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ETHIOPIA COUNTRY REPORT

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Country Information and Policy Unit

**IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY DIRECTORATE
HOME OFFICE, UNITED KINGDOM**

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1 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 This Country Report has been produced by the Country Information and Policy Unit, Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Home Office, for use by Home Office officials involved in the asylum / human rights determination process. The Report provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum / human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. It is not a detailed or comprehensive survey.

1.2 The Report is compiled from a wide range of recognised sources and does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy. All information in the Report is attributed, throughout the text, to original source material, which has been made available to those working in the asylum / human rights determination process. The Report aims to provide only a brief summary of the source material quoted. For a more detailed account, the relevant source documents should be examined directly.

1.3 The information contained in this Country Report is, by its nature, limited to information that we have been able to identify from various well-recognised sources. The contents of this Report are not exhaustive and the absence of information under any particular heading does not imply that any analysis or judgement has been exercised to exclude that information, but simply that relevant information on the subject has not been identified from the sources that have been consulted. Equally, the information included in the Reports should not be taken to imply anything beyond what is actually stated.

1.4 The great majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain. Copies of other source documents, such as those provided by government offices, may be provided upon request.

1.5 All sources have been checked for currency, and as far as can be ascertained, contain information, which remained relevant at the time, this Report was issued. Some source documents have been included because they contain relevant information not available in more recent documents.

1.6 This Country Report and the accompanying source material are publicly disclosable. Where sources identified in this Report are available in electronic form the relevant link has been included. The date that the relevant link was accessed in preparing the report is also included. Paper copies of the source documents have been distributed to nominated officers within IND.

1.7 It is intended to revise this Report on a six-monthly basis while the country remains within the top 35 asylum producing countries in the United Kingdom. Information contained in Country Reports is inevitably overtaken by events that occur between the 6 monthly publications. Caseworkers are informed of such changes in country conditions by means of Country Information Bulletins.

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2. Geography

2.1 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a land-locked country in the Horn of Africa, covering an area of 1,133,380 sq km (437,600sq miles). Ethiopia's western neighbour is Sudan; to the south it has a common border with Kenya; and to the east and south-east lie the Republic of Djibouti and the Somali Democratic Republic. To the north and north-east lies the State of Eritrea". [1a] (p407) The 1994 Constitution established a federal structure of nine autonomous ethnically-based 'national states' and the federal capital territory. [9] (p18) The CIA World Factbook, last updated 18 December 2003, estimated the population at 66,557,553 in 2003. [22] (p3) Lonely Planet in its guide to Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti published November 2000 stated that, "Over 90% of the people inhabit the countryside. Life expectancy is currently 49 years". [51] (p44) Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia noted that the largest city is the federal capital Addis Ababa. Other principal towns are Dire Dawa, Nazret, Harar, Mekele, Jimma, Dessie, Bahir Dahr and Debrezit. [1a] (p419)

2.2 The Lonely Planet in its guide to Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti published November 2000 stated that, "Amharic, an indigenous language, is Semitic (like Arabic) in origin, and is the national language...English is generally only spoken by the urban educated population". [51] (p55) The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "there were more than 80 ethnic groups. The largest single group was the Oromos, who accounted for 40 percent of the population. Although many of these groups influenced the political and cultural life of the country, Amharas and Tigrayans from the northern highlands played a dominant role. The federal system has boundaries drawn roughly along major ethnic lines, and regional states had much greater control over their affairs. Most political parties remained primarily ethnically based". [3d] (p22) The nine autonomous national states established under the 1994 Constitution, broadly reflecting regional ethnic boundaries, are those of the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul/Gumuz, Gambela, Harari, Oromo, Somali, Southern and Tigray (or Tigray) peoples. [9] (p18) Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "About 45% of the population are Muslims and about 40% belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox (Tewahido) Church. There are also significant Evangelical Protestant and Roman Catholic communities...Virtually all of Ethiopia's small Jewish population had been evacuated by the Israeli Government by mid-1999. It has been estimated that 5%-15% of the population follow animist rites and beliefs". [1a] (p428)

2.3 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "The climate is mainly temperate because of the high plateau terrain, with an average annual temperature of 13°C (55°F), abundant rainfall in some years and low humidity. The lower country and valley gorges are very hot and subject to recurrent drought". [2] (p1566)

For further information on geography, refer to Europa Yearbook, source [2].

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3. The Economy

3.1 The CIA World Factbook, last updated 18 December 2003, stated that, "Ethiopia's poverty-stricken economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for half of GDP, 85% of exports, and 80% of total employment. The agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices. Coffee is critical to the Ethiopian economy with exports of some \$270 million in 2000/01, but historically low prices have seen many farmers switching to qat to supplement their income. The war with Eritrea in 1999-2000 and recurrent drought have buffeted the economy, in particular coffee production. In November 2001 Ethiopia qualified for debt relief from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Under Ethiopia's land tenure system, the government owns all land and provides long-term leases to the tenants; the system continues to hamper growth in the industrial sector as entrepreneurs are unable to use land as collateral for loans. Strong growth in 2002 resulted from good rainfall early in the year, the cessation of hostilities, and renewed foreign aid and debt relief. But drought struck again late in 2002, and the World Food Program (WFP) estimates 14 million Ethiopians need food immediately to survive into 2003. The government estimates that annual growth of 7% is needed to reduce poverty, yet the maintenance of 5% in 2003 will be quite difficult (one estimate is for 1.5% growth)". [22] (p7)

3.2 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "Annual inflation averaged -0.3% during 1997-2001...The Ethiopian birr has been devalued progressively since 1992, moving from US\$1 = 2.07 birr to US\$1 = 8.59 birr in March 2003". [1a] (p417) The report further noted that, "Estimated annual income of US\$100 per head is one-quarter the average for sub-Saharan Africa". [1a] (p417)

3.3 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "Ethiopia uses its own solar calendar; the Ethiopian year 1995 began on 11 September 2002". [2] (p1572)

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Drought & Famine

3.4 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "acute, perennial food shortages remain the most immediate and protracted economic problem confronting the majority of Ethiopians...most rural communities remain highly vulnerable, owing to acute poverty and the vagaries of weather and pests". [1a] (p417)

3.5 Human Rights Watch 2004 report states that "Drought, coupled with systemic economic problems periodically, devastates large areas of Ethiopia, especially the southern and eastern lowlands. In 2003, over thirteen million people (about one-fifth of the population) in those areas became dependent on international food assistance. Several international aid groups blamed the Ethiopian government and foreign government donors for exacerbating conditions by relying on emergency relief rather than investing in infrastructure and promoting family planning programs". [8d] (p3)

3.6 The BBC report published on 4 January 2004 stated that, "the peasants are a great deal poorer than they were in 1984...average annual income then was \$190; now it is \$108. Food production per head is estimated to have fallen from 450 kgs in

1984/5 to 140 kgs in 2002/3. Even in an average year six million Ethiopians now have to be fed by the outside world". [4r] (p3-4)

3.7 Human Rights Watch in its 2004 report stated that, "the European Union warned that foreign aid might be reduced if Ethiopia continues to defy the border commission ruling, but no donor had reduced foreign financial support by the end of 2003. Most foreign assistance to Ethiopia in 2003 (for example, almost 88 percent of the U.S. assistance of U.S. \$ 531 million) was for famine relief". [8d] (p3)

3.8 On 16 February 2004 the BBC reported that the UK has ruled out linking aid to pressurising the government to resolve the border conflict. The international development secretary Hillary Benn "announced that Ethiopia will receive \$100m (£53m) aid from Britain in the next financial year – a rise from the current \$19m (£10)". [4a]

3.9 More information and maps of the suspected famine/malnutrition zones are available on the UN Reliefweb website. [43]

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4. History

Origins of Ethiopia

4.1 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "Ethiopia's history as an organized and independent polity dates from about the beginning of the second century with a kingdom at Axum in the northern regional state (killil) of Tigray. Menelik (who died in 1913) presided over the first stages of Ethiopia's modernization; Haile Selassie (emperor during 1930-74) turned Ethiopia into a centralized autocracy. The process was interrupted by the Italian invasion and conquest of 1935-41, but after Ethiopia's liberation, a by-product of Italy's involvement in the Second World War, Haile Selassie continued a largely successful policy of centralization...A series of army mutinies, started in January 1974, were paralleled by civilian strikes. Attempts at reform by a new Prime Minister made little progress, and from June a co-ordinating committee of the armed forces began to arrest leading officials. Haile Selassie was deposed in September, with hardly a murmur of dissent, and was murdered the following year". [1a] (p408-409)

The Derg and the "Red Terror"

4.2 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "The 1974 revolution was organised by an Armed Forces Co-ordinating Committee, known popularly as the Dergue (Shadow), which established a Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC), led by Brig.-Gen Teferi Benti. In December [1974] Ethiopia was declared a socialist state. A radical programme of social and economic reforms led to widespread unrest, however, and in February 1977 Lt-Col Mengistu Haile Mariam executed Teferi and his closest associates, and replaced him as Chairman of PMAC and as Head of State". [2] (p1566)

Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report noted that, "He subsequently launched, originally on behalf of his ally MEISON, the 'red terror' campaign, aimed at eliminating

the EPRP. Tens of thousands were killed or tortured, particularly in urban areas". [1a] (p409)

4.3 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "Numerous groups, encouraged by the confusion resulting from the 1974 revolution, launched armed insurgencies against the Government...US-sponsored negotiations held in late 1989 between representatives of the Ethiopian government and the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] proved inconclusive". [2] (p1566) Africa South of the Sahara, 2003, stated that, "In January 1991 the EPRDF [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front] produced a new political programme which did not mention Marxism and was moderate and democratic enough to be acceptable to the USA. As the guerrillas closed in on Addis Ababa, Mengistu's armies ceased to fight. On May 21 [1991] Mengistu fled to Zimbabwe where he was granted political asylum". [1a] (p410)

<Refer to Africa South of the Sahara (source [1a]) for more detailed history of events prior to 1995>

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1995 CPR & National State Elections, Derg Trials

4.4 South of the Sahara 2003 stated that "In May 1995...elections to the Federal Parliamentary Assembly (the House of People's Representatives) and to the Regional State Councils, which elect representatives to the upper house (the House of the Federation)...The EPRDF and its allies won an overwhelming victory, and Meles Zenawi, as Chairman of the EPRDF and of the TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front], which remained the dominant element in the EPRDF, became the Prime Minister in August 1995; Dr Nigasso Gidada of the OPDO was elected President...In Tigray region the TPLF took all seats for both the federal and state assemblies; EPRDF parties were equally successful in the Amhara, Oromia and Southern regions...the EPRDF won all 92 local assembly seats [in Addis Ababa]...in Afar and Somali regions, after postponements, pro-EPRDF parties won narrow victories... overall the election results were seriously undermined by the decision of most opposition parties to boycott, claiming insufficient access to media, extensive arrest and harassment of their officials and closure of party offices. International observers generally agreed with the criticisms; there was a consensus that the elections were neither free nor fair". [1a] (p411)

4.5 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "On 21 August 1995 legislative power was transferred from the transitional Council of Representatives to the Federal Parliamentary Assembly. On 22 August the transitional administration was terminated, and the country's new Constitution and designation as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia were formally instituted...Meles nominated a 17-member Council of Ministers, which was duly approved by the Federal Parliamentary Assembly". [2] (p1567)

4.6 South of the Sahara 2003 stated that "The trial of 69 former senior officials (23 in absentia, including Mengistu) on charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes began in December 1994, although proceedings have been adjourned on numerous occasions. In February 1997 the special prosecutor's office announced that it was to try

a further 5,198 people on charges of genocide and war crimes, nearly 3,000 in absentia. These trials proceeded more quickly with some 60% of the accused being sentenced to up to 20 years' "rigorous imprisonment" by mid-2003, and were due to be completed by 2004". [1a] (p413)

4.7 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "During late 1995 and early 1996 the Meles administration was criticized for its harsh treatment of opposition activists. In June 1996 Dr Taye Wolde Semayat, the Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, was arrested with several associates and accused of leading a clandestine political organization (the Ethiopian National Patriotic Front – ENPF), which had allegedly been responsible for several terrorist acts". [2] (p1567) South of the Sahara 2003 noted that Dr Taye was "given a widely criticized 15-year prison sentence in July 1999; on appeal this was reduced to five years, and he was released in May 2002". [1a] (p412)

4.8 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "the Somali-based al-Ittihad al-Islam (Islamic Union Party – which sought independence for Ethiopia's Ogaden province) claimed responsibility for bomb explosions at hotels in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa in early 1996, and for the attempted assassination in July of Dr Abdul-Mejid Hussen, the Minister of Transport and Communications. Government forces launched reprisal attacks on al-Ittihad bases in Somalia on numerous occasions during 1996-98, resulting in the deaths of several hundred al-Ittihad members". [2] (p1567)

4.9 South of the Sahara 2003 noted that, "The extent of corruption began to cause concern in 1996 when the then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Tamirat Layne, was dismissed and detained; he was finally sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment four years later. Hundreds of officials in different killils have been removed since 1996, following gimgema [extensive self-awareness] sessions". [1a] (p413)

Border Conflict with Eritrea 1998-2004

4.10 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "In late 1997 relations with Eritrea deteriorated, following that country's adoption of a new currency (to replace the Ethiopian birr) and the subsequent disruption of cross-border trade. Fighting between Ethiopian and Eritrean troops erupted in early May 1998, with both countries accusing the other of having invaded their territory". [2] (p1569)

4.11 South of the Sahara 2003 noted that, "Despite close links between Prime Minister Meles and President Issaias Afewerki of Eritrea, a minor border dispute in May 1998 escalated. Following the death of several Eritrean troops at Badme, Eritrea dispatched substantial reinforcements, taking over three areas previously under Ethiopian administration. Ethiopia promptly declared war". [1a] (p414)

4.12 South of the Sahara 2003 noted that, "In June [1998] Ethiopia began a process of expelling 70,000 Eritreans, a move strongly criticized by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations. Eritrea subsequently encouraged a similar number of Ethiopians to leave Eritrea". [1a] (p414)

4.13 An Amnesty International report issued in January 1999 stated that "Ethiopia's policy of deporting people of Eritrean origin after war between the two countries broke

out in May 1998 has now developed into a systematic, country-wide operation to arrest and deport anyone of full or part Eritrean descent". The report further noted that "At least 22,000 Ethiopians have returned to Ethiopia from Eritrea since May, most after losing their jobs and being rendered destitute as a result of the hostilities, and some in fear of reprisals. No evidence was found to support Ethiopia's allegations that 40,000 of its citizens have been seriously ill-treated and forcibly deported from Eritrea since May 1998". [6d] (p1-2)

4.14 Human Rights Watch in its 2001 report states that, "In June [2001], Ethiopia forcibly expelled 772 people it identified as Eritreans from its territory without prior notification to the International Committee of the Red Cross as anticipated under article 2 of the truce agreement". [6b] (p6)

4.15 South of the Sahara 2003 noted that, "OAU mediation efforts continued with little success. Ethiopia continued to insist on Eritrea's withdrawal from all Ethiopian territory before negotiations; Eritrea refused to withdraw from what it described as its own territory... On 25 May [2000] the Eritrean government announced that would withdraw its troops from all disputed areas. A cessation of hostilities was signed in Algiers on 18 June [2000]. The terms were largely favourable to Ethiopia and included a return to the pre-May 1998 border positions, a 25-km wide demilitarized security zone inside the Eritrean frontier, the deployment of a UN peace-keeping force and the future demarcation of the border". [1a] (p415)

4.16 South of the Sahara 2003 noted that, "In September 2000 the UN Security Council approved the deployment of a 4,200-strong UN Mission In Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), to police the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ); in April 2001 UNMEE was able to announce that both Eritrea and Ethiopia had withdrawn all forces from the TSZ". [1a] (p415)

4.17 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "On 12 December 2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea signed an agreement in Algiers which formally brought an end to the conflict". [2] (p1570) The BBC posted the full text of the agreement on its website (11 December 2000). The agreement provides for a permanent end to hostilities, the release and repatriation of POWs and civilian detainees, and an investigation into the origins of the conflict. It establishes two neutral commissions. One to delimit and demarcate the boundary and the second to resolve compensation claims. [4c] The BBC further reported on 18 April 2001 that the UN had declared a buffer zone, separating the forces of the 2 countries, had been established. [4g]

4.18 The BBC reported on 16 April 2002 that, "The decision on the border was delivered on Saturday, but the outcome was sufficiently obscure to leave both countries in a position to claim victory... Eritrean President Issayas Afewerki said that he was 'completely satisfied' with the ruling... For his part, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has said his government is satisfied with the ruling by the International Boundary Commission on its border with Eritrea. Mr Zenawi described the ruling as a victory that would put an end to the bitter and violent dispute over the boundary. 'The ruling vindicates Ethiopia's land claims.' The article further noted that there was "some confusion over which country has won control of this key western town [Badme]". [4n] (p1-3) The Financial Times on 18 April 2002 noted that, "The Arab League [AL] on Thursday [18 April 2002] hailed the decision by the Hague based International Arbitration

Committee on Ethiopian-Eritrean border demarcation. The two countries' acceptance of the decision augurs well and indicates that the two neighbouring states can establish good neighbourly relations, said the AL general secretariat in a statement". [37b]

4.19 Human Rights Watch in its 2002 report stated that, "In late August 2002, Eritrea repatriated 279 Ethiopian prisoners of war (POWs), stating that it had thereby returned all POWs, but the Ethiopian government accused Eritrea of still holding prisoners in undisclosed locations. It demanded information about seventy-three police and militia members who remained unaccounted for, and about a pilot who had been paraded through the streets of the Eritrean capital after his plane was shot down in 1998". [8c] (p4) The ICRC noted in their annual report 2002 that, "On 29 November [2002], 1,130 POWs and 95 civilian internees of Eritrean origin returned home". [13a] (p1)

4.20 Europa in its 2002 report stated that, "In early March 2003 the Border Commission reported to the UN Security Council that Ethiopia's requests for changes to the border ruling in order to 'take better account of human and physical geography', threatened to undermine the peace process as a whole. Despite Ethiopia's claims that it had been promised that demarcations could be refined, later in March the Boundary Commission categorically ruled Badme to be in Eritrean territory, thus rejecting Ethiopia's territorial claim over the town". [2] (p1570) Keesings worldwide noted on its April 2003 digest that, "The Ethiopian Government on April 4 [2003] voiced its opposition to an independent boundary ruling which had placed the symbolic village of Badme, currently administered by Ethiopia, within Eritrea...the Information Ministry statement said that the Ethiopian government 'would exert utmost efforts to legally and peacefully correct the Commission's misinterpretations of the border ruling' and accused the Commission of an 'unfair tendency' in implementing the ruling. [48] (p45330)

4.21 IRIN News in its report on 13 February 2004 stated that "the deadlock between Ethiopia and Eritrea shows no sign of crumbling...No progress has been made in restoring direct flights between the two capitals despite three years of trying. Postal and telephone links remain interrupted despite the close relations the countries shared before their war. And, most importantly - and of increasing concern among the international community - is the lack of political dialogue at any level". [14a] (p1)

National Elections May 2000

4.22 The BBC in an article dated 14 May 2000 noted that, "About 20m people registered to vote in the elections, which are for the 548-seat lower house of parliament, eight ethnically based regional councils and two city administrations". [4b] CNN in a similar report dated 15 May 2000 stated that the main opposition parties "complained that ruling party activists were intimidating opposition candidates and supporters". Furthermore the article stated that "A senior opposition leader said...that five people had died in polling station violence". [5b] (p1-2)

4.23 The US State Department in its 2003 Human Rights report observed that, "There were credible reports that local officials throughout the country ignored NEB [National Electoral Board] instructions on the acceptance of candidate endorsement signatures from opposition party candidates. There were instances in which the NEB

had to force local authorities to accept nominations. There were credible reports that during candidate registration, many kebele (village or municipal unit) offices were closed for holidays or were otherwise unstaffed, hindering the registration process of opposition candidates. In the Somali region prior to the August 2000 elections, thousands of ballots were reprinted to rectify the fact that a female opposition candidate had not been listed despite having met NEB requirements for candidate registration". [3a] (p19)

