace building. Registered under the Civil Society Organization Proclamation No. 1113/2011 with Registration No. 3932, CEHRO is working to promote the protection of Human Rights, improve the culture of democracy and peace-building. It is also serving as a common platform for members to initiate and take a lead in the evidence-based advocacy, as well as working to strengthen the capacity of existing and new Human Rights CSOs.

Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) is a non-governmental, non-profit-making, non-partisan, and membership-based organization legally registered by the Ethiopian Civic Society Authority with registration number 1146. Since its establishment in 1991, EHRCO has been working as a human rights-based civil society organization. EHRCO specializes in situation monitoring, investigating, documentations and reporting (MIDR) of human rights violations within the context of the local human rights arena. Furthermore, it conducts routine monitoring *vis-a-vis* prisons, trials, as well as election proceedings, and provides free legal aid services to victims, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the society.

Inclusive Vision for Democratic Ethiopia (IVIDE) is a non-for-profit CSO registered under No.4493 with the overall objectives of promoting human rights and democratic governance in Ethiopia through research, advocacy, dialogue and trainings with a vision to see a democratic Ethiopia where human rights of all people are respected irrespective of any difference.

I. Introduction

1. Ethiopia is party to seven of the nine core international human rights treaties.[1] This report focuses upon the Government's international commitments and assesses the extent to which supported recommendations in the UPR third cycle in 2019 have been implemented. The assessment focuses on civil and political rights. Eight themes are selected: liberty and security of persons; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; freedom of association; peaceful assembly; freedom of expression; citizen's rights during states of emergency measures; administration of justice and fair trial; and free and fair elections.

2. During the 3rd cycle UPR Ethiopia received 327 recommendations out of which it accepted 270 and noted 57. This submission welcomes the Government's overwhelming support of the third cycle recommendations on liberty and security of persons (2 supported; 0 noted); extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (1 supported; 0 noted); freedom of expression (2 supported; 0 noted); freedom of peaceful assembly (1 supported; 0 noted); freedom of association (1 supported; 0 noted); administration of justice and fair trial (1 supported; 0 noted); free and fair elections (4 supported; 0 noted); and citizen's rights during state of emergency.

3. This submission is organized into five sections including this introductory section. Section two briefly indicates the methodological approach used to prepare the report. Under section three, the underlying contexts of the state during the reporting period is explored. Then, in section four, an assessment of the implementation of the recommendations that Ethiopia have accepted in

relation to the realization of the foregoing rights during the 3rd UPR cycle is made in light of the national and international legal framework. Under section five, the submitting stakeholders make a number of recommendations to address the concerns listed under Section Four.

II. Methodology

4. The report relies on numerous reports released by governmental, non-governmental and international institutions issued during this reporting period and through conducting intensive desk reviews of relevant legal instruments and literature in the field of the rights under consideration.

III. Recent Background and Development

5. Following the 3rd UPR cycle, the government of Ethiopia has taken several legislative and institutional reforms that have a bearing on the promotion and protection of human rights. However, the two-year conflict in Northern Ethiopia has triggered a major human rights crisis mainly in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions with profound adverse effects on Ethiopia's governance reforms. Ethiopia remains beset by civil war and intercommunal violence, abuses by security forces and violations of due process are still common, and many restrictive laws remain in force.[2] Since late 2020 and until November 2022, fighting between the Federal Government and the Tigray Defense Force (TDF) has led to the displacement of millions and credible allegations of atrocity crimes, and violence has spilled over into neighboring regions.[3]

6. Throughout the year in Oromia, Amhara militants were implicated in numerous killings of Oromo civilians and the displacement of tens of thousands of people in areas bordering the Amhara region, which Amhara authorities attempted to annex. The Amhara government did not comment on the attacks and at times tried to justify them. Oromo militants also targeted Amhara civilians in Oromia.[4]