4.24 The US State Department in its 2000 Human Rights report observed that, "There were credible reports that local authorities in the Oromiya, Amhara, and southern regions periodically arrested and detained supporters of opposition parties in the period prior to and following the May elections. Most of these individuals were eventually released without being charged formally". [3b] (p15)

4.25 The US State Department in its 2003 Human Rights report observed that, "According to observers organized by EHRCO, local U.N. staff, diplomatic missions, political parties, and domestic NGOs, the 2000 national elections and the 2001 regional elections were generally free and fair in most areas but were marred by serious irregularities, including killings, disappearances, voter intimidation and harassment, and unlawful detentions of opposition party supporters, particularly in the SNNPRS region... The NEB, acting on its constitutional authority, investigated complaints of the irregularities and determined that many of them had merit. The NEB ordered new elections in some areas of SNNPRS that were held later in 2000; they were declared generally free and fair by international observers. In 2000 the NEB agreed to bring charges against those suspected of the worst election abuses in the SNNPRS; however, no action had been taken by the end of 2003". [3a] (p18-19)

4.26 However, Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "International observers largely accepted opposition complaints and, as in 1995, classified the elections as neither free nor fair". [1a] (p411)

4.27 The US State Department in its 2003 Human Rights report observed that, "in the 2000 national elections, 17 opposition political parties contested the election, including the AAPO, the SEPDC, and the Oromo National Congress. The better funded and better organized incumbent party, the EPRDF, generally dominated candidates of the relatively weaker and less organized opposition parties and independent candidates, except in the SNNPRS, where the opposition made significant gains. EPRDF candidates won 481 seats in the HPR, EPRDF affiliate candidates won 37 seats, opposition party candidates won 16 seats, and independent candidates won 13 seats. The Government established a donor supported fund for opposition party candidates, provided opposition candidates access to state-owned electronic media, and changed the law to permit civil servants to run for office without first resigning their positions. The Government was willing to engage opponents in open debate at candidate and party forums. Many of these debates were broadcast live on national radio and television and reported on in both government and private newspapers. Free radio broadcast time was set aside for the elections, and 225 independent candidates and 33 political parties made use of it". [3a] (p19)

Events of 2001-2004

4.28 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 report stated that, "Against the background of political dissent and stalemated war, university students in April 2001 protested the Government's interference with academic freedom. The students' main demands were permission to republish a banned student magazine, dismissal of two university administrators closely affiliated with the government, and removal of security troops stationed inside the university campus". [8b] (p2)

4.29 The report goes on to state that, "While the Government initially conceded the first two demands, it did not commit to a schedule for removing the security forces. When students continued to press their demands, the minister of education issued an ultimatum threatening students who did not return to classes with arrest. The security forces' efforts to enforce the ultimatum set off clashes on April 17 and 18 [2001], that quickly got out of hand as non-students joined in the protests. In suppressing the protest, the police used excessive force, including live ammunition, and conducted massive arrests. At the end of the two days, over forty civilians, primarily students, had been killed and another four hundred injured. Other campuses also witnessed anti-government protests". [8b] (p2)

4.30 The Human Rights Watch report further stated that, "The Government immediately detained almost 2,000 students; although most were quickly released, several hundred were shipped to prisons two hundred kilometres or more from the capital. Aside from those arrested, over one hundred students fled to Kenya and another seventy or so to Djibouti". [8b] (p2)

4.31 Xinhua news agency reported (5 August 2001) that, "At least 31 people were killed and 253 others injured in the upheaval that followed the clashes between the police and Addis Ababa University students". [38a] IRIN news on 30 April 2001 stated that, "Eighty members of the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP) and more than 30 members of the All Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO) are now believed to be held incommunicado following the riots in the capital, Addis Ababa, on 17 and 18 April [2001]". [14g]. In a later report (10 September 2001) IRIN announced that, "trials of the accused would begin on 9 October [2001]". [14a] The ruling party owned Walta Information Centre noted on 31 August 2001 that, "The Senate of the Addis Ababa University said that it has decided to readmit students who had discontinued their classes in the second semester of 2000/2001 academic year". [21c] Reuters news service (on 5 August 2001) noted that among those arrested were Mesfin Woldemariam, founder of the Ethiopian Human Rights Organisation and a professor at Addis Ababa University. [20a] The US Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The cases against Berhanu Nega and Mesfin Woldemariam, two prominent academics and human rights activists charged with inciting AAU students to riot in 2001, were pending at year's end [2003]". [3e] (p7)

4.32 IRIN news reported on 30 May 2001 that, "Ethiopian police have arrested some 20 heads of government institutions and businessmen on suspicion of involvement in corruption...The arrests included Siye Abraha leader of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) dissident group, which recently split with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's ruling cadre". The report also documents others being arrested including his three

brothers and high-ranking officials of the Ethiopian Privatisation Agency. [14h] Christopher Clapham in a report prepared for DFID (February 2002) stated that "Most of the ousted members of the dissident faction in the TPLF have been allowed to remain at liberty, though they have not been permitted to return to Tigray, and at least one of them has published articles defending their position and attacking the Meles government in the independent press". [34] (p4) On 26 July 2001 IRIN news reported that, "The Federal High Court has ruled to block personal and business accounts of a number of former government officials and private businessmen accused of corruption". [14m] In a later report (5 September 2001) IRIN stated that, "The Ethiopian federal supreme court ruled on 30 August that all suspected government officials, as well as business executives, who had been in police custody, be moved to the central prison pending the establishment of a formal court charge". [14o]

4.33 IRIN reported on 25 June 2001 that, "Ethiopian President Dr Negaso Gidada was expelled from the ruling coalition Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) on 22 June [2001], in a move seen as the effective resignation of the largely figurehead leader...On that day, Negaso had walked out of a meeting of the EPRDF council after complaining of pressure from the chairman, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the pro-government Walta Information Centre said on 22 June. Negaso was expelled from his Oromo People's Democratic Organisation (OPDO) party, which is part of the ruling coalition...The OPDO leadership accused the president of helping dissidents of Meles own Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of preventing the 'renewal of democracy' in the EPRDF, Agence France-Presse (AFP) said". [14i] IRIN later reported (2 July 2001) that, "President Negaso Gidada, said he had resolved to continue serving as head of state despite a campaign to discredit him". [14j]

4.34 BBC news reported on 14 August 2001 that, "Speaker of the House of Federation, the upper chamber of parliament, Almaz Meko, has announced that she is defecting because the government had 'brought untold miseries and sufferings' on the main ethnic group – the Oromo people". The article announced that she had sought political asylum in the USA. She explained that she felt "the Oromo people were not being democratically represented and accused the Prime Minister's Office of having direct rule over the Oromo People's Democratic Organisation (OPDO) – the party which represents the Oromo population in coalition government". [4k]

4.35 IRIN news reported on 5 September 2001 that, "Voice of America says it has received a fax from Negaso saying he had of his own free will disassociated himself from membership of the OPDO". [14p] BBC news reported on 8 October 2001 that following the completion of his 6-year term as president Dr Negaso was officially succeeded by "Lieutenant Girma Wolde Giorgis, a 76-year-old independent member of parliament and businessman...from the majority Oromo ethnic group". [4m] (p1)

4.36 Human Rights Watch in its 2002 report stated that, "Police violence in Tepi and Awassa, in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regional state, resulted in the deaths of more than one hundred civilians and the arrest of hundreds. In Tepi, members of two minority ethnic groups, the Sheko and Majenger, clashed in March [2002] with local officials and police over political rights. Some civilians were reported to have been armed with machetes. At least eighteen civilians and one local official died. In the following days, more than one hundred were killed and

villages razed on the order of local authorities, leaving some 5,800 homeless. Nearly one thousand civilians were arrested after the disturbance, and 269 remained in detention when a diplomatic delegation visited in June". [8c](p1)

4.37 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "In August [2002] some 90 state employees, including 41 police-officers, were arrested for their roles in the violence and charged with human rights violations, instigation of violence and abuses of office". [1a] (p412)

4.38 The report further noted that, "In the city of Awassa on 24 May [2002], soldiers using machine guns mounted on armoured cars shot into a crowd of farmers protesting a change in the administrative status of the city. The government acknowledged seventeen deaths but independent reports said that twenty-five civilians were killed and twenty-six injured. [8c] (p1)

4.39 The report goes on to note that, "Police also shot at crowds of unarmed students in March and April [2002] in Oromiya, Ethiopia's most populous state. State officials acknowledged that five high school students were killed and over a dozen wounded when police shot into groups protesting government educational and economic policies. The Oromiya state parliament justified the police tactics by asserting that the police had no funds to purchase non-lethal crowd control equipment". [8c] (p1-2)

4.40 "Police subsequently arrested several hundred students, teachers, and others whom it accused of being members or sympathizers of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), an armed movement that the government claimed had instigated the student protests. In June [2002], over three hundred people were incarcerated in Dembi Dolo, including some seventy school children. Some of those detained there and in Ambo town, about 130 kilometres west of Addis Ababa (the capital), were tortured. Most of the prisoners were released on bail two months after their arrests. The Government suspended teachers and civil servants from their jobs", Human Rights Watch in its 2002 report noted. [8c] (p1)

4.41 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 noted that, "Military forces conducted an increased number of low-level operations against the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), the Somalia-based Al'Ittihad Al'Islami terrorist organization (AIAI), and elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) both in the country and in southern Somalia and northern Kenya [in 2002]". [3a] (p1)

4.42 IRIN news reported on 13 December 2002 of moves by the ruling coalition to engage in more dialogue with the opposition, following calls by the European Union for such dialogue. "Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is to face opposition leaders and academics in a series of televised debates...Kifle Wodajo, of the Addis Ababa-based independent InterAfrica Group (IAG) which organised the debates, said he hoped it would lead to a 'culture of open dialogue'. It is expected the forum will continue on a regular basis every two months". [14z]

4.43 IRIN later reported (17 December 2002) that at the first debate "representatives of the private sector and civil society groups criticised the government's economic policies, describing them as a failure and saying the economy had not registered any

growth...They also questioned the existence of a free and independent justice system, describing the current system as 'partisan'". [14aa]

4.44 IRIN news reported on 14 July 2003, that on 12 July a grenade attack was reported on a busy bar in Addis Ababa which injured 31 people - three of them seriously. Police Commissioner Workneh Gebeyehu advised IRIN that "it was too early to speculate on the perpetrators or link the incident to a blast at the city's Tigray Hotel last September [2002] which killed three and injured 38. Commissioner Workneh also reiterated his warning for the public to remain vigilant and said that the country was still on high alert. Ethiopia has stepped up security in the wake of attacks in Morocco and Saudi Arabia". [14ag]

4.45 December 2003 saw a spate of killings in the Gambella region. IRIN news stated on 8 January 2004 that "the violence was sparked by an attack on a UN-plated vehicle in early December. Eight people in the vehicle were killed, including three government refugee workers who were trying to set up a new refugee camp in the region...The reprisals that followed against the alleged perpetrators were ferocious. Hundreds of homes were burnt to the ground and the killings continued over several days". [14ap] (p1) A further report by IRIN issued on 12 February states that "Gambella, which borders on Sudan, is home to Nuer, Anyuak, Majenger, Opou and Komo ethnic groups, but is also inhabited by groups belonging to other Ethiopian tribes, such as the Amhara, Oromo and Tigray, who are locally known as highlanders...after a month of relative calm in Gambella, violence re-erupted in the form of a bloody attack on the gold mine, which is near Dima. According to humanitarian sources, highlanders and Anyuaks clashed again a day later, this time in Dima town. Yet more clashes subsequently broke out in Dima refugee camp on 6 February 2004". [14aq]

4.46 According to IRIN news, in January 2004 the Justice Ministry banned the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association (EFJA) "because it had failed to meet its legal obligation to register with the ministry. It said the ban had been imposed because the EFJA had been operating illegally by failing to renew its annual operating licence for the last three years". [14a] (p1)

4.47 IRIN stated in a report dated 13 February 2004 that, "EFJA was banned, and its leadership overthrown by its own members last month during a meeting organised by the justice ministry...the new leaders of EFJA elected during the government-held meeting also insist the old organisation had become too politicised and was failing to help journalists...HRW [Human Rights Watch] is the latest of a series of organisations to have condemned the decision to ban EFJA and replace its leadership. Some 14 advocacy and media associations criticised the decision last month, including the International Federation of Journalists and ARTICLE 19". [14r] (p1)

4.48 IRIN news reported on 3 March 2004, the "mass arrests and physical abuse in January of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa". [14n] Amnesty International on 23 January 2004 stated that, "the first eight Oromo students...were arrested on the Addis Ababa University campus on 18 January [2004], and are reportedly currently held at Maikelawi police central investigation centre in Addis Ababa. Over 300 students who called for their release were later arrested...22

students are still detained but others have mostly been released. Those still held are at risk of ill-treatment in custody". [68] Amnesty in a later report dated 19 April 2004 noted that, "Over 300 Oromo student demonstrators arrested at Addis Ababa University on 18 January 2004 were all released within a few days but were expelled from the university". [69] (p2)

4.49 Amnesty's 23 January 2003 report stated that, "the first eight were arrested after protests at a cultural performance at the university, staged by the Oromia Region ruling party. The performance broke up when several Oromo students protested to Oromia regional state officials about the recent federal government decision to transfer the regional state capital from Addis Ababa to Adama (also known as Nazareth), a town 100 kilometres south-east of Addis Ababa. Police arrested the eight students that evening, and accused them of causing damage to university property, including broken windows". [69]

4.50 On 19 April 2004 Amnesty International reported that, "Around 60 people...were arrested on 9 April in western Oromia Region, west of the capital, Addis Ababa...They were apparently arrested in connection with demonstrations by school students in the towns of Ambo and Gudar, where they work, that began in late February 2004. The teachers may have been accused of instigating these demonstrations, in which many students were arrested, of whom dozens are still detained without charge or trial. The authorities have alleged that these demonstrations were orchestrated by the armed opposition Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Several of the teachers/detainees had previously been detained on suspicion of links with the OLF, which they denied, and they were released without charge or trial". [69] (p1)

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5. State Structures

The Constitution

5.1 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "In December [1994], the Constituent Assembly ratified the draft Constitution". [19] (p411) The CIA World Factbook, last updated 18 December 2003, noted that it became effective as of 22 August 1995. [22] (p5)

5.2 The Constitution establishes a federal and democratic state structure and all sovereign power resides in the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Human rights and freedoms, emanating from the nature of mankind, are inviolable and inalienable. State and religion are separate and there shall be no state religion. The state shall not interfere in religious matter and vice-versa. All Ethiopian languages shall enjoy equal state recognition; Amharic shall be the working language of the Federal Government. [9] (p1-4)

5.3 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "Every Ethiopian national, without discrimination based on colour, race, nation, nationality, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, or other status, has the following rights: on the attainment of

18 years of age, to vote in accordance with the law; to be elected to any office at any level of government; to freely express oneself without interference; to hold opinions without interference; to engage in economic activity and to pursue a livelihood anywhere within the national territory; to choose his or her means of livelihood, occupation and profession; and to own private property". [1a] (p424)

5.4 The report further noted that, "Every nation, nationality and people in Ethiopia has the following rights: an unconditional right to self-determination, including the right to secession; the right to speak, to write and to develop its own language; the right to express, to develop and to promote its culture, and to preserve its history; the right to a full measure of self-government which includes the right to establish institutions of government in the territory that it inhabits. Women shall, in the enjoyment of rights and protections provided for by this Constitution, have equal right with men". [1a] (p424)

5.5 The 1994 Constitution requires the Government to establish a human rights commission and office of the ombudsman. [9] (p23) Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "Legislation approving both bodies was finally passed in 2000, but no appointments had been made by mid-2003". [1a] (p413) The US Human Rights Report 2003 confirmed that, "neither entity was operational by year's end [2003]". [3e] (p20)

Citizenship & Nationality

5.6 According to Article 6 of the Constitution any person shall be an Ethiopian national where both or either parent is Ethiopian and foreign nationals may acquire Ethiopian nationality, although there is no provision for dual-nationality. It also affirms that the law shall determine particulars relating to nationality. [9] (p2)

Political System

Political Overview

5.7 The CIA World Factbook, last updated 18 December 2003, noted that Ethiopia is a Federal Republic with 9 ethnically based states and 2 self-governing administrations. Nationally the Government is split into Executive and Legislative Branches. [22] (p5)

The Executive Branch

5.8 The CIA World Factbook, last updated 18 December 2003, noted that the Chief of State is President Girma Woldegiorgis since 8 October 2001. The Head of the Government is Prime Minister Meles Zenawi who took office in August 1995. The President is elected by the House of the People's Representatives for a six-year term, the Prime Minister is designated by the party in power following the legislative elections. The Ethiopian Cabinet is known as the Council of Ministers as provided for by the 1994 Constitution; Ministers are selected by the Prime Minister and then have to be approved by the House of People's Representatives. [22] (p5)

5.9 The BBC country profile on Ethiopia updated 13 February 2004, noted that Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, was born in 1954. He joined the fight against the Mengistu regime in the 1970's. "Initially a Marxist-Leninist, by the 1990's he had publicly become

a proponent of the free market and parliamentary democracy. Upon Mengistu's overthrow, he was chosen as transitional head of state and was one of the architects of the 1994 constitution, which provided for a federal republic with ethnically-based regions. In 1995 he became Prime Minister". [4a] (p2)

The Legislative Branch

5.10 The CIA World Factbook, last updated 18 December 2003, noted that Ethiopia has a bicameral Parliament which consists of the House of Federation (Upper Chamber) which consists of 108 seats, and the House of People's Representatives (Lower Chamber) which consists of 548 seats. Members of the House of Federation are chosen by state assemblies to serve five-year terms. Members of the House of the People's Representatives are elected by popular vote from single-member districts to serve five-year terms. [22] (p5-6)

Ethiopian Politics in General

5.11 The Constitution provides for the right of peaceful assembly and free speech. [9] (p9-10) The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Organizers of large public meetings or demonstrations must notify the Government in advance and obtain a permit. There were several reports during the year that permits were denied to opposition parties. Opposition parties also reported long, unexplained delays by the Government in issuing permits and last minute revocations of permits, which hindered the ability of groups to organize events". [3e] (p14)

5.12 The Constitution provides for freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted peaceful political activity. [9] (p10-14) The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The Government required political parties to register with the National Election Board (NEB). Parties that did not participate in two consecutive national elections were subject to deregistration. There were approximately 55 organized political parties; 5 were national parties, and the remainder operated only in limited areas. There were no reports during the year [2003] that any political party had its registration revoked". [3e] (p15)

Ethnicity in Ethiopian Politics (also see Human Rights – Ethnic Groups, and Annex B – Main Political parties).

5.13 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "There were more than 80 ethnic groups. The largest single group was the Oromos, who accounted for 40 percent of the population. Although many of these groups influenced the political and cultural life of the country, Amharas and Tigrayans from the northern highlands played a dominant role. The federal system has boundaries drawn roughly along major ethnic lines, and regional states had much greater control over their affairs. Most political parties remained primarily ethnically based". [3e] (p22) According to the Official announcement from the National Electoral Board accessed 21 September 2001, of the 178 members elected to the House of People's Representatives from Oromia, 173 are from the Oromo People's Democratic Organisation (the OPDO). All but four of the 138 members elected from Amhara belong to the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM). All 38 members elected from

Tigray belong to the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF). [18] (p1-2)

5.14 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "There were great disparities in regional representation in the Federal Parliament, based on 1994 census figures and 1995 voter registration. For example, in Gambella Region, 1 Member of Parliament (M.P.) represented 17,496 registered voters; in Tigray region, 1 M.P. represented 35,897 registered voters, and in Somali region, 1 M.P. represented 99,761 registered voters. In October [2003], the State Minister of Federal Affairs acknowledged publicly that the country's nomadic communities, which made up an estimated 7 million persons, were still being excluded from democratic representation". [3a] (p18)

5.15 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "Numerous political parties emerged, mostly ethnically based. More than 100 parties had appeared by early 1993, although less than one-half of these contested the May 1995 elections. As Tigrayans constitute no more than 5% of the population, the EPRDF created surrogate parties or 'democratic organizations' with which it could form alliances". [1a] (p410)
According to the Addis Tribune on 16 August 2002, and the Ethiopian reporter on 14 August 2002, the All-Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO) reflected the growing shift away from ethnic-based politics by changing its name to the All-Ethiopia Unity Party (AEUP). This is in order to make the organisation more global and encompassing. [7c] [47]

The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front

5.16 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "the OPDO [Oromo People's Democratic Organisation] won the largest number of seats in the House of People's Representatives, taking 178 of 546 seats available. The other prominent members of the EPRDF coalition, the ANDM [Amhara National Democratic Movement] and the TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front], took 134 and 38 seats, respectively. The EPRDF thus comfortably retained its large majority in the lower house". [2] (p411)

5.17 The BBC in an article dated 21 March 2001 reported that, "several senior members of the Central Committee of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ...have been expressing dissent over the Prime Minister's policies". Concerns were believed to have centred on progressive policies departing from the Marxist ideology, which brought the party to power in 1991 and criticism of the Prime Minister's handling of the conflict with Eritrea. [4e] (p1-3)

5.18 IRIN news reported on 27 March 2001 that, "The Ethiopian government is holding a group of party dissidents in the former emperors palace in Addis Ababa, and preparing to bring corruption charges against the leading figures...Known as the 'Siye group', the dissidents were reportedly led by the former defence minister, who was removed from his position by Meles in 1995". [14e] According to IRIN news, the Middle East Intelligence Wire, and the BBC, further events believed to be linked to this split included the removal of the president of Tigray state from his post in April 2001, [14e] the resignation of a senior army general in May 2001 [33a] and the murder of the security chief Kifle Gebre-Medhin in May 2001. Mr Kifle was a close ally of the Prime Minister but the reasons for his murder remain unclear. [4]

The Opposition

5.19 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Although political parties predominantly were ethnically based, opposition parties were engaged in a gradual process of consolidation". [3e] (p18)

5.20 The US State Department Human Rights Report of 2002 noted that, "The Government established a donor supported fund for opposition party candidates, provided opposition candidates access to state-owned electronic media, and changed the law to permit civil servants to run for office without first resigning their positions. The Government was willing to engage opponents in open debate at candidate and party forums. Many of these debates were broadcast live on national radio and television and reported on in both government and private newspapers. Free radio broadcast time was set aside for the elections, and 225 independent candidates and 33 political parties made use of it". [3a] (p20)

5.21 However the US state report 2003 also documented violence during the elections and stated that, "In the months immediately before the 2001 regional elections, authorities harassed and detained supporters of parties belonging to the SEPDC opposition coalition. Of the 49 SEPDC supporters detained in Hosana and Durame in 2001 who remained in detention for the killing of a policeman and property destruction in Kembatta Tembaro Zone, Oromiya Region, 21 were released for lack of sufficient evidence after spending 3 years in detention. Twenty-eight others remained in detention in Durame prison. In December [2003], the Zonal High Court in Durame found 9 of those 28 persons guilty of the policeman's murder and sentenced them to life in prison. The status of the other 19 persons detained was unknown at year's end [2003]". [3e] (p7)

5.22 The report further noted that, "The Government reported it had dismissed 58 policemen during the year for their involvement in the following incidents of pre- and post-2001 election violence: The security forces killing of two opposition supporters during a meeting organized by the Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia; the security forces killing of four Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) members in Shone village in Badoacho Woreda; and the security forces killing of at least 11 supporters of the SEPDC". [3e] (p2)

5.23 More recently the report noted that, "Many persons were beaten following their attendance of AEUP meetings. For example, on October 2, local officials of Mertolemariam Woreda, Amhara Region, led by Lakachew Adamu, the woreda administrator, and accompanied by kebele militia, ordered the national flag removed from the pole in front of the AEUP office. They then severely beat four AEUP officials--Retta Bayih, Awoke Tegegn, Derejaw Ayehou, and Alellign Ayalew--for their participation in a September 23 AEUP public meeting. The AEUP office was closed and had not been allowed to reopen at year's end [2003]". [3e] (p4)

5.24 Human Rights Watch in its 2002 report stated that, in December 2001, opposition groups in the SNNP State boycotted zonal elections, claiming that their candidates had been denied access to the ballot and had been molested by

government party supporters. The chairman of the South Ethiopian Peoples' Democratic Coalition (SEPDC), Beyene Petros, one of a handful of opposition members of the federal parliament, accused the National Elections Board of having assigned government officials and government party members as election judges. The chairman of the commission deemed the charge without merit and threatened to sue Beyene. In March 2002, people known to be government party functionaries disrupted a meeting of the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP) in Awassa at which members were protesting government acquiescence to revision of the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Police present at the meeting failed to intervene. [8c] (p4)

5.25 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Military forces continued to conduct a number of low-level operations against the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), the Somalia-based Al'Ittihad Al'Islami terrorist organization (AIAI), and elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) both in the country and in southern Somalia and northern Kenya". [3e] (p1)

United Ethiopian Democratic Forces

5.26 IRIN news reported in August 2003 that, "fifteen Ethiopian opposition parties have formed a 'rainbow coalition' to challenge the decade-long political hold of the current Government. Veteran politician Dr Beyene Petros told IRIN the newly-formed United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) was the largest coalition opposition force within the country. Its birth follows a seven-day conference in Washington DC where opposition leaders agreed on a 10-point action plan for the impoverished nation. Beyene, who will chair the UEDF for the first six months, said its primary focus would be to defeat the current Government in the 2005 elections...The coalition group would have a 'minimal political agenda' until the organisation managed to achieve office. But a central manifesto pledge would be the 're-negotiation' of the controversial boundary ruling that has placed contested territories in Eritrea...Beyene heads the Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy CAFPDE – one of the 15 groups that joined the conference. Among the other main parties are the All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP), the Oromo National Congress (ONC) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP)...Beyene said a major breakthrough had come in persuading certain opposition groups within the coalition to lay down their arms and pursue their fight through the ballot box...A national council, made up of two officials from each party, will control policy and direction of the UEDF, while a 15-person executive committee will provide leadership. The UEDF will also have a 'council of elders' made up of prominent Ethiopians who will act as advisers to both committees". [14ak]

5.27 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "the OLF and the ONLF have refused to join the [UEDF] coalition". [3e] (p19)

5.28 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "At year's end [2003], the UEDF was trying to negotiate a pledge from the Government to allow many of the parties based abroad to return to the country and set up local offices; however, the Government claimed that the coalition had not yet officially informed it of its plans. Prime Minister Meles also publicly said he supported 'constructive engagement' with the opposition; however, Meles publicly criticized the opposition

for disloyalty and 'politics of hate'". [3e] (p18)

5.29 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "In September, ruling party cadres threatened to take away land occupied by eight farmers, who were supporters of the United Ethiopia Democratic Party (UEDF), in Masha Woreda, Southern Region. Ruling party cadres told the farmers that opposition party members were not entitled to land and told them to refrain from participating in UEDF activities. When the farmers refused to comply with this demand, they were evicted from their land". [3e] (p10)

The All-Ethiopia Unity Party

5.30 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that the "All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) [was] formerly the All Amhara People's Organization". [1a] (p426)

5.31 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002 stated that, "The AAPO was established in 1991 to defend the rights of the Amhara people, which it believed were best served by a unitary Ethiopian state rather than the federation advocated by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] (and implemented in the 1995 constitution). The AAPO's then leader was jailed from 1994 to 1998, having been convicted of incitement to armed insurrection for making statements which he claimed were within the rights of free speech. The AAPO boycotted the 1995 federal elections but contested those of 2000 in order to retain its party registration (which would otherwise have been withdrawn). It fielded 17 candidates for the House of People's Representatives and won one seat in Addis Ababa". [44] (p168)

5.32 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Opposition parties, such as the AEUP and the KPDU, reported that local government officials closed some of their branch offices in contravention of authorization from regional officials and the NEB for those offices to be allowed to remain open. Government officials and supporters in rural areas often coerced residents not to participate in opposition party functions and not to rent office space to those parties...On February 7 [2003], AEUP informed local officials in Bubugn Woreda, East Gojam Zone, Amhara Region, of its plan to open up a branch office in the woreda and gave a list of names of AEUP organizers to them, as requested. After receiving the list, woreda officials announced over a megaphone that people should neither associate with AEUP nor rent a house to AEUP members for its branch office". [3e] (p18)

5.33 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Many persons were beaten following their attendance of AEUP meetings. For example, on October 2 [2003], local officials of Mertolemariam Woreda, Amhara Region, led by Lakachew Adamu, the woreda administrator, and accompanied by kebele militia, ordered the national flag removed from the pole in front of the AEUP office. They then severely beat four AEUP officials--Retta Bayih, Awoke Tegegn, Derejaw Ayehou, and Alellign Ayalew--for their participation in a September 23 [2003] AEUP public meeting. The AEUP office was closed and had not been allowed to reopen at year's end [2003]". [3e] (p4)

5.34 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "On October

12 [2003], in Bichena town, Amhara Region, government militia accosted AEUP leaders Kassa Zewdu and Sinishaw Tegegn following a large AEUP public meeting, beat them, and threw them in Bichena jail. No charges have been brought against the two". [30] (p4)

Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia

5.35 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002 stated that, "The CAFPDE was formed in 1993 but was unable to contest the 1995 elections because it was not granted official registration until mid-1996. Chaired by Beyene Petros and including his Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition [SEPDC] among its constituent groupings, it sought to bring together political parties and organisations based on a variety of interests, as well as bodies representing professional groups, to campaign on a pro-human rights and economic liberalization agenda. Originally comprising 30 organizations and groupings, the CAFPDE was reduced to a coalition of five small groupings following the split in December 1999". [44] (p168)

5.36 Political Parties of the World further noted that, "Beyene Petros successfully contested the 2000 federal elections as a CAFPDE candidate in a constituency where a new election was held on 25 June, after annulment of the May 14 result by the National Electoral Board (which had upheld claims that the conduct of the May elections in this and 13 other southern Ethiopian constituencies was 'undemocratic and not free'). No other CAFPDE candidates were elected (although several other members of parties in the coalition were elected to represent their own parties)". [44] (p168-169)

5.37 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 documented that CAFPDE were charged with holding an illegal meeting in Eastern Shoa Zone, Oromia regional state in January 2001. Of the 10 opposition candidates arrested, 9 were taken into custody. The tenth was released on bail because he was not from that area. Although the law permits campaigning during this time the candidates were arrested for campaigning illegally. After riots in which police killed two CAFPDE supporters, the candidates were charged with incitement to violence and the killings of the two CAFPDE supporters. [32] (p16)

5.38 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 documented that in April 2001 it is alleged that the army killed four members of the CAFPDE associated Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) in Badoacho, Shone Woreda and that government forces killed at least 11 supporters of the SEPDC in the period leading up to the December 2001 elections. [32] (p3)

Ethiopian Democratic Party

5.39 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002 stated that, "The EDP was formed in 1998 following a split in the All Amhara People's Organization [AAPO]. It fielded 15 candidates for the federal House of People's Representatives in May 2000, winning two seats in Addis Ababa. Its policies included land reforms to benefit peasant farmers. EDP party members (including candidates in current local government elections) were among those targeted by the security forces in May 2001 in a campaign against 'political activists' following the violent suppression of

student demonstrations in Addis Ababa". [44] (p169)

United Ethiopian Democratic Party

5.40 IRIN news observed that the EDP has since joined forces with the Ethiopian Democratic Union Party to form the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP). Its leader Dr Admasu Gebeyehu said it had some 20,000 members and described it as 'one of the largest' political parties in the country. [14a]

5.41 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "On September 30 [2003], six policemen removed the national flag from the office of the United Ethiopia Democratic Party (UEDP) in Masha Woreda, Sheka Zone, Southern Region, and detained UEDP representative Berhanu Hailu in Masha police prison for 3 weeks. He was released after posting \$580 (5,000 birr)". [3e] (p7)

5.42 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Some opposition political parties charged the Government with deliberately obstructing their attempts to hold public meetings. Local government officials granted the UEDP permission to conduct a conference in Mekelle on June 29 [2003]; however, on the day of the conference, UEDP officials were told that the regional government needed the hall for an urgent meeting, and UEDP was denied its meeting venue". [3e] (p14)

5.43 The US report further noted that, "Two teachers in Masha Woreda were dismissed [from their jobs] for being members of UEDP". [3e] (p10)

Hadiya National Democratic Organisation

5.44 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002, documented that the HNDO, founded in 1991, is a regionally-registered party associated with several wider alliances promoted by its leader Beyene Petros (see Prominent People). His outspoken criticisms of government encroachment on human rights and political freedoms made him one of the most prominent opposition figures in Ethiopian parliamentary politics in 2001. The HNDO won 5 seats in the federal House of People's Representatives in 2000, although Beyene Petros himself stood in a neighbouring constituency as a candidate of the CAFDE. All the HNDO deputies were, like Beyene Petros himself, returned in new elections held on June 25 after the annulment of the 14 May 2000 results by the National Electoral Board. [44] (p169)

Oromo Liberation Front

5.45 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002, noted that, formed in 1975, the OLF operated through different branches with little central leadership, having a minor contribution to the military struggle against the Mengistu regime compared with the contributions of Eritrean forces or the TPLF. Mutual antipathy between the OLF and TPLF led to the creation, under the latter's auspices, of the rival OPDO in 1990. Initially committed to an independent Oromo state, the OLF said in June 1991 that it would support substantial regional autonomy within a federal Ethiopia, and in August 1991 it accepted four ministerial posts in the TGE headed by Meles Zenawi of what had then become the EPRDF. [44] (p169)

5.46 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "By the early 1980's, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), advocating self-determination for the Oromo people and the use of Oromo culture and language, was gaining support from peasants critical of government efforts to establish co-operatives". [1a] (p409)

5.47 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002, stated that, "Clashes between members of the OLF and members of OPDO (an EPRDF member party) during the run-up to elections led to a final break with the EPRDF in 1992, after which the OLF went into armed opposition to the Government, carrying out low-level guerilla operations and advocating boycotts of all elections. The OLF also clashed with rival Oromo rebel groups (some of which had come into being through splits in the OLF)". [44] (p169)

5.48 The article further noted that, "In July 2000 the OLF held a meeting with three other groups (United Oromo Liberation Front, Oromo Liberation Council and Islamic Front for the Liberation) to discuss joint action against the Ethiopian Government, which had ignored a peace proposal put forward by the OLF in February 2000". [44] (p169)

5.49 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "In October 2000 a conference in Eritrea, where the OLF was by this time based, brought together six Oromo opposition parties, including the OLF and the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia, as the United Liberation Forces of Oromia". [1a] (p411)

5.50 Human Rights Watch in its 2002 report stated that, "since the Government banned the OLF a decade before, thousands of alleged OLF members or sympathizers have been arrested, and this trend continued in 2002...As of March [2002], more than 1,700 such prisoners were reportedly held at the Ghimbi central prison, half of them arrested recently and the rest having been there for five to ten years, some without charge. Hundreds more were detained in prisons and police jails across Oromiya State. Prisoners who were released or escaped from incarceration reported severe torture while imprisoned. The Oromiya State Minister for Capacity Building, who fled the country in May [2002], denounced the state Government for indiscriminately accusing the Oromo people of supporting the OLF". [8c] (p2)

5.51 The report further documented that, "reliable sources reported that the Eritrean Government was giving logistical support, training, and weapons to OLF guerrillas attempting to infiltrate Ethiopia from Sudan, and to armed Tigrean groups opposed to the current Ethiopian government". [8c] (p4)

5.52 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The armed elements of the OLF and ONLF continued to operate within the country and clashed with government forces on several occasions, resulting in the death of an unknown number of civilians. From October 12 to 14 [2003], fighting between the OLF and government forces in Gombisa and Dukale, in Hidilola, resulted in an undisclosed number of casualties". [3e] (p3)

5.53 The US State Department further noted that, "Most detainees were accused of

participating in armed actions by the OLF or the ONLF. In typical cases, security forces arrested and held these persons incommunicado for several days or weeks before eventually releasing them. Among those still in custody at year's end [2003] is Dinkinesh Deressa Kitila, an employee of Total/Elf oil company, who was arrested in June 2002 on suspicion of being an OLF supporter". [3e] (p7)

5.54 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 noted that, "On September 11 [2002], a bomb killed four persons at the Tigray Hotel in Addis Ababa. The Government blamed the OLF for the attack and claimed to have arrested the perpetrators. The OLF denied responsibility for the attack...on September 12 [2002], regional police officers took Mesfin Itana, an Oromo youth, from his place of work in the Merkato area because of suspected ties to the OLF. On September 13, police took several young Oromo businessmen from their places of work, and their whereabouts remained unknown at year's end. On September 18, the police took two brothers, Yilma Mosisa and Gdissa Mosisa, from their home, and their whereabouts also remained unknown at year's end [2002]". [3a] (p3 & 4)

5.55 Moreover the US 2003 report documented that, "Thousands of criminal suspects remained in detention without charge; many of the detainees were accused of involvement in OLF activities or were arrested after the 2001 student demonstrations". [3e] (p8)

5.56 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Security forces detained family members of persons sought for questioning by the Government, such as suspected members of OLF". [3e] (p10)

5.57 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The independent Teachers Association (ETA) reported that numerous teachers were detained and accused of being OLF sympathizers, many of whom still were in prison at year's end [2003]. Some of the teachers have been in detention for several years without charges". [3e] (p7)

5.58 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 observed that, "On April 9 [2002], security forces arrested at least 60 members of the OLF for conspiring to commit terrorist acts in Oromia. Following the June bombing of the Dire Dawa train station, police detained many young Oromo males without warrants for questioning. Among those detained was Dinkinesh Deressa Kitila, an employee of Total/Elf Oil Company, who was arrested on June 7 [2002], and held at Karchale central prison on suspicion of being an OLF supporter". [3a] (p7)

5.59 Amnesty International in its 2002 report stated that, "The trial of some 100 OLF fighters held since 1992 concluded in February 2002; two were sentenced to death and others were imprisoned". [6a] (p2)

Ogaden National Liberation Front

5.60 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "The Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), a party based in Somali state, which split in 1995 allowing the pro-government Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL) to win the

elections in 1995 and 2000. The OLF and the ONLF signed a military co-operation agreement in July 1996. They demand greater autonomy and firmer commitments to possible independence, claiming that the EPRDF had no intention of allowing succession, deliberately making the process lengthy and difficult...The ONLF also received support from another Somali organization, the Islamic Union Party (al-Ittihad al-Islam), which has been fighting for an Islamic state in Somalia". [1a] (p411)

Oromo National Congress

5.61 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002, stated that, "The ONC, founded in 1996 by a member of the Addis Ababa University's political science faculty, exists to oppose the Oromo People's Democratic Organization through legitimate electoral channels (in contrast to the armed opposition of the Oromo Liberation Front and other resistance movements, which the ONC condemns). It fielded 36 candidates in the 2000 federal elections and won one seat in the federal House of People's Representatives". [44] (p169)

Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition

5.62 Political Parties of the World, updated January 2002, stated that, "The SEPDC was founded in 1992 as a multi-party coalition under the leadership of Beyene Petros, president of the Hadiya National Democratic Organization. Having obtained a peak membership of 14 parties, it split in 1993, retaining as members several parties which were prepared to accept exclusion from the transitional Council of Representatives over a current political dispute. Strongly critical of the EPRDF government's record in office (and of the authorities' conduct of the elections), the SEPDC won three seats in the federal House of People's Representatives in 2000". [44] (p170)