7. In May 2023, government forces arrested over 4,500 individuals, including journalists and activists, in what was a widespread crackdown in the Amhara region. The crackdown was allegedly intended to disarm and demilitarize the Amhara militia known as the Fano, which had been recruited by the federal government to fight in the Tigray conflict and had likely committed war crimes. The government provided no justification for the arrests, and whether the people arrested in May remained in custody at the end of the year was unclear. Human rights continue to be violated in many parts of the country. The submitting stakeholders assess implementation of citizens' civil and political rights since the 3rd UPR as follows

IV. Implementation of Recommendations from the Third Cycle and Concerns

Legal Framework and General Measures of Implementation

8. The Ethiopian government is a State party to international human rights instruments designed to protect liberty and security of persons;[5] freedom of association;[6] freedom of peaceful assembly;[7] freedom of expression;[8] citizen's rights during states of emergency measures;[9]

administration of justice and fair trial;[10] free and fair elections;[11] guard against extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.[12] In a similar fashion, the Ethiopian Constitution enshrines provisions to protect these rights.[13]

9. Since the 3rd UPR cycle, the country has taken some positive measures including the use of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) within the proceedings of national courts and the issuance of the Federal Court Administration Proclamation (No. 1234) which gives the national High Court the jurisdiction of entertaining human rights issues. Using the Federal Court Administration Proclamation, efforts have also been made by some CSOs to engage in strategic litigation such as Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR). Other efforts made includes the translation and dissemination of international and regional human rights instruments by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), as per its organizational mandates arising out of its establishment proclamation No 1224/2020, as well as the institutional reforms of the EHRC and the Institution of the Ombudsman, as means of bolstering their independence, thus reliability and legitimacy. The measures that the country was required to implement on specific rights based on the recommendations that were given, and the concerns that were identified are discussed in the subsequent sections.

A. Liberty and Security of Persons: Not Implemented

10. 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.[14] This recommendation was supported by the Ethiopian government. 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.[15]

11. Despite 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. During the conflict between the Federal government and TPLF, Tigrayans were restricted from moving in and out of Tigray by both by warring parties.[16] 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.[17] On the other hand, the ethnic Amharas in the Oromia region were the primary targets of kidnappings and human rights violations by the OLA.[18] According to various reports, 17 Dembi Dollo University students from Amhara were kidnapped on December 3, 2019, when they were traveling to Addis Ababa via Gambella. According to the activists working to free the girls from captivity, the alleged kidnappers belong to the armed wing of the Oromia Liberation Front called OLF Shene.[19] In other regions as well, 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.

12. Further reports also show between 1-10 February 2023, plainclothes security forces from the Addis Ababa city administration and the Federal Government arrested over 30 ethnic Amhara in Woreda 12 of Bole sub-city. The security officers cited reasons such as traveling in groups and supporting Fano for the arrests. No court warrants were present, and police were not summoned to affect them.'[20]

13. The concerns about liberty and security extend beyond citizens to include foreigners in the country. On 31 October 2023, security forces unlawfully arrested, physically assaulted, and detained two staff members of the African Development Bank Group based in Addis Ababa for many hours without any official explanation.[21]

B. Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions: Not Implemented

14. Portugal made a recommendation to the government of Ethiopia for the country to ensure independent and impartial investigations into cases of extrajudicial executions, and hold perpetrators to account.[22] The government has stated its commitment to transitional justice and launched a transitional justice consultation to hold accountable those responsible for extrajudicial killings and other mass atrocities committed in the country. Yet, The International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia considers this to be a deeply flawed process, which fails to meet African Union and international standards.[23] The Commission's report also shows 'Ethiopia has so far failed to take effective measures to ensure individual criminal responsibility, or indeed any other form of accountability, for international crimes committed during the conflict.'[24] The challenges of investigation and prosecution of the arbitrary killings is exacerbated by the domestic legal framework which lacks provisions to effectively investigate and prosecute international crimes defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Criminal Code does not incorporate crimes against humanity. Even worse, Ethiopia is not a party to the Rome Statute.

15. Consequently, the lack of accountability has contributed to the continued arbitrary executions in the country. For instance, Ethiopian government forces summarily executed a 17-year-old boy in Ethiopia's Oromia region in broad daylight.[25] On May 11, 2021, government forces apprehended and beat an individual in Dembi Dollo, a town in the Kellem Wellega zone of western Oromia. He was executed in public that day, and the act of summary execution of a teenage boy shows astounding disregard for human life.[26] In late January, Ethiopia's federal security forces killed at least 45 civilians in a massacre in Amhara State. In a statement, the independent state-affiliated Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)[27] confirmed 'the identity of at least 45 civilians who were extra-judicially killed by government security forces for allegedly 'supporting (ethnic Amhara armed group) Fano'.[28] The International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia state that it has received credible information about extrajudicial executions and large-scale detentions, as well as at least one drone strike in West Gojjam Zone. Moreover, another report shows Ethiopian government forces have allegedly killed at least 70 civilians in the town of Majete, in Ethiopia's Amhara region.[29] Survivors of the incidents said the forces went door-to-door looking for members of the ethnic Amhara "fano"

militia and accused civilians of supporting the group with supplies.[30] The continued killings and executions in the country indicate there should be an enhanced scrutiny and independent regional and international investigation.

C. Freedom of Opinion and Expression: Partially Implemented

16. During the 3rd UPR Cycle the governments of Maldives and Chile made the following key recommendations on the freedom of opinion and expression to the FDRE government – 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.[31]

17. Article 19 of the ICCPR which Ethiopia has ratified guarantees the right to freedom of expression and opinion. 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. Pertinent to the northern war and the 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). Inherently, such an act violates the liberty of citizens, especially their freedom of expression. Representatives of the upper house (house of people representative) are also victims of this.

18. In January 5, 2023 four human rights defenders from EHRCO were arbitrarily detained while on investigation in the Oromia Region, Sheggar City- Sebeta Woreda 02, Gelan Gudan Police Station for eight consecutive days.

19.A member of the Balderas Party was illegally detained in the Amhara Region at Bahir dar City on May 27, 2022. He was later released on bail on June 30, 2022, to be immediately arrested by the Federal Police in front of the Police Station. At the time of this UPR, he remains detained. In addition to this, numerous people were arbitrarily detained, with a cover-up of law enforcement in Eastern Gojjam and South Gonder, being denied the right to be visited by their families, relatives, and lawyers. On May 30, 2022, and on June 3, 2022 journalists were detained respectively and they were not brought before the court of law in due time or told the reasons for their incarceration.

20. Another journalist was abducted by police officers from his house on June 28, 2022, and his families did not know his whereabouts for days. After a year, he left the country to the USA. Similarly, an activist was also abducted on June 29, 2022 and his whereabouts were unknown for days. This is not the only time he was abducted; last time he was released from federal prison by bail.

21. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) release statement using title Ethiopian police hold a journalist pending terrorism investigation on April 16, 2020.[32] CPJ also made a follow-up and prepare statement about another journalist on august 1, 2022 by the title of Ethiopian authorities should release the journalist immediately and drop all charges against him, the Committee to Protect Journalists.[33] Same as CPJ different organizations and institutions have been condemning journalist arrest for the last four years.

22. The government of Ethiopia has shutdown the internet in the Tigray region since 4th November 2020 to present. Other internet shutdowns were had in Oromia in August 2020 and Amhara region on 4th February 2023 and April 2023. Furthermore, there was a nationwide blocking of social media platforms such as Faceboook, TikTok and Telegram from 9th February 2023 to 19th July 2023.

D. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly: Partially Implemented

23. 'Put in place adequate guidelines, equipment and training of law enforcement officials on the use of force when policing public assemblies'; this is a recommendation given by Ghana which they think will improve the right of peaceful assembly.[34] In the 2019 3rd UPR the government of Ethiopia accepted this recommendation.

24. But, the accepted recommendations are not implemented as much as they should. Ethiopia is a State Party to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Article 21 of the constitution stated the right of peaceful assembly.

25. 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.[35]

26. 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.[36]

27. CETU planned demonstrations in 2023 in Addis, Adama, Jimma, Hawassa and Dire Dawa on issues pertaining workers in Ethiopia. However, the demonstrations were prohibited.