5.63 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 observed that, "The Government reported it had dismissed 58 policemen during the year for their involvement in the following incidents of pre- and post-2001 election violence: The security forces killing of two opposition supporters during a meeting organized by the Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia; the security forces killing of four Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) members in Shone village in Badoacho Woreda; and the security forces killing of at least 11 supporters of the SEPDC". [3e] (p2)

5.64 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 observed that, "Several SEPDC candidates for the national or municipal elections were detained, and two SEPDC members elected to the regional council in 2000 were detained without having their parliamentary immunity formally removed. It was unknown at year's end [2003] if the two elected SEPDC members were allowed to take their seats". [3e] (p18)

5.65 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2002 observed that, "In May [2003], following a meeting in Bonga town, Southern Region, organized by the opposition SEPDC, unknown individuals broke into the SEPDC office and looted property. SEPDC said that despite its appeals for a police investigation, police had taken no action by year's end [2003]". [3e] (p18)

5.66 The US state report 2003 documented violence during the elections and stated that, "In the months immediately before the 2001 regional elections, authorities harassed and detained supporters of parties belonging to the SEPDC opposition coalition. Of the 49 SEPDC supporters detained in Hosana and Durame in 2001 who remained in detention for the killing of a policeman and property destruction in Kembatta Tembaro Zone, Oromiya Region, 21 were released for lack of sufficient evidence after spending 3 years in detention. Twenty-eight others remained in detention in Durame prison. In December, the Zonal High Court in Durame found 9 of those 28 persons guilty of the policeman's murder and sentenced them to life in prison. The status of the other 19 persons detained was unknown at year's end [2003]". [3a] (p7)

Coalition of Ethiopian Opposition Political Organisations

5.67 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "An attempt to provide an alternative umbrella opposition grouping came when eight opposition groups met in Paris in September 1998 and formed the Coalition of Ethiopian Opposition Political Organisations (CEOPO). It included groups based both in Ethiopia and abroad, but the choice of prominent anti-EPRDF exiles for its leadership meant it did not participate in the May 2000 elections". [1a] (p412)

Joint Action for Democracy in Ethiopia

5.68 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report on Ethiopia stated that, "A new coalition, Joint Action for Democracy in Ethiopia (JADE), published its manifesto in March 2003. Chaired by Dr Beyene Petros, JADE grouped three internal parties, CAFPDE, the All Ethiopia Unity Party (previously the All Amhara People's Organization – AAPO), and an Oromo party, the Oromo National Congress. It planned to hold a joint conference of all opposition parties in late 2003 in the USA. The main topic was to be preparations for the 2005 elections, and JADE hoped that a number of the external ethnically-based parties, including the OLF, would also attend. However it failed to obtain support from another of the internal parties, the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP), formed in 1999 after a split in the AAPO". [1a] (p412)

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party

5.69 According to the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board on 29 October 2002, "The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) is not included among a list of 72 officially recognized political parties that is posted on the Website of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the United Kingdom (n.d.). Nor is the party included in a similar list on the Website of the Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington, D.C. (2001). Additional information on whether the EPRP is recognized by the Ethiopian government or banned from carrying out its activities within Ethiopia could not be found among the sources consulted. However, one source quotes a former founding member of the EPRP as saying that 'it has been a long time since EPRP withdrew from political activities as an organization' and that 'the leaders of the EPRP ... have been out of the country for over 30 years' (ENA 14 July 2002). In addition, a separate source refers to the EPRP as the 'exiled opposition Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party' (VNA 17 Feb. 2000)". [26a]

5.70 The report further noted that, "According to a list of Foreign Agent Registrants on the United States Department of Justice (USDJ) Website, the EPRP is listed for the six month period ending October 31, 2000 during which time the party reportedly raised US\$26,043.66 and distributed 'materials to newspapers and civic groups on behalf of [a] foreign principal ... and address[ed] members and supporters of [a] foreign principal concerning the political situation and the activities of the party' (USDJ n.d.). The same source also provides a postal address for the EPRP in Washington, DC (ibid.)". [26a]

5.71 Moreover, the report observed that, "according to the EPRP Website, the EPRP has issued 22 press releases since April 1999 (EPRP n.d.a); the most recent, dated 11 February 2002, is a petition to the Secretary General of the United Nations regarding the Algiers Peace Agreement (ibid.b). An August 2001 press release announces the successful conclusion of the EPRP's third general congress which was held from 21-26 August 2001 'with delegates from all over the world participating actively to chart the course for the struggle in the new millennium' (ibid. Aug. 2002)". [26a]

5.72 The report noted that, "regarding recent EPRP activities within Ethiopia, a 9 June 2002 report posted on the Shaebia Website states that the EPRP 'has countered the war launched by two brigades of the weyane Ethiopian government forces this week in Armacheho and Degedena ... and brought heavy loss to the weyane government.' The report further states that the 'EPRP in an ambush it launched in Welkayit, near a place called "Al geshu" ... has killed five soldiers and wounded seven' (Shaebia 9 June 2002). The same report states that 180 people of Amhara origin were charged with collaborating with the EPRP and are 'languishing in the two prisons of Humera and Mai Kadra' (ibid.). Additional information regarding EPRP activities within Ethiopia since April 1999, or information on the arrest or harassment of EPRP members by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Forces (EPRDF) could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate". [26a]

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The Judiciary

Overview

5.73 The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary, [9] (p31) however the US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The judiciary remained weak and overburdened. Although the federal and regional courts continued to show signs of judicial independence, in practice severe shortages of adequately trained personnel in many regions, as well as serious financial constraints, combined to deny citizens the full protections provided by the Constitution". [3a] (p8) An IRIN news report gives an example of this in July 2001, "residents of Oromiya Regional State have claimed that many suspects were kept in jail years without charge. The head of the Oromiya representative's office at the Ministry of Justice said there were 600 suspects currently in jail who had not been charged. The assistant chief prosecutor, Abiy Yebabe, had

admitted that most of the 1,200 suspects 'to be tried and being tried' under federal law had been in detention since 1999...He attributed the delay to failure by police and prosecutors to establish effective cases against the suspects and bring them to the appropriate court. He also blamed lack of trained manpower and necessary material for the judicial system". [144]

5.74 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "According to the Constitution, accused persons have the right to a public trial by an ordinary court of law within a 'reasonable time' after having been charged. Accused persons have the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choice. However, in practice, lengthy pretrial detention was common, closed proceedings occurred, and at times, detainees were allowed little or no contact with their legal counsel". [3e] (p8)

5.75 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The Government continued to decentralize and restructure the judiciary along federal lines with the establishment of courts at the district (woreda), zonal, and regional levels. The federal High Court and federal Supreme Court heard and adjudicated original and appeal cases involving federal law, transregional issues, and national security. The regional judiciary increasingly was autonomous, with district, zonal, high, and supreme courts mirroring the structure of the federal judiciary. There were two three-judge benches at the High Court level to handle criminal cases". [3e] (p8)

5.76 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The Constitution provides legal standing to some pre-existing religious and customary courts and gives federal and regional legislatures the authority to recognize other courts. By law, all parties to a dispute must agree before a customary or religious court may hear a case. Shari'a (Islamic) courts may hear religious and family cases involving Muslims. In addition, other traditional systems of justice, like councils of elders, continued to function. Although not sanctioned by law, these traditional courts resolved disputes for the majority of citizens who lived in rural areas and who generally had little access to formal judicial systems". [3e] (p9)

5.77 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Although the Constitution provides for a presumption of innocence, defendants did not enjoy this protection in practice. The public defender's office provides legal counsel to indigent defendants, although its scope remained severely limited, particularly with respect to SPO trials. Access to prosecutorial evidence before a trial was routinely denied to the defense, even though there is no law forbidding this and the law explicitly stipulates that persons charged with corruption are to be shown the body of evidence against them prior to their trials". [3e] (p8)

5.78 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Regional offices of the federal Ministry of Justice monitored local judicial developments, and the regional courts had jurisdiction over both local and federal matters, but the federal judicial presence in the regions was limited. Anecdotal evidence suggested that some local officials believed they were not accountable to a higher authority. Pending the passage by regional legislatures of laws particular to their region, all judges are guided by the federal procedural and substantive codes". [3e] (p8)

5.79 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "To remedy the severe lack of experienced staff in the judicial system, the Government continued to identify and train lower court judges and prosecutors, although officials acknowledged that the pay scale offered did not attract the required numbers of competent professionals". [30] (p8)

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Former Members of the Derg/Workers Party of Ethiopia

5.80 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "the SPO [Special Prosecutors Office] was established in 1992 to create an historical record of the abuses committed during the Mengistu Government (1975-91)--also known as the Dergue regime--and to bring to justice those criminally responsible for human rights violations. The SPO had authority to arrest and interrogate anyone suspected of involvement in the 1976 'Red Terror' Campaign under Mengistu and other crimes. Trials began in 1994 and continued during the year. Of the 5,198 cases, the federal High Court in Addis Ababa continued to arraign and prosecute those charged with politically motivated genocide, war crimes, and aggravated homicide under the previous regime, including the disappearance of 14,209 persons. Although the process was subject to frequent and lengthy adjournments, in November [2003], the SPO reported that 99 percent of all Dergue-related trials had been completed. Approximately 3,000 were tried in absentia, including former dictator Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, who remained in exile in Zimbabwe. Updated statistics on the number of decisions handed down and the number of persons convicted during the year were unavailable at year's end [2003]. Court-appointed attorneys, sometimes with inadequate skills and experience, represented many of the defendants, following claims that they could not afford an adequate defense". [30] (p9)

5.81 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "In February 1997 the special prosecutor's office announced that it was to try a further 5,198 people on charges of genocide and war crimes, nearly 3,000 of them in absentia. These trials proceeded more quickly with some 60% of the accused being sentenced to up to 20 years' 'rigorous imprisonment' by mid-2003, and were due to be completed by 2004". [13] (p413) IRIN news reported on 17 December 2003 that, "Some 10 people have already been sentenced to death for their part in the terror campaigns". [14]

5.82 Human Rights Watch in January 2004 stated that, "About one third of Derg defendants who have been tried (in civil courts) have been acquitted, some after more than a decade of imprisonment. The loss of evidence over the years has resulted in some acquittals, but the losses may also result in convictions. In a trial of thirty-seven close associates of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, one defendant waived his right to call witnesses, noting that the crimes charged against him occurred almost thirty years earlier". [5d] (p2)

5.83 IRIN news reported on 1 March 2004 that, "jailed colleagues of former leader, Mengistu Haile-Mariam, [have asked] to be allowed to apologise for the atrocities perpetrated during his rule...top officials being tried for genocide wrote to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi asking for 'forgiveness' for crimes committed 30 years

ago... Copies of the letter were sent to US President George W. Bush, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former South African President Nelson Mandela. There has been no public response by Meles or his government to the letter, which was sent in August 2003". [14ab]

5.84 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Government authorities continued to permit diplomats to visit prominent detainees held by the Special Prosecutors Office (SPO) for alleged involvement in war crimes and terrorist activities". [3e] (p6)

Recent Experience

5.85 The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The outbreak of hostilities with Eritrea in 1998 adversely impacted the military justice system. Most foreign assistance to train officers and noncommissioned officers was suspended at the same time that the rapid expansion of the military greatly increased the need for trained military lawyers and judges. This training need remained unmet by year's end [2003]". [3e] (p9)

5.86 IRIN news reported on 31 January 2002 that, "Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has pledged to rid Ethiopia of corruption saying there would be no hiding place for 'sleaze and dishonesty'...the federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission brought charges totalling Ethiopian birr 1.2 billion (around \$150 million US) against some of the country's top businessmen". [14a]

5.87 Human Rights Watch in its 2002 report states that, "Prisoners held for non-bailable offenses were incarcerated for years while their cases were investigated. In 2001, parliament enacted legislation to prevent anyone accused of corruption from being released on bail. The law was immediately applied to the former Defense Minister Siye Abraha, who was also Prime Minister Meles' chief political adversary. The former minister and several alleged co-conspirators had not been brought to trial by October 2002, well over a year after their arrests. In July the presiding court ordered the prosecution to revise its charges, assuring further delay. Businesspeople arrested in 2001 on corruption charges also continued to languish in jail without trial". [8c] (p3)

5.88 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 report stated that, "While the judiciary is nominally independent, the judicial process is often subject to political pressure and delay because of the lack of trained judges. Criminal proceedings are frequently postponed repeatedly to allow the police and prosecutors more time to obtain evidence. Bail is often denied even where the risk of flight is minimal. Defendants charged with corruption, a non-bailable offense, remain incarcerated for years without trial because of judicially-sanctioned postponements". [8d] (p2)

Legal Rights and Detention

Overview

5.89 The Constitution and the Criminal and Civil Codes prohibit arbitrary arrest and

detention. [9] (p5) The US State Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The Government frequently did not observe these provisions in practice...under the Criminal Procedure Code, any person detained must be informed of the charges within 48 hours and, in most cases, be offered release on bail. Bail was not available for some offenses, such as murder, treason, and corruption. In most cases, bail was set between \$116 (1,000 birr) and \$1,160 (10,000 birr), which was beyond the reach of most citizens. Suspects of serious offenses could be detained for 14 days while police conduct an investigation, if a panel of judges ordered it, and for additional 14-day periods while the investigation continues. In practice and particularly in the outlying regions, authorities regularly detained persons without warrants, did not charge them within 48 hours, and, if persons were released on bail, never recalled them to court. The law also prohibits detention in anything less than an official detention center; however, there were no such centers at the kebele level. The Government provided public defenders for detainees who were unable to afford private legal counsel, but only when their cases came before the court. While in detention, such detainees were allowed little or no contact with their legal counsel". [3e] (p6)

5.90 The report further noted that, "Thousands of criminal suspects remained in detention without charge; many of the detainees were accused of involvement in OLF activities or were arrested after the 2001 student demonstrations". [3e] (p8)

5.91 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The law requires judicial search warrants to search private property; however, in practice, particularly outside of Addis Ababa, police often searched property without obtaining warrants. Opposition party representatives claimed that police sometimes used fraudulent warrants to enter homes and commit criminal acts, including money extortion. There were reports that members of the Federal Police robbed persons during the year, including through the use of false warrants". [3e] (p9)

5.92 The report further noted that, "There continued to be reports that police forcibly entered the homes of civilians. There also were reports that security forces took persons from their homes in the middle of the night without warrants". [3e] (p9)

Death penalty

5.93 Amnesty International in its 2002 report stated that, "In February [2002], two OLF members were sentenced to death for armed conspiracy and alleged killings in 1992. In April, five Somalis were sentenced to death after being convicted of planting a bomb at the Tigray Hotel in Addis Ababa in 1995, allegedly as members of Al-Itihad Al-Islamiya. The appeals of these seven had not been heard by the end of the year [2002]...Several death sentences were imposed by criminal courts but no executions were reported". [6a] (p3)

5.94 Amnesty International in a report dated December 2003 stated that, "The Federal High Court in the capital, Addis Ababa, sentenced four people to death in August [2003] for the killing of the former Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and 13 others who 'disappeared' in 1978. Another man, a former revolutionary committee leader, was sentenced to death in November [2003] for the murder of 12 prisoners during the former government's 'terror campaign' against its opponents

between 1977 and 1979. The sentences are part of the ongoing 'Dergue trials' of over 2000 officials of the former Mengistu Haile-Mariam government who are accused of genocide and other crimes. The five condemned prisoners have the right of appeal". [6g] (p4)

Recent Experience

5.95 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 report stated that, "Excessive force has often been used to quell peaceful demonstrations. Demonstrators are subject to mass arrest and mistreatment". [8d] (p2)

5.96 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Security forces committed a number of unlawful killings and at times beat, tortured, and mistreated detainees". [3e] (p1)

5.97 The ruling party-controlled Walta news agency reported on 26 February 2002 that, "The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it has recently completed basic courses to Regional police instructors and commissioners as well as Zonal and Woreda police commanders...the trainings...were dedicated to the teaching of human rights and good policing. According to ICRC...the courses tackled key concepts, such as legal and ethical premises of law enforcement, maintenance of public order, basic law enforcement powers (arrest, detention, use of force and firearms), command and management and special attention due to vulnerable groups such as women and juveniles...860 police commissioners, and zonal and woreda commanders, 1,790 new police recruits, 150 police cadets, 350 special forces cadets and 350 prison administration trainees benefited from the series of training programmes". [21a]

5.98 Human Rights Watch in its 2002 report stated that, "Dr. Taye Wolde Semayat, president of Ethiopian Teachers Association, was released in May 2002 after an appeals court reduced his sentence to less time than he had already served. He had been placed in a fetid cell and shackled while in solitary confinement during part of his six-year incarceration (Taye had been convicted of plotting to overthrow the government, though independent observers believed the charges were fabricated). ETA continued to work to protect teachers' rights despite the fact that the government had created a puppet organisation with the same name, seized the original organisation's funds, and sealed parts of its offices. Seven teachers who supported ETA were arrested in May [2002] in Sendafa and held for two months on trumped-up charges". [8c] (p2)

5.99 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 report stated that, "A businesswoman, Dinkinesh Deressa, arrested in June 2002 and charged with being a member of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), an armed opposition group, was released on bail in July 2002. Three days later she was rearrested on the same charge and denied bail. Although the presentation of evidence in her trial ended one year later, in July 2003, she remained incarcerated without judgment at the end of 2003". [8d] (p2)

Internal Security

5.100 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The security forces consisted of the military and the police, both of which were responsible for internal security. The Federal Police Commission and the Federal Prisons Administration were subordinate to the Ministry of Federal Affairs. The military, which was responsible for external security, consisted of both air and ground forces and reported to the Ministry of National Defense". [3a] (p1)

5.101 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Military forces continued to conduct a number of low-level operations against the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), the Somalia-based Al-Ittihad Al-Islami organization (AIAI), and elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) both in the country and in southern Somalia and northern Kenya. While civilian authorities generally maintained effective control of the security forces, there were some instances in which elements of the security forces acted independently of government authority. Members of the security forces committed human rights abuses". [3a] (p1)

Prisons and Prison Conditions

5.102 The US state department Human Rights report covering 2003 documented that, "The Government permitted independent monitoring of prisons and police stations by the ICRC. Unlike in the previous year, diplomatic missions were also granted access upon providing advance notification to prison officials. The ICRC generally had access to federal and regional prisons, civilian detention facilities, and police stations throughout the country during the year [2003]. During the year, the ICRC carried out more than 160 visits to 128 detention centers throughout the country and was permitted to visit regularly all of the 29 police stations in Addis Ababa during the year. The ICRC was allowed to meet regularly with prisoners without third parties being present. The ICRC received government permission to visit military detention facilities where suspected OLF fighters were detained. The ICRC also continued to visit civilian Eritrean nationals and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin detained on national security grounds". [3a] (p6)

5.103 The US state department Human Rights report 2003 documented that, "Prison conditions were very poor and overcrowding remained a serious problem. Prisoners often were allocated fewer than 21.5 square feet of sleeping space in a room that could contain up to 200 persons. The daily meal budget was approximately 25 cents per prisoner per day, and many prisoners had family members deliver food every day or used their own funds to purchase food from local vendors. Prison conditions were unsanitary, and access to medical care was not reliable. There was no budget for prison facility maintenance. Prisoners typically were permitted daily access to prison yards, which often included working farms, mechanical shops, and rudimentary libraries. Prison letters must be written in Amharic, which made outside contact difficult for non-Amharic speakers; however, this restriction generally was not enforced". [3a] (p5)

5.104 The report also stated that, "Visitors generally were permitted; however, they were sometimes denied access to detainees". [3a] (p6)

5.105 Moreover, the report stated that, "Female prisoners were held separately from

men; however, juveniles sometimes were incarcerated with adults. There was only 1 juvenile remand home with a capacity of 150 for children under age 15, and the juveniles who could not be accommodated at the juvenile remand home were incarcerated with adults. Pretrial detainees were usually detained separately from convicted prisoners at local police stations or in the limited Central Investigation Division (CID) detention facility in Addis Ababa until they were charged. The law requires that prisoners be transferred to federal prisons upon conviction; however, this requirement sometimes was not enforced in practice". [3e] (p5-6)