E. Freedom of Association: Partially implemented

28. Lesotho's recommendation focused on freedom of association, urging Ethiopia to review provisions of the Proclamation on Charities and Societies, which may seem to be infringing on the human rights of civil society organizations.[37]

29. Article 22 of the ICCPR, guarantees freedom of association. However, despite these commitments, the government has failed to take adequate measures to fully guarantee this right.

30. After the 3rd UPR cycle Ethiopia has amended the Proclamation on Charities and Societies, Proclamation No. 1113/2019 Organizations of Civil Societies Proclamation. This proclamation initially enhanced many aspects of freedom of association during its first year and a half. However, the government subsequently undermined these improvements by repeatedly halting the registration of CSOs and denying them access to operate in registered areas. For instance, EHRCO, an organization legally registered by the Ethiopian Civic Society Authority with registration number 1146, functions as a human rights civil society. Despite being licensed to operate, the government's refusal to allow investigations hinders EHRCO's ability to carry out its intended work.

F. Administration of Justice and Fair Trial: Partially Implemented

31. On justice and fair trial Benin called on Ethiopia to continue its efforts in the administration of justice and the protection of human rights defenders.[38] The FDRE government accepted this recommendation and promised to improve the situation but the recommendation is yet to be implemented.

32. The selection, appointment, suspension and removal of judges and prosecutors of the federal courts is governed by the recent Federal Courts Proclamation number 1234/2021. This proclamation is more of a leap forward for the reform of courts in the country. The proclamation tries to clearly indicate the independence and impartiality of judges and prosecutors. Recently the federal Supreme Court brought before the HOPE its budget request for the first time showing it is becoming more independent.

33. Recently, questions have arisen regarding the power of the judiciary as some journalists as well as political party leaders were released on bail. However, despite the court's decisions, the police did not cooperate.

34. In Ethiopia various conflicts have resulted in millions of people being internally displaced. These conflicts persist into the year 2023, with new cases of internal displacement still being registered. Consequently, it is increasingly common to observe that perpetrators are not held accountable. Victims of these conflicts are denied proper access to justice, leading to a prevalent culture of impunity.

G. Free and Fair Election: Partially Implemented

35. Ethiopia’s bicameral Parliament includes the 153-seat House of Federation, whose members are elected by state assemblies to five-year terms, and the House of People’s Representatives, with 547 members directly elected to five-year terms. 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.[39]

36. After receiving the 3rd UPR recommendations, changes have been made in Ethiopia regarding elections and the right to vote. The June and September 2021 parliamentary and regional elections were seen as an opportunity for the country to break from its past of

undemocratic elections. 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," and the "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. Concerning internally displaced persons (IDPs), the new proclamation, under Article 17(1), specifically provides that "special polling stations" may be established at or near the place where internally displaced voters are located. The changes in electoral laws and reform of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) improved the body's operations and encouraged far more opposition parties to participate than ever before. A total of 46 political parties participated in the elections, fielding 9,505 candidates. An estimated 37 million people registered to vote, and some 90 percent of registered voters cast a ballot.

37. According to the Inclusive Vision for Democratic Ethiopia (IVIDE) engagement and assessments through election observation, voters' education and awareness creation the government made efforts to ensure a free and fair election process, particularly through the establishment of independent institutional and legal frameworks. Elections were held in various parts of the country including the area where IVIDE engaged in observing elections in the southern part of Ethiopia Gamo Gofa zone. However, there are regions and areas where elections have not taken place for years due to political instability and conflicts such as Tigray, Somalia and Benshangul Gumuz. Polls were indefinitely postponed in Tigray. In addition, there were limitations to ensure the inclusion of IDPs. Despite the legal reforms based on the recommendations, the new national electoral legislation conditions the right to participate in elections both as voter and candidates upon requirements such as residency and documentation. In relation to this, the EHRC found that restrictive residency and documentation requirements, inadequate provision of absentee voting arrangement, lack of awareness and voters education are among some of the obstacles that hindered IDPs from exercising their electoral rights during the National Election held in 2021.[40] Regrettably, it was noted that despite improvements, the elections were fraught with insecurity, registration problems, and other challenges that limited widespread acceptance of the outcomes as free and fair. Numerous political parties raised concerns about the closure of their offices by security agents, harassment, imprisonment, and killings of their members.[41] In this context, key opposition groups boycotted the election, resulting in many uncontested seats. While more competitive than previous elections, the 2021 polls still fell short of conferring broad-based legitimacy to the elected government among significant political factions in the country.