5.106 The US state department Human Rights report 2003 documented that, "There were some deaths in prison during the year due to illness and disease; however, no statistics on the number of deaths in prison were available at year's end [2003]". [3e] (p6)

5.107 The report further added that, "There were many reports from opposition party members that in small towns, persons were detained in police stations for long periods without access to a judge and that sometimes these persons' whereabouts were unknown for several months". [3e] (p6)

5.108 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 report stated that, "Medical care was rudimentary and rationed to a handful of prisoners per day. Prisoners with AIDS reportedly received no treatment, and former prisoners reported having witnessed deaths of prisoners with serious diseases such as tuberculosis. Prisoners were denied access to bathing facilities, mattresses, and blankets. Some released in 2002 told of being detained in such crowded confinement that they had had to take turns sleeping. Food was meager but adequate. Prisoners who had family living nearby were normally allowed to receive food from family members. In May 2002 the International Committee of the Red Cross reported it had access to 4,800 security detainees in 150 places of detention". [3e] (p2)

5.109 Amnesty International in its 2003 report stated that "Torture of political prisoners, particularly those accused of links with armed opposition groups, continued to be frequently reported. Several women accused of involvement with such groups were reportedly raped". [6a] (p3)

5.110 Following deep concern over the treatment of prisoners in Ethiopia, prison officials underwent training from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to improve the conditions for inmates in October 2003 as reported by IRIN. [14a] Following this, prison leaders underwent training in December 2003. In particular, prison officials were taught to respect the rights of women and children. "Health problems related to nutrition, clean water and solid waste management were also discussed...Medical treatment of sick detainees with a particular emphasis in mental illness and diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS were also largely developed." The ICRC regularly visits prisoners in Ethiopian jails across the country. This year alone it has carried out more than 160 visits to 128 detention centres. [14a]

The Military

Military Service

5.111 War Resisters International (1998) stated that, "There is no compulsory military service in Ethiopia...enlistment is on a voluntary basis". [19] (p113) Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "The size of the army increased sharply between 1998 and 2000 after hostilities broke out between Ethiopia and Eritrea in May 1998...However, following the signing of the peace accord between the two countries in December 2000, the Ethiopian Government commenced a major demobilization programme, and by early 2003 there remained only about 156,000 in the Ethiopian armed forces". [1a] (p412)

5.112 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2001 noted that, "The expansion of the military to approximately 285,000 to 300,000 personnel in 2000 aided greatly in the goal of bringing more ethnic groups into the military. By most accounts, the military is an ethnically diverse organization with very little friction between the various groups represented, at least in the lower ranks. At the higher ranks the officer personnel is much less ethnically diverse. Promotions awarded in 2000 were disproportionately high among the Tigrayan ethnic group, although promotions were given to officers from a range of ethnic groups; Oromos were represented among those promoted in higher numbers than the previous year". [3b] (p21)

5.113 The 2003 US Report confirmed this situation stating that, "The military remained an ethnically diverse organization; however, diversity was less common in the higher ranks among officer personnel, which was dominated by the TPLF". [3e] (p23)

Child Soldiers

5.114 Child Soldiers in its 2001 report on Ethiopia stated that, "There is no system of verifying age in Ethiopia, which is left to recruitment officers to determine and leaves minors at a high risk. There have been credible reports that thousands of children have been forcibly recruited into the Ethiopian army, particularly during the build-up to a major offensive in May 2000". [32] (p1) The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "Scarce birth certificates, poor educational opportunities, patriotism, and pervasive poverty encouraged underage applicants to try to circumvent restrictions on underage soldiers. If a unit commander suspected but could not prove that a soldier was underage, he could transfer the soldier from a front-line combat unit to a rear-area command. There were no reports of children joining local militias during the year". [3a] (p25)

5.115 IRIN news on 27 March 2002 reported that, "A special representative for the United Nations has said that, during a recent visit to Eritrea and Ethiopia, he saw no systematic use of child soldiers and found no evidence of child abuse in refugee camps...[this was] particularly impressive, 'since no other conflict zone he had visited recently had been free of the problem'...He attributed [this]...to the control exercised by local authorities and communities. According to Otunnu, local people both organised and monitored life in the camps and distributed provisions, while the international community and national nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) provided support for their activities". [14]

Medical Services

General Situation

5.116 Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) in a report updated 9 January 2004 noted that, "Frequent epidemics are compounded by food security problems...While responding to increasing nutritional needs in some areas, MSF also spoke out about problems with the emergency response system, pointing out that while emergency relief is critical, it is not a long-term solution". [25a] (p1) The British Embassy in a letter dated 22 January 2003 noted that, "Only 52% of the population has access to medical service. 51.5% of children get vaccination and only 34.1% of pregnant women get medical treatment during pregnancy. It is said that 85% of females living in rural areas who need to use family planning cannot get access to it". [53]

5.117 The British Embassy in a letter dated 22 May 2001 noted that all appropriate drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis are available throughout the country. No treatment for Hepatitis B is available. [29] The British Embassy in a letter dated 13 March 2001 noted that treatment for diabetes is now available in Addis Ababa. [17] The British Embassy in a letter dated 19 February 2004 noted that chemotherapy is available in Ethiopia, as is radiotherapy but only from one health centre in Addis Ababa. [52]

5.118 People to People in a report dated 3 August 2002 stated that, "Medical training in Ethiopia are offered at three major centres. The country's oldest medical school is located in the nation's capital city, Addis Ababa". The other two main centres are the Gondar Medical School and the Jimma Institute for Health Sciences. As of August 2002 it is estimated that there are 1,483 physicians and 4,114 nurses in the country. That breaks down to around one physician for every 40,000 persons, and one nurse for every 14,000. There are approximately 87 hospitals with 11,685 beds, 257 health centres and 196 private clinics in Ethiopia". [27]

5.119 A statistical survey produced in 1997 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the level of medical services ranked Ethiopia 182 out of a total of 191 countries. [16a] A report issued in June 2000 by the WHO on life expectancy placed Ethiopia in the bottom 10 out of 191 for life expectancy with a figure of 33.5 years, attributing this to the level of HIV/AIDS in the country. [16b] This is a reduction from the UN estimate in 1990-95, which was 47.5 years. The WHO figure for the HIV/AIDS in the adult population at the end of 1999 was over 10%. [16c]

5.120 The BBC in an article dated 22 June 2001 noted that treatment for the mentally sick is limited. "There is only one institution for the mentally sick in the country. Amanuel Mental hospital caters for patients with disorders like schizophrenia, major depression and anxiety". This institution has 356 beds, all of which are constantly occupied, and there are ten qualified trained psychiatrists in the country. The Ministry of Health, with assistance from the WHO, has trained 176 psychiatric nurses who work in 226 regional centres throughout the country. [4k] (p1-2)

5.121 IRIN news on 17 April 2001 noted that, "the Ministry of Health has said that 86 percent of people suffering from leprosy in Ethiopia have been completing medical treatment course successfully...There had been a recent rise in the numbers [of]

patients conforming to proper treatment...Ethiopia has been carrying out leprosy awareness programmes with the aim of addressing misconceptions about leprosy...2,548 lepers registered over the last six months were receiving medical treatment". [14d]

5.122 IRIN news stated in August 2003 that, "Ethiopia is to build its first ever state of the art cardiac centre to tackle 'rampant' heart disease in the country. Dr Belay Abegazm the country's only paediatric heart surgeon, told IRIN on Monday that the first operations could begin as early as next year. Heart disease is a major killer in Ethiopia and is compounded by massive overcrowding in urban centres. Dr Belay estimated that as many as 200,000 new cases of heart disease occur each year in the country...There are currently less than 10 surgeons who can perform heart operations in the country – and Dr Belay is the only doctor able to operate on children. He said the centre, which is being supported by Addis Ababa University, would also act as a training institute and at least one or two operations could be carried out a day". [14ae]

5.123 Medecins sans Frontieres in a report dated 1 December 2003 stated that, "MSF has been working in Tach Armachaho for the past year treating Kala Azar, a little known disease that is endemic in this area. An initial analysis in Abdurafi and Abrihigira shows that the trigger for the current crisis is likely to have been the lack of access by road to these areas in combination with a lack of monitoring by the Ethiopian government for a relatively small population of 3,000 settlers the majority of which are adults. In recent days there have been three confirmed cases of Kala Azar among the non-immune settler population. This is a worrying sign given the high fatality rate of the disease if not treated and the lack of preparation by the government to treat and diagnose the disease". [25b] (p1-2)

5.124 Orbis, an organisation dedicated to saving sight worldwide, stated in an overview of Ethiopia (dated 27 November 2003) that, "Ethiopia has a population close to 67 million and an estimated blindness prevalence rate of 1.5% (1,005,000); almost double that of other developing nations. A further 3 million Ethiopians are believed to be visually impaired. Currently, there are approximately 67 ophthalmologists in Ethiopia. However, 70% of these work in Addis Ababa with only one ophthalmologist for every 4-6 million people in the rural areas, where 85% of the population lives...ORBIS programmes strive to raise the level and quality of eye care services by improving the training of the country's ophthalmic workers and to build on the support of the government. ORBIS Ethiopia was established in 1998 and has since then conducted a series of successful and award-winning projects". [54a]

5.125 Furthermore IRIN news stated on 16 July 2003 that, "One of Africa's first ever eye banks has opened in Ethiopia - potentially bringing relief to thousands of blind people in the country. Medical director Dr Yonas Tilahun told IRIN on Wednesday that the bank will enable simple and affordable operations to help tackle preventable blindness in the country...Patients at the hospital have to pay for the treatment – around US \$18 – although the hospital is looking at cutting the cost completely". [14an]

HIV/AIDS

5.126 A USAID brief dated July 2002 stated that, "According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), approximately 3.2 million Ethiopians are living with HIV/AIDS, though the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimated a total of 2.1 million at the end of 2001, with an adult prevalence of 6.4 percent...According to the MOH, sexual contact and perinatal transmission are the predominant modes of HIV transmission. Currently, 87 percent of all HIV/AIDS infections result from heterosexual transmission. [35] (p1)

5.127 The report further noted that, "As of October 1997, men comprised about 61 percent of reported AIDS cases. HIV prevalence among pregnant women in Addis Ababa increased from 5 percent in 1989 to 18 percent in 1997...As of 2001, about 200,000 children under age 15 were living with HIV/AIDS. Reversing years of progress in child survival, AIDS increased Ethiopia's infant mortality rate by 7 percent from 1995 to 2000. According to the MOH, as of December 2001, an estimated 1 million Ethiopian children had been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS". [35] (p1)

5.128 The report added that, "Ethiopia adopted a comprehensive HIV/AIDS policy in 1998 to emphasise prevention, care, and support, and target vulnerable groups. The plan has been updated for the 2000 - 2004 period through the Strategic Framework for the National Response to HIV/AIDS. The overall goals of the policy and framework are to reduce HIV transmission; reduce associated morbidity and mortality; and reduce burdens on individuals, families, and society at large". [35] (p2)

5.129 A USAID brief dated July 2002 stated that, "The National AIDS Council, established in April 2000, includes government members, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and religious bodies. The Council has seven standing committees and implements national policy through 10 general strategies, the most important of which include: information, education, and communication activities; STD prevention and control; HIV testing and screening; adoption of proper sterilisation and disinfection procedures; HIV surveillance, notification, and reporting; and provision of medical care and psychological support to those affected by HIV/AIDS". [35] (p2)

5.130 The report further noted that "USAID provided \$8.2 million in HIV/AIDS assistance to Ethiopia in 2001, up from \$7.6 million in 2000". [35] (p2)

5.131 IRIN news reported on 4 August 2003 that, "Although the cost of the [ARV] drugs has dropped dramatically in recent years – in Ethiopia the monthly cost is around US \$40 per person – they are still out of the reach of most. The Government is looking at two ways of ensuring greater supply and reducing the cost – by financial support from the Global Fund and through generic drugs". [14a]

5.132 IRIN news further reported on 29 January 2004 that, "The international medical relief organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Tigray Regional Health Bureau this week launched the first programme of free anti-retrovirals (ARVs) for the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients in Ethiopia...The first 13 patients at the Kahsay Abera hospital in the northwestern town of Humera had started receiving their ARVs, it said. The statement noted that the new ARV programme was a component of the commitment by the government and MSF to increase the

availability of ARVs for patients in need of them...To be selected, patients had to be able to understand and have the ability to follow the medical instructions. The patients have also undergone an extensive pre-treatment counselling period". [14ah]

The Disabled

5.133 The US Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "There were approximately 6 million persons with disabilities in the country, according to local NGOs. The conflict with Eritrea resulted in numerous soldiers losing limbs, many from landmine explosions. Wheelchairs were not widely available throughout the country. Although there were approximately 800,000 persons with mental disabilities, there was only 1 mental hospital and only approximately 10 psychiatrists in the country. There were approximately 70 NGOs that worked with persons with disabilities". [3e] (p22)

5.134 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The law mandates equal rights for persons with disabilities; however, the Government had no established mechanisms to enforce these rights. Persons with minor disabilities sometimes complained of job discrimination. The Government did not mandate access to buildings or require government services for persons with disabilities. Although the Constitution provides for rehabilitation and assistance to persons with physical and mental disabilities, the Government devoted few resources to these purposes". [3e] (p22)

5.135 The Ethiopian News Agency reported on 17 October 2003 that the advisor on Disability and Development to the World Bank, Judith E. Heumann, said that she observed that the disabled enjoy the rights to be organised and the attention given to address their multi-faceted problems. However despite a general improvement she had found certain disabled children living at Cheshire Home have no access to education at all. [55a]

5.136 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The Amhara Development Association provided vocational training to war veterans with disabilities in Bahir Dar. The Tigray Development Association operated a center in Mekelle that provided prostheses and seed money for business development, training, and counseling for persons with disabilities. The international NGO Landmine Survivors provided a number of services to victims of landmine explosions, including counseling and referrals to rehabilitation services". [3e] (p22)

5.137 The ICRC reported on 27 September 2001 that one of their projects called Patient Support Services (PSS) was also a contributor to the war-disabled of Ethiopia. With an investment of \$530,000 they have managed to provide not only prosthetic limbs but also help in transport and associated needs. From September 2000 until September 2001 PSS have helped more than 2,000 war-disabled. [13b]

Education

5.138 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "Education in Ethiopia is available free of charge, and, after a rapid growth in number of schools, it became compulsory between the ages of seven and 13 years. Since 1976 most primary and

secondary schools have been controlled by local peasant associations and urban dwellers' associations. Primary education begins at seven years of age and lasts for eight years. Secondary education, beginning at 15 years of age lasts for a further four years, comprising two cycles of two years, the second of which provides preparatory education for entry to the tertiary level. In 2000/01 total enrolment at primary schools included 47% of children in the appropriate age-group (53% of boys; 41% of girls); according to UNESCO estimates, enrolment at secondary schools included 13% (15% of boys; 10% of girls) of children in the relevant age group". [1a] (p432)

5.139 UNICEF state that in 2000, 47% of male adults (over 15) could read and write. For female adults this figure dipped to 31%. [46] However the US Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "The literacy rate, according to the 2001 Child Labor Survey released during the year by the Central Statistical Authority, was 31.3 percent, and only 20.6 percent of women were literate compared with 42.7 percent of men". [3e] (p21)

5.140 Africa South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that, "There are 21 institutions of higher education in Ethiopia, with a total of 67,682 enrolled students in 1999/2000. There is a considerable shortage of qualified teachers, which is particularly acute in secondary schools, which rely heavily on expatriate staff. The 1999/2000 budget allocated an estimated 11.3% (2,304m. birr) of total expenditure to education". [1a] (p432)

5.141 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "By law, primary education is tuition-free; however, despite efforts by the Government to increase the number of schools, there were not enough schools to accommodate the country's youth, particularly in rural areas. The Government used a three-shift system in most primary and secondary schools in urban areas to maximize the utilization of classrooms and to provide an opportunity for working children to attend school. During the year, approximately 43 percent of primary and 70 percent of secondary schools operated in two shifts to maximize the utilization of classrooms. Only 74.6 percent of male primary school-age children and 53.8 percent of female primary school-age children attended school. Girls attended school in fewer numbers than boys, except in Addis Ababa, where girls' attendance was slightly higher at 52.9 percent. Government reports showed that 28.7 percent of the children who attended school left the system before they reached the second grade. Only 25 percent of children who began first grade completed eighth grade". [3e] (p21)

5.142 The report goes on to note that, "Students planning to attend university continued to study for 2 additional years in what was a pre-university program (grades 11-12). Students not admitted to a university were able to enroll in a 2-year program of vocational training. Students in grade 12 take the Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Certificate Exam (EHEECE). Opportunities to study in institutions of higher learning remained competitive. During the 2002-03 academic year, approximately 25,000 students of the 28,000 who took the EHEECE were assigned to different government universities". [3e] (p21)

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6. Human Rights

6a. Human Rights : Issues

General

6.1 The 1994 Constitution gives prominence to, and guarantees respect for, human rights. [9] (p3) However the US State Department report on Human Rights for 2003 noted that, "The Government's human rights record remained poor; although there were some improvements in a few areas, serious problems remained. Security forces committed a number of unlawful killings and at times beat, tortured, and mistreated detainees. Prison conditions remained poor. The Government continued to arrest and detain persons arbitrarily, particularly those suspected of sympathizing with or being members of the OLF. Thousands of suspects remained in detention without charge, and lengthy pretrial detention continued to be a problem. The Government sometimes infringed on citizens' privacy rights, and the law regarding search warrants was often ignored". [3e] (p1)

6.2 The Constitution provides for freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary. [9] (p10 & 31) In practice the US State department report noted that "The Government restricted freedom of the press and continued to detain or imprison members of the press". [3e] (p1)

6.3 In the view of Human Rights Watch report dated 2003, "Human rights conditions in Ethiopia did not perceptibly improve in 2002. In southern Ethiopia they significantly worsened: police shot into groups of civilians and conducted mass arrests. Arbitrary arrests, however, were not confined to the south. Those who were arrested were subjected to prison conditions that did not meet international standards and some prisoners, particularly in Oromiya regional state, were tortured". [8c] (p1) Amnesty International in its 2003 report noted that "Torture of political prisoners, particularly those accused of links with armed opposition groups, continued to be frequently reported. Several women accused of involvement with such groups were reportedly raped". [6a] (p3) In the view of Human Rights Watch report dated 2003, "Courts rarely intervened to stop human rights abuses, parliament not at all. The print media was allowed to publish but was frequently harassed. The ruling coalition Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi maintained a firm grip over the federal and state governments. Local elections were subject to intimidation and fraud. The EPRDF also continued to exert control over the judiciary". [8c] (p1) However Amnesty International did note that in August 2002 "A regional court in Awassa ordered police to stop the beating of prisoners held in connection with the May demonstration". [6a] (p3)

Freedom of Speech and the Media

Overview of the Ethiopian Media

6.4 The Constitution and the 1992 Press Law provides for freedom of speech and of

the press. [3] (p9-10) However the US State Department report 2003 observed that, "The Government continued to prosecute journalists and editors for violating the press law. The Government controlled all broadcast media. Some private and government journalists practiced self-censorship. Nonetheless, the private press remained active and often published articles that were extremely critical of the Government". [3e] (p10)

6.5 The US report goes on to state that, "Foreign journalists continued to operate freely and often wrote articles critical of government policies. They or their local affiliates were often granted greater access to government officials than were local independent journalists. Several foreign news organizations maintained bureaus or offices in Addis Ababa; the majority of these were staffed with local journalists, and they usually operated free of government restriction". [3e] (p11)