38. Therefore, the recommendations are partially implemented with concerns regarding the places where elections do not take place.

H. State of Emergency (SOE)

39. A state of emergence is decreed by the Council of Ministers and approved by the house of people's representatives (HPR) according to article 93 of the FDRE Constitution. A state of emergency if approved by the HPR can remain in effect up to six months with possible renewal. The only rights according to the constitution by which derogation is not allowed are Article 1 (the nomenclature of the state), 18 (Article 7 of the Covenant), article 25 (Article 2 paragraph 1, Articles 3, 17 and 26 of the Covenant) and Article 39 (1) and (2) (Article 1 of the Covenant) of the Constitution. The right to life according to the FDRE Constitution can be derogated during SOE.

40. The April 2020 SOE was declared due to the armed conflict that was going on in the country. The declaration of the SOE was made in accordance with the requirements of national law and international human rights treaties that the country is a State party. However, there were concerns that the number of prisoners and their whereabouts were not publicized in this SOE as well. In some places illegal activities by law enforcement bodies were being exercised in this period.[42]

41. The country is currently in a SOE as well; SOE proclamation number 6/2023 was decreed by the Council of Ministers on August 04, 2023 and declared by the House of Peoples Representatives on August 14, 2023. However, the SOE was being implemented and vast mass arrests were undertaken before the HPR declared the SOE. Following its declaration by the HoPR, there were mass arrests, extra judicial killings, unlawful search and seizures, arrests based on ethnic identities and much more.[43] The SOE proclamation has by its own some gaps, such as lack of specificity on territorial implementation.

V. Recommendations

The submitting stakeholders call on the Ethiopian government:

A. Regarding Liberty and Security of Persons

- 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.

B. Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions: Not Implemented

- Ensure international human rights principles and standards are front and center in all military operations as well as strong, independent monitoring and assessment processes to mandate compliance.

- Strengthen human rights institutions to monitor, investigate, document and report human rights abuses including but not limited to extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances.
- Hold officials and security forces accountable for human rights abuses and violations, including but not limited to extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances.
- Take legislative and institutional measures to compensate families of victims of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

C. Freedom of Opinion and Expression

- 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.
- Attacks on and threats to journalists, human rights defenders and political figures must be publicly condemned by government officials.
- Release unduly detained political party members, human rights defenders and journalists
- Take appropriate measures to bring to justice government and non-government group responsible for attacks on journalists and human rights defenders and protect them from future attacks.
- 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.

D. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

- Ensure a conducive environment for citizens and members of labour unions to realise 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.

E. Freedom of Association

- Ensure that human rights associations conduct their human rights investigation activities without restriction and in accordance with the law.
- Repeal the provisions of the new Civil Society Organizations Proclamation no 1113/2019 on the remaining limitations on fund raising and management.

F. Administration of Justice and Fair Trial

- Ensure the judicial system maintains oversight over the criminal justice system and suspects accused of terrorism and other crimes are not detained beyond periods

permissible under international law.

- Ensure a speedy and an independent trail for journalists, and other human rights defenders in detention centers.

G. Regarding Free and Fair Elections

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

H. Regarding State of Emergency

- Urgently address the underlying factors that give rise to conflict. These include poverty, inequality, and the failure of government authorities to ensure justice and accountability for abuses committed in the context of inter-ethic and communal conflicts between groups over their livelihoods.
- Lift the state of emergency imposed in Amhara region and enable access to information by opening up telecom and Internet services.
- Ensure state of emergency measures are applied only in compliance with international human rights law.
- Immediately release those who have been illegally detained because of the protests.
- Ensure that adequate compensation is paid to the families of the victims of human rights violations.
- Bring to justice those persons and officials who are responsible for the human rights violations on citizens during the state of emergency.