6.6 The BBC, in its Country Profile on Ethiopia (updated 13 February 2004), noted that "The state controls radio and television, but the print and electronic media have seen dramatic changes since Mengistu's demise. Deregulation has been on the cards for some years but potential radio and TV broadcasters still await the green light to apply for licences. A number of opposition groups beam radio broadcasts to Ethiopia, using hired short-wave transmitters". [4a] (p2)

Newspapers & Journals

6.7 The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) observed in its 2000 report that, "Journalism in Ethiopia is regulated by Press Proclamation No.34/1992, under which journalists can be jailed on vague charges such as criminal defamation, incitement to violence, or spreading false information". [23e] (p1)

6.8 Human Rights Watch noted that in 2003 four "Journalists were arrested and released on bail and another Ethiop journalist, Araya Tesfa Mariam, was attacked and seriously injured by three men in federal police uniforms". [3d] (p1)

6.9 The US State Department report 2002 noted that, "There were a total of 81 newspapers, 22 magazines, and 2 news agencies. Out of the total number of newspapers, there were approximately 34 private Amharic-language weekly newspapers, 7 English-language weeklies, and 1 English-language daily. Circulation figures ranged from 2,000 to 20,000 copies each. In addition to the private press, there were 3 ruling party coalition papers, in Amharic, Oromifa, and Tigrigna, which had a total circulation figure of approximately 70,000. There were 2 government dailies, the English-language Ethiopian Herald (circulation 40,000) and the Amharic Addis Zemen (circulation 50,000), and a government Arabic-language weekly, Al-Alam (circulation 10,000)". [3a] (p111)

6.10 The BBC in its Country Profiles updated in February 2004 states that the weekly Addis Tribune is now available on the internet. "The Walta website also hosts a few pro-government English-language newspapers. The private press offers quite different reporting to the state-owned newspapers and is often critical of the Government. The relationship between the press and the authorities has sometimes been uneasy and media rights organisations have expressed concern about the jailing of journalists". [4a] (p2)

6.11 According to the BBC Country Profile (2004) the Ethiopian Press consists of the following:

Addis Tribune - privately-owned English-language Addis Ababa weekly
Addis Zemen - state-owned Addis Ababa daily
Atkurot - privately-owned Addis Ababa weekly
Efoyta - privately-owned Addis Ababa weekly
Ilete Addis - privately-owned Addis Ababa daily
Mahlet - privately-owned Addis Ababa weekly
Seifenebelbal - privately-owned Addis Ababa weekly
Tobyä - privately-owned Addis Ababa weekly
Tomar - privately-owned Addis Ababa weekly
Wonchif - privately-owned Addis Ababa weekly

[4a] (p2)

6.12 The Committee to Protect Journalists in its 2002 report noted that "In July [2002], a CPJ delegation conducted a five-day fact-finding mission to Ethiopia, which revealed that the government was planning undisclosed changes to its 10-year-old press law. While Information Minister Bereket Simon told CPJ that the new law would promote 'constructive and responsible journalism,' journalists argued that the statutes would lead to a crackdown and drive many media outlets out of business". [23a] (p1) Human Rights Watch in its 2004 report stated that "A proposed new press law would tighten government oversight of private newspapers, despite some modifications. In October [2003], the minister of information, the bill's principal author, accused the Ethiopian Free Journalists Association (EFJA) of undermining 'responsible journalism' by opposing the bill. Less than a month later, the ministry of justice suspended EFJA's registration for allegedly failing to submit required annual audits". [8d] (p1)

6.13 According to IRIN news in January 2004 the Justice Ministry banned the EFJA "because it had failed to meet its legal obligation to register with the ministry. It said the ban had been imposed because the EFJA had been operating illegally by failing to renew its annual operating licence for the last three years...The EFJA, which was established 1993, but only granted its government licence three years ago, claims to fight for the rights of the independent press in Ethiopia. However, it has been drawing criticism from journalists working for the private press for its 'weak leadership'. Critics also argue that it has become 'over-politicised'". [14a] (p1)

6.14 IRIN stated in a further report dated 13 February 2004 that, "the EFJA was banned, and its leadership overthrown by its own members last month during a meeting organised by the justice ministry...the new leaders of EFJA elected during the government-held meeting also insist the old organisation had become too politicised and was failing to help journalists...HRW is the latest of a series of organisations to have condemned the decision to ban EFJA and replace its leadership. Some 14 advocacy and media associations criticised the decision last month, including the International Federation of Journalists and ARTICLE 19". [14f] (p1)

Television & Radio

6.15 The US State Department report 2003 noted that, "Radio remained the most influential medium for reaching citizens, particularly those who live in rural areas. Although the law allows for private radio stations, a regulatory mechanism was not in place, and there were no independent radio stations. The two nongovernmental stations, Radio Fana, a station controlled by the ruling EPRDF coalition, and the TPLF radio, which broadcast in the Tigrigna language from Mekele, had close ties to the Government. [3e] (p11)

6.16 The report further noted that, "There were no restrictions on access to international news broadcasts. Ownership of private satellite receiving dishes and the importation of facsimile machines and modems were permitted; however, access to this technology was limited by its cost and the limited capacity of the Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation... Internet access was provided through the government-controlled Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation, which maintained a waiting list for new accounts. No private Internet service providers were operating at year's end [2003]. Private satellite transmission uplinks were not allowed". [3e] (p11-13)

6.17 According to the BBC Country Profile (2004) the known Radio stations in Ethiopia are:

Radio Ethiopia - state-owned, operates National Service and External Service

Radio Fana – owned by ruling party

Voice of Peace - Addis Ababa-based, UNICEF-funded station broadcasting to Somalia

Voice of Tigray Revolution - Tigray Regional State government radio

[4a] (p2)

Television:

Ethiopian Television (ETV) - state-owned

[4a] (p2)

News agencies:

Walta Information Centre (WIC) - privately-owned, pro-government

Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) - state-owned

[4a] (p2)

Recent Experience

6.18 The US State Department report 2002 noted that, "In January [2002] the Ethiopian Broadcasting Agency, created in 1999 to review applications for private radio and television licenses, started recruiting staff and organizing the office, but did not start issuing broadcast licenses. In January [2002] the Addis Broadcasting Company acquired a business license from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, but it was unable to start any radio or television broadcasting until licensed by the Ethiopian Broadcasting Agency. Private entities that would like to be broadcasters continued to claim that the delay in implementing the broadcast law was deliberate". [3a] (p13) The US State Department report 2003 confirmed that, "By year's end [2003], the Ethiopian Broadcasting Agency (EBA) had not started issuing broadcast licenses". [3e] (p11)

19 The report further noted that, "The Government prohibited political parties and religious organizations from owning stations; foreign ownership also was prohibited". [37a] (p13) However the Financial Times in March 2002 reported that the BBC may be involved in the broadcasting process. [37a] (p1-2) The US State Department report 2003 noted that the "Official media received government subsidies; however, they legally were autonomous and responsible for their own management and partial revenue generation". [36] (p12) The Financial Times in March 2002 reported that, "Only four countries in Africa namely Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Zimbabwe, have yet to regulate their media". [37a] (p1)

20 Human Rights Watch (HRW) in its 2003 report observed that, "In July [2002], the former editor of a weekly newspaper was sentenced to two years of imprisonment for defamation and disseminating false information. Early in 2002, the Government released another journalist on U.S.\$2,000 bail after ten months of incarceration. He had been accused of inciting violence after he had written articles about mismanagement at a Government-owned tannery and about a former general's prediction of the Government's imminent overthrow. Other journalists were also briefly detained and then released on bail for articles they had written. In March 2002, one was fined U.S.\$1,400 for a 1997 article quoting a speech given in the United States in which the American speaker asserted that the present Ethiopian Government was as bad as the Derg. In each case, the Government invoked a Derg-era press law making defamation, the publication of false information, and incitement criminal offences". [8c] (p3-4)

21 HRW goes on to state that, "The editor of the only newspaper in Tigray State was arrested in December 2001. After a state court ordered her release and dismissed the criminal charges she closed the newspaper and fled the country. The Addis Ababa private print media had no circulation outside the capital, as a result of transportation problems but also partly because of intimidation by local authorities that regarded the possession of non-Government newspapers with suspicion. The Government owned the only television and all radio stations except for one FM station owned by the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF), the lead political party in the Government coalition. Although the Government periodically stated that it would permit others to enter broadcasting, implementing legislation has remained stalled". [8c] (p4)

Freedom of Religion

Overview

22 The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, including the right of conversion. [39] The US State Department report 2003 noted that, "The Government generally respected this right in practice; however, on occasion local authorities infringed on the right... The Government required that religious groups be registered. Religious institutions register with the Ministry of Justice and must renew their registration every year... Under the law, a religious organization that undertakes development activities must register its development wing separately as an NGO. Religious groups were given free government land for churches, schools, hospitals, and

cemeteries; however, the title to the land remained with the Government, and the land, other than that used for prayer houses or cemeteries, could be taken back at any time". [3e] (p15)

6.23 The US report further noted that, "Minority religious groups complained of discrimination in the allocation of government land for religious sites. Protestant groups occasionally reported that local officials discriminated against them when seeking land for churches and cemeteries. Evangelical leaders complained that because they were perceived as "newcomers" they remained at a disadvantage compared with the EOC [Ethiopian Orthodox Church] and the EIASC [Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council] in the allocation of land. The EIASC reported that it had more difficulty obtaining land from the government bureaucracy than the EOC while others believed that it was favored for mosque locations. Many mosques were built by squatters without city government approval and since have been targeted for demolition". [3e] (p15)

6.24 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "The generally amicable relationship among religions in society contributed to religious freedom; however, interreligious tension and criticism increased between followers of evangelical and Pentecostal churches, on the one hand, and Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, on the other". [3d] (p1)

6.25 The US report further noted that, "The Constitution requires the separation of religion and the state and prohibits a state religion, and the Government respects these rights in practice". [3d] (p2)

6.26 Moreover the US 2003 report on Religious Freedom observed that, "Approximately 40 to 45 percent of the population adhere to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC); however, the EOC claims 50 percent of the country's total population, or more than 31 million adherents, and 110,450 churches. The EOC is predominant in the northern regions of Tigray and Amhara. Approximately 45 percent of the population is Muslim, although many Muslims claim that the actual percentage is higher. Islam is most prevalent in the Somali and Afar regions, as well as in parts of Oromia. Evangelical and Pentecostal Protestantism are the fastest growing faiths and constitute approximately 10 percent of the population. According to the Evangelical Church Fellowship, there are 7.4 million Protestants, although this figure may be a high estimate. Established Protestant churches such as Mekane Yesus and Kale Hiwot are strongest in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Regional State (SNNPRS), western and central Oromia, and in urban areas around the country. There are more than 6,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in the country. Oriental Rite and Latin Rite Roman Catholics, Jews, animists, and other practitioners of traditional indigenous religions make up most of the remaining population. There are very few atheists. Although precise data is not available, active participation in religious services is high throughout the country". [3d] (p1)

6.27 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "The Government requires that religious groups be registered. Religious institutions, like non-governmental organisations (NGO's), are registered with the Ministry of Justice, and must renew their registration every year. Unlike NGO's, religious groups are not subject to a rigorous registration process. Under current law, a religious organisation

that undertakes development activities must register its development wing separately as an NGO". [3d] (p2)

6.28 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom stated that, "The Government officially recognises both Christian and Muslim holidays, and has mandated a 2-hour lunch break on Fridays to allow Muslims to go to a mosque to pray. The Government has also agreed to a request from Muslim students at Addis Ababa Commercial College to delay the start of afternoon classes until 1:30 p.m. to permit them to perform afternoon prayers at a nearby mosque". [3d] (p2) The report goes on to note that, "In most sections of the country Orthodox Christians and Muslims participate in each other's religious observances, and there is tolerance for intermarriage and conversion in certain areas, most notably in Welo, as well as in urban areas throughout the country. In the capital, Addis Ababa, persons of different faiths often live side-by-side. Most urban areas reflect a mixture of all religious denominations. The Roman Catholic Church and evangelical Protestant denominations, particularly the Mekane Yesus Church and Kale Hiwot Churches, provided social services such as health care and education to nonmembers as well as to members". [3d] (p4)

6.29 According to the US 2003 report on Religious Freedom, "The Government has interpreted the constitutional provision for separation of religion and state to mean that religious instruction is not permitted in schools, whether they are public or private schools. Catholic, Orthodox, evangelical, and Muslim-owned and operated schools are not permitted to teach religion as a course of study. Most private schools teach morals courses as part of school curricula, and the Government Education Bureau in Addis Ababa has complained that such courses are not free of religious influence. Churches are permitted to have Sunday schools, the Koran is taught at mosques, and public schools permit the formation of clubs, including those of a religious nature". [3d] (p3)

6.30 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "The generally amicable relationship among religions in society contributed to religious freedom; however, open conflict among religious groups increased during the period covered by this report [1 July 2002, to 30 June 2003]. These occurred most noticeably between Ethiopian Orthodox Christians and evangelical Protestants, and between Ethiopian Orthodox Christians and Muslims. In addition there continued to be pockets of interreligious tension and criticism among some religious groups. For example, members of newer faiths, such as Pentecostals and Jehovah's Witnesses, have encountered overt opposition from the public. Muslims and Orthodox Christians complain about proselytization by Pentecostals and Jehovah's Witnesses. Ethiopian Orthodox leaders complain that sometimes Protestants fail to respect Orthodox holy days and Orthodox customs. Muslims complain that some Pentecostal preachers disparage Islam in their services. There were complaints by Muslim leaders that the EOC's desire to "show supremacy" sometimes caused irritation in the regions". [3d] (p3-4)

Ethiopian Orthodox Church

6.31 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "Approximately 40 to 45 percent of the population adhere to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC); however, the EOC claims 50 percent of the country's total population, or more than 31 million

adherents, and 110,450 churches. The EOC is predominant in the northern regions of Tigray and Amhara". [3d] (p1)

6.32 IRIN news reported on 23 January 2003 that there were reports of clashes between police and demonstrators at Addis Ababa's Lideta Mariam Orthodox Church on 26 December 2002. "These clashes were sparked by a dispute between the Church of Lideta Mariam and the Addis Ababa Diocese. The community has been resisting attempts by the office of the Patriarch to appoint a church administrator". [14y]

6.33 Amnesty International reported on 10 January 2003 that the protestors demonstrated outside the Lideta church and the leader of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is reported to have called on the Ethiopian government to take forceful measures against the demonstrators. "The following day scores of people were beaten up and 36 people were arrested by the Federal Police Special Force. They were taken to the Federal Police Special Force camp of Kolfe. Seventeen of those arrested were taken to Woreda 22 police station near the Lideta Church. Those arrested were reportedly ill treated by the police while in custody". [6e]

6.34 The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) reported that the demonstrators were forced to plunge fully clothed into a barrel of cold water. Deacons from the church who were arrested had their heads shaved and were forced to sleep in the open. Others were forced to sleep on gravel and run barefoot on stone grounds or walk along a road on their knees. [14y] [50a] (p4)

6.35 IRIN news reported on 23 January 2003 that, "The dispute between Lideta Mariam Church community and the Patriarch's office has been going on for more than two years, despite the secular court of the church ordering the Lideta community to accept the appointee". The report further mentions that, "EHRCO [Ethiopian Human Rights Council] called on both the Ethiopian Patriarch Abune Paulos – who heads the 25 million strong Ethiopian Orthodox Church – and the federal authorities to try to resolve the issue". [14y]

6.36 On 19 November 2003 the British Embassy Addis Ababa that, "Once the conflict subsided, it seemed that no one remained concerned about the issue...both the federal and the Addis Ababa police had completely dropped the case. There are presently no detainees related to this case. Also patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Abune Paulos, in his October 2003 interview with a locally published magazine, Infotainment, said, 'With God's help and the wisdom of our people everything is back to normal. We have brought back those who used to serve at the church except those who were unwilling on their own choice. But still I do not know if there were individuals saying 'no' to our call. There is no report I received regarding this matter. I have also issued order not to force anyone to serve at the church without his will. Therefore, the situation is now calm and back to normal. We are working day and night to compensate the time squandered during the dispute. The clergy had also come to apologise to me more than two or three times and I was grateful for that and have sent them back to their duties'...no legal measures have been taken against those responsible for the violation of the rights and the clergy and the laity. Apparently no one among the victims was compensated either". [31]

Protestants

6.37 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "Evangelical and Pentecostal Protestantism are the fastest growing faiths and constitute approximately 10 percent of the population. According to the Evangelical Church Fellowship, there are 7.4 million Protestants, although this figure may be a high estimate. Established Protestant churches such as Mekane Yesus and Kale Hiwot are strongest in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Regional State (SNNPRS), western and central Oromia, and in urban areas around the country". [34] (p1)

6.38 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom stated that, "On December 29, 2002, Orthodox followers clashed with Mekane Yesus Protestant followers in Mekelle, Tigray region. Mekane Yesus Orthodox followers were in the third day of a 3-day open-air prayer service at Mekelle stadium for drought victims. Orthodox religious services underway at nearby St. George Church involved the use of loudspeakers (a common practice of Ethiopian Orthodox, Protestant, and Muslim preachers alike) apparently disturbing the Protestant service. A visit by a Mekane Yesus pastor to St. George Church asking them to lower the noise level was unsuccessful. That afternoon, Orthodox followers approached the stadium and began throwing rocks at Mekane Yesus followers taking part in the service. Regional police arrived on the scene but were unable to control the crowd, even after firing shots in the air. Those shots, when heard by others in the surrounding area, caused the crowd to swell. Police shot and killed two men on the spot. Police severely beat a third man, who died 3 days later in a hospital. Several hundred people were wounded in the fighting. Police detained dozens of individuals, all of whom were released a few days after the incident. The violence took on a political nature when the offices of the ruling party-owned Walta Information Center and the Ethiopian News Agency came under attack. Orthodox crowd members also smashed the windows of buildings in the Jehovah Witnesses' compound in Mekelle. No punitive action has been taken against the police officers responsible for the deaths of the three individuals". [34] (p4)

Islam

6.39 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "Approximately 45 percent of the population is Muslim, although many Muslims claim that the actual percentage is higher. Islam is most prevalent in the Somali and Afar regions, as well as in parts of Oromia". [34] (p1)

6.40 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "While some Muslim leaders continued to complain that public school authorities sometimes interfered with their free practice of Islam because they prohibited the wearing of headscarves in school, others accepted that school officials do so to keep better track of their students. Certain public school teachers in the SNNPRS, Addis Ababa, and the Amhara region objected to Muslim schoolgirls covering their heads with scarves while at school. According to Muslim leaders, school officials negatively react to the practice of fully covering the face and hands of female students. Muslim leaders stated that in some schools, Muslim girls go without head coverings in order to avoid

similar problems". [3d] (p2)

6.41 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "Leaders of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council (EIASC) struggled with Wahhabist fundamentalism within their ranks during the period covered by this report [1 July 2002, to 30 June 2003]. The growing influence of radical elements within Islamic communities in the country, aided by funding from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states for mosque construction and social services, continued to concern the EIASC". [3d] (p5)

6.42 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom stated that, "On April 26 [2003], on the evening of Ethiopian Orthodox Holy Saturday, Ethiopian Orthodox Christians in the District 28, Ward 4 area of Addis Ababa attacked members of the local Islamic council and destroyed a fence surrounding a plot of land upon which a mosque was to be built. Several persons were injured; at least one Islamic council member was hospitalized for several weeks. Fighting continued for three nights but paused during daytime hours. Police initially reported to the scene of the fighting but left after not witnessing any fighting during daytime hours". [3d] (p4)

6.43 Furthermore the report added that, "On January 13 [2003], a confrontation erupted in the Merkato area of Addis Ababa between Muslims and city officials who had come to demolish an illegally constructed mosque. Muslims defied the authorities' right to tear down the mosque and threw rocks at city and police officials. Police fired into the air, but there were no reported deaths. Police seriously beat at least one man. City officials demolished the mosque and had plans to carry out other demolitions of illegally constructed mosques around the city". [3d] (p4)

Jehovah's Witnesses

6.44 The US 2002 report on Human Rights noted that, "There were more than 6,000 members of Jehovah's Witnesses in the country. The Government continued its policy of not deporting members of Jehovah's Witnesses of Eritrean origin, who might face religious repression in Eritrea". [3a] (p16) (See [Eritreans in Ethiopia](#)).

Ethiopian Jews

6.45 The US 2003 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "In Addis Ababa and western Gondar, in the Amhara region, there are very small concentrations of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) and those who claim that their ancestors were forced to convert from Judaism to Ethiopian Orthodoxy (Feles Mora)". [3d] (p1) The US 2002 report on Human Rights noted that, "Many Feles Mora immigrated to Israel; the Government did not restrict their ability to do so. Israeli Embassy officials reported that all eligible Feles Moras were processed for immigration to Israel. Approximately 17,000 Feles Mora remained in the country awaiting immigration at year's end [2002]". [3a] (p17)

6.46 The US 2002 report on Religious Freedom noted that, "Approximately 3,000 Feles Mora migrated voluntarily from the western Amhara region to Addis Ababa in 1991 at the time of "Operation Solomon," when a large number of Falashas were airlifted to Israel". [3c] (p1)

6.47 The BBC in a report dated 8 January 2004 stated that, "The Israeli Government are to start moving more than 18,000 Ethiopian Jews to the Middle East, says Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom....however, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, speaking alongside Mr Shalom, said a mass migration was not needed as Ethiopians were free to travel wherever they wished". [4d] (see **Ethnic Minorities**).

Freedom of Assembly and Association

6.48 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "The Constitution provides for freedom of assembly; however, on several occasions the Government restricted this right in practice. Organizers of large public meetings or demonstrations must notify the Government in advance and obtain a permit. There were several reports during the year [2003] that permits were denied to opposition parties. Opposition parties also reported long, unexplained delays by the Government in issuing permits and last minute revocations of permits, which hindered the ability of groups to organize events". [3e] (p14)

6.49 It further noted that, "Opposition political parties reported that their supporters were the targets of frequent and systematic violence by ruling party supporters during the year [2003], often after leaving meetings". [3e] (p14)

6.50 The report goes on to state that, "The Constitution provides for freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted peaceful political activity; however, the Government limited this right in practice...The Government required political parties to register with the National Election Board. Parties that did not participate in two consecutive national elections were subject to deregistration. There were approximately 55 organized political parties; 5 were national parties, and the remainder operated only in limited areas. There were no reports during the year that any political party had its registration revoked". [3e] (p15)

Political Activists

6.51 The US State Department in its 2003 Human Rights report stated that, "Political participation remained closed to a number of organizations that had not renounced violence and did not accept the Government as a legitimate authority. Many of those groups agreed to abandon armed struggle against the Government upon joining the coalition UEDF in August [2003]. However, the OLF and the ONLF have refused to join the coalition". [3e] (p19)

6.52 The BBC reported in July 2002 that, "The European Union (EU) demanded a public inquiry into disturbances in Southern Ethiopia earlier in the year, which left an estimated 128 dead...these people had died during an outbreak of violence in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS) in March. This occurred during a dispute over the political rights of the minority Sheko and Majenger ethnic groups in the town of Tepi, capital of the Yeki district. Tepi is about 700 km south-west of Addis Ababa... EU sources say that the head of the local police spoke of 128 fatalities. The opposition claim that between 500 and 1,000 died". [4e] (p1-2)

6.53 The report goes on to state that, "Between 400 and 1,000 people were arrested after the violence. Most have since been released but 269 people were still in detention at the time of the EU delegation's visit". [40] (p3)

6.54 IRIN News reported on 17 July 2002 that the European union has called on Ethiopia to hold a public enquiry into the clashes. "The EU's call comes after Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi discussed the killings with EU head Romano Prodi. They also discussed the May shootings in Awasa in which 17 people were killed in clashes between demonstrators and police. The EU has also called for an inquiry into that incident". [14w] (p1)

6.55 IRIN News reported on 17 July 2002 that, "Some 7,000 protestors gathered on 24 May 2002 before marching towards Awasa to demonstrate against a change in the town's status...Awasa is the regional capital of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS), one of the country's nine federal regions. The town, at present, also acts as the zonal capital for the Sidama. But fears have circulated among the rural community that the zonal capital would be moved to Aleta Wondo – some 80 km away". [14v] (p1)

6.56 The report goes on to state that, "Federal government sources argue that the peasants clearly had been manipulated and told that Awasa was going to be sold. They say that the change in status will not affect the Sidamas and that they will not lose any lands". [14v] (p2)

6.57 IRIN news reported that the Ethiopian Human Rights Council claims that it was a peaceful march. IRIN reported that the demonstrators asked permission before the march, but the day before there was an announcement on television and radio that the people could not march. It was said that certain political groups were involved and therefore the march was to be declared illegal. [14v] (p2)

6.58 The Europa world yearbook 2003 states that in August 2002 some 90 state employees, including 41 police officers and 11 administrative officials, were arrested by the state authorities for their roles in the March riots and charged with human rights violations, instigation of violence and abuses of office. [2] (p1568)

6.59 On 3 March 2004 IRIN news reported the "Mass arrests and physical abuse in January [2004] of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa". [14n] Amnesty International on 23 January 2004 stated that, "The first eight Oromo students...were arrested on the Addis Ababa University campus on 18 January [2004], and are reportedly currently held at Maikelawi police central investigation centre in Addis Ababa. Over 300 students who called for their release were later arrested...22 students are still detained but others have mostly been released. Those still held are at risk of ill-treatment in custody". [6]

6.60 Amnesty go on to state that, "The first eight were arrested after protests at a cultural performance at the university, staged by the Oromia Region ruling party. The performance broke up when several Oromo students protested to Oromia regional state officials about the recent federal government decision to transfer the regional state capital from Addis Ababa to Adama (also known as Nazareth), a town 100 kilometres south-east of Addis Ababa. Police arrested the eight students that

evening, and accused them of causing damage to university property, including broken windows". [3e]

Employment Rights

6.61 The 1994 Constitution and the 1993 Labour Law give the majority of employees the right to form and join trades unions and bargain collectively. [3e] (p17). The US Department of State in its 2003 Human Rights report claimed that, "Approximately 300,000 workers were unionized during the year [2003]". [3e] (p24) The report goes on to note that, "The law specifically excludes teachers and civil servants, including judges, prosecutors, and security service workers, from organizing unions". [3e] (p23) The report goes on to note that, "The law also prohibits workers who provide essential services from striking, including air transport and railway service workers, electric power suppliers, bus operators, gas station personnel, hospital and pharmacy personnel, bank employees, firemen, postal and telecommunications personnel, and urban sanitary workers". [3e] (p25)

6.62 The US Department of State in its Human Rights report 2003 stated that, "There was no requirement that unions belong to the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU), which included all nine federations organized by industrial and service sectors rather than by region. Despite its claims to the contrary, CETU leadership was aligned with the ruling party and did not fight vigorously for workers' rights. Findings of widespread corruption in 2002 within CETU's leadership had not resulted in any disciplinary actions by year's end [2003]. In January, four members of CETU's nine-member executive committee, who criticized the majority five-member block's decisions were forced from office and replaced by four members hand-picked by the Government". [3e] (p24)

6.63 The report further noted that, "The minimum number of workers required to form a union was 20. All unions had to be registered; however, the Government retained the authority to cancel union registration. The law stipulates that a trade organization may not act in an overtly political manner". [3e] (p24)

6.64 The US Department of State in its Human Rights report 2003 stated that, "The law prohibits anti-union discrimination by employers against union members and organizers; however, unions reported that union activists frequently were fired. Unlawful dismissal suits often took years to resolve because of case backlogs in the labor courts. According to labor leaders, a number of court cases in which workers were terminated for union activities were pending after 4 or 5 years. There were grievance procedures for hearings on allegations of discrimination brought by individuals or unions. Employers found guilty of anti-union discrimination were required to reinstate workers fired for union activities". [3e] (p24)

6.65 The US Department of State in its Human Rights report 2003 noted that, "The ETA has been a particular target for government harassment. ETA membership continued to decrease significantly during the year due to government intimidation and restrictions on ETA activities; membership was an estimated 95,000 at year's end [2003], down from 110,000 in 2002. Although the Government granted recognition to the independent ETA, all public school teachers were still forced to

subsidize the government-created and controlled teacher's union (also called ETA) with mandatory monthly contributions of \$0.23 (2 birr) that were automatically withheld from their monthly salaries. The International Labor Organization (ILO) Committee of Experts cited the Government's interference as an abrogation of the basic right of association". [3e] (p24)

6.66 The report further noted that, "The ETA claimed in 2002 that 205 teachers had been dismissed, detained, or transferred to remote areas since April 2001. Security forces continued to harass members of the independent ETA during the year. Officials at Maekelawi Criminal Investigation Bureau in Addis Ababa summoned then-Acting Secretary-General of the ETA Abate Angori for questioning on several occasions during the year". [3e] (p24)

People Trafficking

6.67 The US 2003 report on Human Rights notes that, "The law prohibits trafficking in persons; however, there were numerous reports that persons were trafficked to, from, and within the country. Child prostitution was a problem, particularly in urban areas. The criminal code applied only to women and children trafficked for the purposes of prostitution; such trafficking was punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,160 (10,000 birr). Laws provide for fines and prison sentences of up to 20 years. Despite the arrests of suspected traffickers during the year [2003], there had been no successful prosecutions of traffickers in persons by year's end". [3e] (p26)

6.68 The report goes on to note that, "There were unconfirmed reports that children from the south were transported into Kenya by child traffickers operating adoption rings, and adopted as other nationalities. Unlike in the previous year, the Government did not close down adoption agencies operating in the country that failed to observe proper rules and regulations. The Government granted licenses to three adoption agencies in the country". [3e] (p26)

6.69 The report goes on to note that, "NGOs reported that girls as young as age 11 were recruited to work in houses of prostitution where they were kept uninformed of the risks of HIV/AIDS infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. In July [2003], a Family Health International Report indicated that customers targeted younger girls because they were believed to be free of sexually transmitted diseases". [3e] (p27)

6.70 The report moves on to state that, "A study commissioned by a foreign government during the year [2003] on the problem of internal trafficking of women and children confirmed that the problem is pervasive. The overwhelming majority of respondents confirmed that they were trafficked from rural areas to Addis Ababa and other urban centers, lured by false promises of employment. Of the 459 respondents, 46 percent were illiterate and 49 percent had completed no more than a grade 8 education. Upon arrival at their new destinations, 54 percent worked as domestic servants, but that number dropped to 9 percent as the trafficked women and children took jobs in bars, became sex workers, or begged on the street". [3e] (p27)

6.71 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "Private entities arranged for overseas work and, as a result, the number of women sent to Middle Eastern countries, particularly Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, as domestic or industrial workers remained a significant problem during the year [2003]. These women typically were trafficked through Djibouti, Yemen, and Syria. The Chief of the Investigation and Detention Center in Lebanon reported that 30,000 Ethiopian women worked in Beirut, the vast majority of whom were trafficked. Another private employment agency was licensed during the year, bringing the number of private employment agencies to two; however, private employment agencies had only processed approximately 5,500 persons for overseas employment. During the year, the Government also began registering persons seeking employment overseas. Approximately 50 percent of these women were not able to return legally to their home country". [3e] (p27)

6.72 The report further noted that, "There was a network of persons in Addis Ababa based in the tourism and trade sectors who were heavily involved in soliciting potential clients, recruiting young girls, arranging travel, and fabricating counterfeit work permits, travel documents, and birth certificates. There were reports from the EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association] that some domestic workers abroad were subjected to abusive conditions, including sexual exploitation. In addition, the employers of domestic laborers sometimes seized passports, failed to pay salaries, and overworked their employees. Some domestics were forced to work for their employers' relatives without additional pay. Domestics were forced to pay a monetary penalty for leaving their employment early". [3e] (p27)

6.73 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "Training programs for police officers on the criminal aspects of trafficking were ongoing during the year. These institutions have limited resources and jurisdiction to protect or intervene in cases of prosecution of offending employers". [3e] (p27)

6.74 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "There were some government initiatives during the year to combat trafficking, including government consultation with IOM to try to resolve the problem. During the year, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs reviewed the contracts of prospective domestic workers and denied exit visas if the contracts did not appear satisfactory. Immigration officials at the airport also inspected the employment contracts of prospective workers traveling to the Middle East. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs had limited success in regulating employment agencies that sent migrant workers to Middle Eastern countries. Many illegal employment agencies escaped government scrutiny and continued to operate. There was a consulate in Beirut to assist women who were trafficked to Lebanon". [3e] (p27)

6.75 "'There is a great deal of trafficking going on in Ethiopia,' Rakeb Messele, from the UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM) anti-trafficking unit" told IRIN news on 14 October 2002. "Specifically the girls are sent to the Middle East, Lebanon, Dubai and Saudi Arabia. These are the main countries of destination. In Lebanon alone there are about 25,000 Ethiopians working there. In Beirut it is estimated a (sic) 1,000 Ethiopian girls are recruited monthly.' The Ethiopian government has tried to combat the problem by introducing laws in 1998 to create

private migration firms which could regulate the flow. The law also introduced stiff penalties for recruiters and set up a committee to address the problem". [14ac] (p1)

6.76 In another IRIN report, dated 19 March 2003, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that women and girls could be subjected to sexual abuse after being forced from their homes because of the drought currently gripping Ethiopia. "UNICEF warned that under such circumstances, as women or young girls have few options, they are often taken advantage of in return for support". [14ad]

6.77 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "There was no government assistance, in the form of counseling or other support services, to trafficked victims who returned to the country. EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association] provided limited legal assistance to such victims. The Federal Police's Women's Affairs Bureau, in collaboration with the media, continued to implement a public awareness program on the dangers of migrating to Middle Eastern countries". [3e] (p28)

Freedom of Movement

6.78 The Constitution provides for freedom of travel and residence, both internally and abroad, and allows emigration and repatriation. [9] (p11) The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "The law requires citizens and residents to obtain an exit visa before departing the country. Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were able to obtain exit visas. Unlike in the previous year, they did not experience problems returning to the country". [3e] (p16)

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6b. Human Rights: Specific Groups

Ethnic Groups

6.79 The US State Department's Human Rights report 2003 documented that, "There were more than 80 ethnic groups. The largest single group was the Oromos, who accounted for 40 percent of the population. Although many of these groups influenced the political and cultural life of the country, Amharas and Tigrayans from the northern highlands played a dominant role. The federal system has boundaries drawn roughly along major ethnic lines, and regional states had much greater control over their affairs. Most political parties remained primarily ethnically based". [3e] (p22) The Constitution provides for equal recognition for all Ethiopian languages although Amharic is the working language of the Federal Government. [9] (p2)

Ethnic Divisions

6.80 The US State 2003 report further noted that, "The EPRDF ruling party continues to be dominated by the Tigrayan ethnic group. Of 548 seats in the House of People's Representatives (HPR), 496 were held by the EPRDF or its affiliate parties. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), one affiliate party, occupied 40

seats. The EPRDF, its affiliates, and EPRDF supporters controlled all seats in the 108-member House of Federation, whose members were appointed by regional governments and by the federal Government". [3e] (p18)

6.81 The report goes on to note that, "Membership in the EPRDF conferred advantages upon its members, and the party owned many businesses and awarded jobs to loyal supporters. In addition to the Government, only the TPLF were allowed to operate radio stations". [3e] (p18)

6.82 The report goes on to state that, "The government policy of ethnic federalism led to the creation of individual constituencies to ensure representation in the HPR of all major ethnic groups. Small ethnic groups were not represented in the legislature. There were 23 nationality groups in 6 regional states that did not have a sufficient population to qualify for constituency seats; however, individuals from these nationality groups competed for 23 special seats in the 548-seat HPR in the 2000 elections". [3e] (p19)

6.83 The US State 2003 report further noted that, "Ethnic clashes during the year resulted in a number of deaths, injuries, and the displacement of thousands of persons". [3e] (p23)

6.84 The report goes on to state that, "The military remained an ethnically diverse organization; however, diversity was less common in the higher ranks among officer personnel which was dominated by the TPLF. There were unconfirmed reports that soldiers targeted Oromos for abuse during the year". [3e] (p23)

6.85 The report goes on to state that, "In May [2003], the Government reportedly completed its investigation into the March 2002 ethnic violence between the Sheko-Mejjanger and Manja and the Sheka and Bench-Maji in Yeki District, Southern Region, that resulted in the deaths of approximately 600 to 800 persons and displacement of 5,800 persons because of the violence. There was no further information at year's end [2003] on the 41 policemen, 39 militia members, and 11 administrative officials reportedly arrested for their involvement in the clashes". [3e] (p23)

6.86 The report goes on to state that, "Local officials in Dereshe Woreda, Southern Region, confirmed that certain Dereshe Woreda officials had been implicated in the April 2002 violence between the Deresha and the Zaise tribes over a land dispute that left several persons dead and numerous houses destroyed. Local ruling party officials, including the former district administrator, were found guilty of inciting the violence between the previously peaceful groups". [3e] (p23)

6.87 The report goes on to state that, "By year's end [2003], there was no further development in the October 2002 killing of at least 31 Afar women in North Shoa Zone, Amhara Region. In 2002, police detained seven of the eight suspected killers for questioning, one of whom was killed while in prison". [3e] (p23)

6.88 The report further mentions, "In December [2003], there were a number of reports of individual killings of members of other ethnic groups by ethnic Anuaks, and vice-versa. On December 13, unknown assailants ambushed a vehicle and

killed eight government officials, of ethnic groups not indigenous to Gambella Region, near the village of Itang, in Gambella Region. From December 13 to 16, a mob including police, military, and civilians reportedly killed more than 100 members of the Anuak tribe in retaliation for the deaths of the 8 government workers. The Government reported only 40 persons killed. There was a government investigation ongoing at year's end [2003]; however, no action had been taken against persons involved". [3e] (p22-23)

6.89 The report goes on to state that, "On April 24 [2003], one student from Tigray region was shot and killed and two others injured in a clash between Oromo and Tigrayan students at the Ambo Agricultural College. The killing was believed to be retaliation for the severe beating of an Oromo student in Mekelle in December 2002. At year's end [2003], five persons were in police custody awaiting trial". [3e] (p23)

6.90 The report goes on to state that, "In May, June, and July [2003], inter-clan clashes erupted in the Bench-Maji Zone in the south, and 36 persons were killed, according to EHRCO. For example, on June 23, Kidad Gacha, Chairman of Beru Kebele and an ethnic Dizi, shot and killed two Surma tribesmen, a Dizi woman, and a 2-year-old child. The next day, Surma tribesmen raided Beru Kebele, killed 12 persons, and looted property. A total of 1,116 Dizi tribesmen were displaced. Kidad Gacha was taken into police custody". [3e] (p23)

6.91 The report goes on to state that, "From September 29 to 30 [2003], clashes broke out between Surma and Anuak tribesmen following the killing of an Anuak woman by Surma men. On September 30, armed Anuak tribesmen shot and killed 20 Surma tribesmen engaged in gold mining in Naymei-Kebele, in Surma Woreda. It remained unclear at year's end whether the Government took action in response to these incidents". [3e] (p23)

6.92 The report further noted, "From November 28 to December 6 [2003], approximately 55 persons were reported killed in clashes between the Gura and Dawa tribes in Goro Woreda, Oromiya Region". [3e] (p23)

Languages in Ethiopia

6.93 Kenneth Katzner in his book, *Languages of the World* stated that, "Amharic, the national language, is spoken by about a third of the population, or approximately 20 million people. Tigrinya (4 million speakers) is spoken in the northern province of Tigre, Gurage (one million) southwest of Addis Ababa, and Harai (50,000) in the city of Harar. All of these languages are of the Semitic family and are descended from Geez, the classical literary language of Ethiopia". [10] (p341)