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[1] The core international treaties that Ethiopia has ratified are: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (1976) 999 UNTS 171; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI) 16 December 1966; Convention on the Rights of the Child, G.A. Res. 44/25, 20 November 1989; Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, New York, 18 December 1979; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racal Discrimination, New York, 21 December 1965; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York, 13 December 2006; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, G.A. Res. 39/46 10 December 1984. The country is yet to ratify: the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of Their Families, G.A. Res 45/158, 18 December 1990; the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, New York, 23 December 2010. Ethiopia has not yet also ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on Individual Complaints of 1976; the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty of 1991; Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 10 Dec 2008; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 10 Dec 1999; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure 19 Dec 2011; Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 18 Dec 2002; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 12 Dec 2006.

[2] Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023: Ethiopia, available at: https://freedomhouse.org/country/ethiopia/freedom-world/2023#PR.

[3] As above.

[4] As above.

[5] Article 9, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.

.[6] Article 22, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.

[7] Article 21, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.

[8] Article 19, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.
[9] Article 4, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.
[10] Article 14, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.
[11] Article 25, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.
[12] Article 6, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966/1976.
[13] See, Articles 14-17, 29-31, 37-38, and 93.
[14] Recommendation No 163.181(United Kingdom).
[15] Recommendation No 163.183 (France).
[16] The Danish Immigration Service, Ethiopia: An update on the security and human rights situation since February 2022, September 2022.
[17] As above.
[18] HRW, Ethiopia: Civilians in Western Oromia Left Unprotected; Armed Group Kills Hundreds of Amharas in June Massacre; Independent Inquiries Needed, 31 August 2022
[19] Reuben Kyama, 'Protests escalate over abduction of university students', University World News, 03 February 2020, available at: https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20200203121933343; Ezega, Uproar Intensifies Over Kidnapped University Students, 27 January 2020 m available at: https://www.ezega.com/News/NewsDetails/7690/Uproar-Intensifies-Over-Kidnapped-University-Students.
[20] Amhara Association of America, 'Enforced disappearance of ethnic Amharas after arrest by government security forces in Addis Ababa' available at: https://www.amharaamerica.org/_files/ugd/e494ca_85ff62bfe2b84a46b20b050aff0ccb4c.pdf
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[22] A/HRC/42/14/Add.1 - Para., Recommendation number 163.200 (Portugal).
[23] UN Human Rights Council, 'The acute risk of further atrocity crimes in Ethiopia: an analysis', A/HRC/54/CRP, 23 October 2023.
[24] As above.
[25] Human Rights Watch, 'Ethiopia: Boy Publicly Executed in Oromia', June 10, 2021, available at: https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/06/10/ethiopia-boy-publicly-executed-oromia
[26] As above.
[27] ALJAZEERA news, 'Ethiopian forces killed 'at least 45 citizens' in Amhara, rights body says', 13 February 2024, available at: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/13/ethiopian-forces-killed-at-least-45-citizens-in-amhara-rights-body-says.
[28] As above.
[29] Reliefweb, 'Atrocity alert no. 364: Ethiopia, Central African Republic and education under attack', 14 Sep 2023, available at: https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/atrocity-alert-no-364-ethiopia-central-african-republic-and-education-under-attack.
[30] As above.
[31] Recommendation163.56 (Maldives); Recommendation163.219 (Chile).
[32] See https://cpj.org/2020/04/ethiopian-police-hold-journalist-yayesew-shimelis/
[33] See https://cpj.org/2022/08/ethiopian-journalist-temesgen-desalegn-denied-bail-ordered-to-remain-in-detention/
[34] Recommendation163.217 (Ghana).
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[37] Recommendation 163.66 (Lesotho).
[38] Recommendation 163.190 (Benin).
[39] Recommendation163.204 (Namibia); Recommendation163.205 (France); Recommendation163.206 (Japan); Recommendation163.207 (Switzerland).
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