6.94 Katzner goes on to state that, "The other main languages are of the Cushitic family. The most important is Oromo (Galla) (20 million speakers), spoken in the west, south, and east of Addis Ababa. Sidamo (5 million) is spoken in the southwest, and Somali (3 million) in the southeast. English is widely spoken in official circles in Ethiopia, while Arabic and Italian are understood in a number of places". [10] (p341)

Oromos

6.95 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated 18 December 2003) stated that the Oromo People account for 40% of the population, which makes them the majority group in Ethiopia. [22] (p4) The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, "They are predominant in southern, south-eastern and south-western Ethiopia but also live in the highland areas". [11] (p413)

6.96 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) goes on to note that, "They are diverse in terms of their culture, social organisation and religion, although most retain some features of their unique and complex generation-grading system, 'gada'. In some areas they are too assimilated with the Amhara to be easily organised into a disciplined national opposition movement". [11] (p413)

6.97 The report also stated that, "Historically the Oromo have never formed a single state but were organised in small societies of clans and villages. There are four main groups: western Oromo, mainly in 'Wollegga', many of whom have been Christianised by missionary churches; northern Oromo, of Mecha-Tulam, modern Shoa and the area to the south, who are more integrated into Amhara culture than other Oromo groups, are mostly Christians of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and speak Amharic; southern Oromo, who often have semi-nomadic lifestyles and are not incorporated into any larger regional or religious unit. And Borana, believed by some to be the seminal branch of the Oromo because of their rigid observance of the 'gada' social system, and who live in an arid area of Ethiopia along the border with Kenya. Eastern Oromo of Haraghe include the Muslim population of Harar and Dire Dawa, among others. This group has strong links to the Arab world and its local leaders have a strong Muslim orientation. The term Oromia, signifying an independent Oromo state, is important to the Oromo and the OLF [Oromo Liberation Front], allowing them to consolidate their various regional and related groups into one Oromo nation". [11] (p413-414)

6.98 South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that the Oromo People's Democratic Organisation (OPDO) was founded in 1990 by the TPLF to promote its cause in Oromo areas. [1a] (p426) IRIN news stated in a report dated 25 June 2001 that Dr Negasso Gidada who was President of the Federal Republic from 1995 had been "expelled from his Oromo People's Democratic Organisation (OPDO) party...". [14f] South of the Sahara in its 2003 report stated that Gidada was expelled from the EPRDF although he continued as President of the country until October 2001, when he was replaced by Lieutenant Girma Wolde Giorgis who, the BBC in a news report dated 8 October 2001 states, is from the majority Oromo ethnic group [1a] (p413) [4m] The OPDO won 178 seats in the House of Peoples Representatives in the May 2000 elections. [1a] (p426)

6.99 IRIN news reported on 3 March 2004 the "Mass arrests and physical abuse in January of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa". [14n] Amnesty International on 23 January 2004 stated that, "The first eight Oromo students...were arrested on the Addis Ababa University campus on 18 January [2004], and are reportedly currently held at Maikelawi police central investigation centre in Addis Ababa. Over 300 students who called for their release were later arrested...22 students are still detained but others have mostly been released. Those still held are at risk of ill-treatment in custody". [6f]

6.100 Amnesty go on to state that, "The first eight were arrested after protests at a cultural performance at the university, staged by the Oromia Region ruling party. The

performance broke up when several Oromo students protested to Oromia regional state officials about the recent federal government decision to transfer the regional state capital from Addis Ababa to Adama (also known as Nazareth), a town 100 kilometres south-east of Addis Ababa. Police arrested the eight students that evening, and accused them of causing damage to university property, including broken windows". [6]

6.101 EHRCO in its 10 February 2004 report on the incident stated that, "The detainees were ordered to take off their shoes and belts. They were made to roll up the sleeves of their jackets and legs of trousers up to their arms and knees respectively. Then, they were ordered to run fast bare footed, to crawl on all fours on the graveled field. They were also made to roll on the field and run across the field carrying each other. The detainees went through this agonizing ordeal from 4:00 P.M. up to 7:30 P.M". [50b] (p2)

Amharas

6.102 The Encyclopedia of the Peoples of the World (1993) stated that the Amhara are "A people numbering 12 million people (1984) living in the central Ethiopian highlands of Gondar, Gojjam, western Wollo, and northern Shoa, and also found in other areas, both rural and urban, of Ethiopia". [12] (p39)

6.103 The article continues, "The Amhara are mainly Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, but there is also a Muslim Amharic-speaking population, the Jabarti. The Amhara are mainly highland agriculturalists who produce grains and use the plough. Although farming can be considered their traditional occupation, their dominant political position has always been linked to military and administrative exploits and careers. Considered the core population of Ethiopia, the Amharic people's culture has largely determined the image of the 'Ethiopians'...Since 1955 Amharic has had the status of an official language. The spread of modern education, including the literacy campaigns under the regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam, have contributed to recent processes of amharization". [12] (p39)

6.104 The report goes on to state that, "The social and political institutions of the Amhara had a crucial influence on the development of institutions, which linked the south of Ethiopia with the political centre of Addis Ababa. The tribal and clan structures and the way in which leadership was temporarily elected among some southern peoples, were alien to the Amhara. They installed dominant landholders and established the hereditary office of the local chief to represent the administration among his kin and people. Concerning the definitions of rights to land, the legal system of the Amhara became a strong incentive for the spread of the Amharic language". [12] (p39)

6.105 South of the Sahara in its 2003 report noted that Amharas are represented in the Government by the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM), which won 134 seats in the 2000 elections and is affiliated to the ruling EPRDF. [1a] (p411) The ANDM was formally the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement and adopted its present name in 1994. [1a] (p426). Amharas "remained vocal in opposition through the AEUP, the AAPO [All-Amhara People's Organisation Party] and the EDP [Ethiopian Democratic Party]". [1a] (p413)

Sidama/Sidamo

6.106 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, "There are eight distinct groups of Sidama people living in parts of Shoa and Sidamo-Borana provinces. They speak Cushitic and have an 'ensete' (false banana) planting culture. Before Oromo migration, the Sidama inhabited almost the whole of southern Ethiopia. Oromo used the term, 'sidama' meaning 'foreigner', and one of the eight groups still retains that name. An interchange of Sidama and Oromo institutions took place during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Consequently some are animist, others Christian or Muslim. By 1891 the Sidama people had been incorporated into the Ethiopian Empire". [11] (p414)

Somalis

6.107 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated 18 December 2003) stated that the Somali people account for around 6% of the population. [22] (p4) The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, Somalis "Populate the Ogaden area...disintegration of the state in Somalia in the late 1980's and early 1990's led to the few remaining Somali organizations in Ogaden rejecting irredentism and reorientating themselves towards Ethiopian political life. However Somali and other Muslim organizations have limited influence and the Ogaden National Liberation Front is pushing for rights of self-determination and possible secession". [11] (p414) South of the Sahara in its 2003 report noted that, "The Ogaden National Liberation Front, a party based in Somali state...signed a military co-operation agreement [with OLF] in July 1996. They demand greater autonomy and firmer commitments to possible independence, claiming that the EPRDF had no intention of allowing secession, deliberately making the process lengthy and difficult...The ONLF also received support from another Somali organization, the Islamic Union party (al-Ittihad al-Islam), which has been fighting for an Islamic state in Somalia". [1a] (p411)

Berta ('Shankella', Beni Shangul)

6.108 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, the "Berta regard themselves as descended from a single family whom they trace back to 1720. Islam was established among them by 1855. They were conquered 1897-8 by imperial forces while their leader, Shaikh Khojali, preserved their autonomy by regular tribute of alluvial gold...they and other Nilotic peoples have been labelled pejoratively as 'Shankella', although this was officially discharged by Haile Selassie. Many Berta were brought to the capital as slaves. Slave trading was a business which the Shaikh Khojali family conducted with Sudan-based traders as well as Ethiopians. Berta were much desired as slaves by raiders on both sides of the border". [11] (p414)

Afar

6.109 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated 18 December 2003) noted that the Afar make up only around 4% of the total Ethiopian population. [22] (p4) The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, "At the time of its [the state of Eritrea] inception, the Afar Liberation Front (ALF) leader, Ali Mirah Anfere, declared that the ALF's goal would be to establish an independent Islamic State for the Afars. Its boundaries were to be

decided by Afar ethnic habitation, including the Awash River Basin and neighbouring territories in the southern part of Eritrea. Mengistu's creation of an autonomous province of Assab did nothing to settle the Afar issue, since the most fertile land in the Awash Valley remained in Amhara control". [11] (p414)

Gurage

6.110 According to the CIA factbook on Ethiopia (18 December 2003) the Gurage people make up around 2% of the Ethiopian population. [22] (p4) The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, "There are 14 to 16 groups in the Gurage cluster. The western group formed a political federation in the mid-nineteenth century consisting of seven clans inhabiting an area around Lake Zway in Shoa. They are 'ensete' cultivators like their neighbours in Sidamo. Some claim descent from a Tigrayan noble who came to conquer them in the fourteenth century. Eastern Gurage (Soddo) trace their origins to the Harar area from which they fled during the sixteenth century invasion of Ahmad ibn Ibrahim. An attempt at unifying the western Gurage under one leader was allegedly made by a Christian commander who came to relieve them of Oromo raids. Emperor Menelik II incorporated both eastern and western Gurage into the empire by 1889. Gurage men weave and market cloth. Certain sub-castes tan hides or smelt iron. Pottery is a woman's craft. Gurage women continue to be excluded from land ownership. The Soddo Gurage reportedly follow the custom of circumcising both boys and girls in infancy, while the western group are said to circumcise both boys and girls (clitoridectomy) at the age of eight and ten respectively. Christian, Muslim and traditional Gurage belief in the god Waq, co-exist to varying degrees depending on the area. In the country and in cities Gurage are adept at forming self-help societies and are active traders". [11] (p415)

Anuak

6.111 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, "Associated with Sudanese penetration of a vaguely defined 'Ethiopia', these people date from the first millennium BCE [Before Common Era] with a culture preoccupied with cattle raiding and millet growing. The Anuak are hunters, agriculturalists and fishers living in the fertile Gambela forest region of south-western Ethiopia. At the end of 1979, their land was seized by the government and there were attempts to draft them into the army and into forced labour on collective farms. Many Anuak fled to the bush in an attempt to reach Sudan and were shot or imprisoned. Their numbers have halved from a generation ago and they have been displaced from their traditional lands as northerners resettled in the area". [11] (p415) Amnesty International in its 2003 report stated that "Scores of people of the opposed Nuer and Anuak communities were killed in Itang town in Gambela region in the southwest in July 2002. Some arrests were made in connection with the killings but no one had been brought to trial by the end of the year [2002]". [69] (p1)

6.112 A spate of killings in the Gambella region in December 2003 was reported on by IRIN in its news report dated 8 January 2004. "The violence was sparked by an attack on a UN-plated vehicle in early December. Eight people in the vehicle were killed, including three government refugee workers who were trying to set up a new refugee camp in the region. Their bodies were badly mutilated". [14ap] (p1)

6.113 The report continued, "A radical group from the local Anuak tribe was blamed for the attack, which took place as the government officials drove to Odier - the proposed new camp for Nuer and Dinka refugees from Sudan. The reprisals that followed against the alleged perpetrators were ferocious. Hundreds of homes were burnt to the ground and the killings continued over several days". [14ap] (p1)

6.114 IRIN on 12 February 2004 reported that fighting was renewed in February 2004 when 196 people were killed in a single day. "The government blamed the renewed fighting on armed elements among the Anyuak (sic) - an ethnic group in Gambella which fears it is losing political power there". [14aq] (p1)

6.115 The recent violence in the Gambella region has its roots in history. The BBC news report, dated 12 February 2004 notes that, "Aid agencies say the Anyuak (sic) people feel they have been gradually displaced from their traditional lands. The problem began in the 1980s - when the previous government used forced resettlement to bring about 50,000 people from Ethiopia's exhausted central highlands to the fertile, but swampy, malaria-infested Gambella. Pressure increased as thousands of ethnic Nuer sought shelter in the region to escape from the Sudanese civil war... Last year the authorities sacked a number of Anyuak (sic), including some policemen. They are reported to have taken their weapons and gone into the bush, carrying out sporadic attacks". [4q] (p1)

6.116 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "On December 15, according to credible reports, soldiers raped two Anuak women at gunpoint in the town of Echeway, Gambella Region, during the outbreak of violence against Anuaks". [3e] (p5)

Adare/Gefu (Harar)

6.117 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, "The Oromo and Amhara residents of greater Harar call the inner-city residents Adare. There are about 30,000 in the old city, with a distinct language and culture. The Adare are distinguished for being the only people in Ethiopia to have developed a tradition centring on a large urban centre. In their own language the term for Adare is Gefu, literally, person of the city. Adare is also the language spoken in Harar and is written in Arabic characters. Harar is the premier Muslim city of Ethiopia. An overlapping social network is divided into kinship networks, groups and neighbours. The latter concerns itself with the expenses of weddings and funerals in a cooperative way. A school was established in 1972 to counter the central government effort to spread the Amharic language and restrict Islamic religious instruction. In 1975 the Dergue (sic) imposed a 'kebele' system of local government, as the neighbourhood groups refused to be politicized". [11] (p415)

Beta Israel

6.118 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that, "Also known as the Ethiopian Jews, and until recently by the derogatory name Falasha (meaning stranger or exile in Ge'ez), at their peak in the seventeenth century there were over 1 million Beta Israel in Ethiopia. Before mass migration to Israel in the 1980's they numbered approximately 30,000 and lived in Gondar province and the Simien

Mountains in northern Ethiopia". [11] (p415)

6.119 The report goes on, "The Beta Israel perceive themselves to be Jewish, living a traditional form of life evolving from at least the fourteenth century, although some suggest that their origins are more ancient. Their ancestors were deprived of the right to hold land as a result of the north-west expansion of the core Abyssinian State. Beta Israel consider contact with Christians to be ritually impure, and this reinforced the self-identity of Beta Israel and allowed them to continue their religious and social life in the face of pressure to convert, while being excluded from positions of authority within the state. Their basic tenets are those of Judaism". [11] (p415)

6.120 The report goes on "Most Ethiopian Jews lived in small rural communities in Gondar and Tigre provinces, where they suffered from prejudice at the hands of neighbouring peoples. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church opposed the development of Jewish schools. After World War Two, they continued to face discrimination and suffer evictions, extortionate taxes and rents, and attacks on cemeteries. After the revolution of 1974, in theory the position of Beta Israel was improving because of the land reform. But Jews were often given inferior land and their freedom to travel was restricted. Beta Israel had much to gain from the land reforms and were made the target of the counter-revolutionary Ethiopian Democratic Union, composed of the old nobility and landowners in Gondar. During 1977-79 they were forced to flee remote villages and move to areas of greater concentration". [11] (p416)

6.121 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) further noted that, "They were also attacked by the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party for alleged Zionist tendencies. Substantial numbers of Jews were among the thousands tortured, imprisoned, and massacred in the 1978 'Red Terror' campaigns waged by the Dergue (sic). In March 1984, at the height of the famine in northern Ethiopia, thousands of Beta Israel began to move to Sudan by foot. Several thousands lost their lives in transit, children were orphaned and separated from their parents, and disease and malnutrition were rife in the refugee camps. At the end of 1984 Operation Moses brought many more to Israel, and others left in 1991 in Operation Solomon". [11] (p416)

6.122 The BBC in a report dated 8 January 2004 stated that, "The Israeli Government are to start moving more than 18,000 Ethiopian Jews to the Middle East, says Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom....however, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, speaking alongside Mr Shalom, said a mass migration was not needed as Ethiopians were free to travel wherever they wished". [44]

Eritreans in Ethiopia

(also see [Eritrean Report](#))

6.123 During the border war the Government detained and deported Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin without due process. The US State Human Rights report 2001 noted that, "The Government's actions raised serious issues of due process since there were no preliminary hearings to determine the merits of the deportations, no right to counsel was provided to detainees, and detainees only had a very circumscribed opportunity to register protests. In addition the issue of the

nationality of Eritrean-origin Ethiopians has not been settled yet. Heads of households were taken without warning, detained, and often deported via overland routes within 48 hours. Remaining family members were given arbitrary deadlines to sell property and sometimes were subjected to departure taxes based on estimated annual income and unpaid balances on government bank loans". [3b] (p7)

6.124 The report goes on to note that, "In August 1999, all Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin over 18 years of age who had taken part in the 1993 referendum on Eritrean independence were required to register with the SIRAA [Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority] and complete residence application forms. After registration applicants received identity cards and residence permits valid for 6 months". [3b] (p7) The ruling party owned Walta Information Centre noted in a report dated 7 August 2001 that the Immigration and Nationality Affairs headquarters announced that, "Eritrean citizens living in Ethiopia are renewing their residence permits". They stated that like any other expatriate, Eritreans were required to renew their residence permits annually. [21b]

6.125 However the British Embassy in Addis Ababa noted on 15 January 2004 that, "According to sources from the SIRAA, the alien ID lost any meaningful significance after March 2001, when the majority of bearers refused to respond to the government call to have it renewed. The sources indicated that the ID is now useful only to formalise the handling of requests to enjoy community benefits. These include getting clearance for an exit visa or enabling them get other public services like renewing business certificates, driving licences or any other legal documents. After obtaining this paperwork, some are said to be back in business. However, a stamp declaring that they are Eritrean is still displayed. It appears also that the Authority has no clearly defined administrative or legal framework to handle the issue". [57] (p2)

6.126 The US Human Rights 2003 report stated that, "Most Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were registered with the Government and held identity cards and 6-month residence permits to gain access to hospitals and other public services. However, there were anecdotal reports that indigent Eritreans were denied the right to seek free medical services by government officials at the kebele level". [3c] (p16)

6.127 More recently, the ruling party owned Walta Information Centre noted in an article dated 20 January 2004 that, "Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority said it has issued a directive outlining duties Eritreans residing in Ethiopia are required to fulfill for eligibility. The Authority said in a statement yesterday said (sic) anyone bearing an Eritrean passport or possessing any document proving his/her Eritrean citizenship or who served for the Eritrean government in a job reserved for citizens only is considered an Eritrean". [21d]

6.128 Moreover, the article continued, "The directive states that those who did not opt for Eritrean citizenship will be considered as choosing their Ethiopian nationality, and thus shall maintain an Ethiopian citizenship. An Eritrean who registers in compliance of the directive and who wants to regain Ethiopian nationality shall be granted Ethiopian citizenship...Resident Eritreans will be granted permanent resident permits in line with the Immigration law, and those who could not own travel

documents from their country, shall be granted foreigner passports, the authority said". [21d]

6.129 In a further article dated 23 January 2004, Walta Information centre noted that, "Eritreans who have voted for independence and lived in Ethiopia uninterrupted would also remain Eritrean nationals unless otherwise they appeal for change of citizenship, he said. However, Ato Girma said that those who had not voted and lived here uninterrupted would be granted permanent Ethiopian Citizenship". [21e]

6.130 On the 22 January 2004, the Ethiopian News Agency noted that, "The recently issued directive with regard to Eritreans residing in Ethiopia could benefit only those Eritreans who lived in Ethiopia prior to Eritrean independence and afterwards permanently, security, immigration and refugees affairs authority said... Those Eritreans coming from any country to Ethiopia either (sic) couldn't benefit from the directive, he said". [55b]

6.131 In a report on the Large Scale Expulsions in Ethiopia (January 2002) a representative of Amnesty International stated that, "Ethiopia has been refusing to let Eritreans leave, for Eritrea or elsewhere, and has not 'to my knowledge granted exit visas, as this would mean recognizing the Ethiopian citizenship of many of them.' The information officer at the Eritrean Embassy in Washington, D.C. also stated that Eritreans had not been allowed to leave Ethiopia voluntarily for third countries. 'A lot left illegally--to Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan; some tried to pay bribes to get visas; some people have gone into hiding'". [41] (p29-30)

6.132 However in the latest US report on Human Rights, 2003, it is noted that, "The law requires citizens and residents to obtain an exit visa before departing the country. Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were able to obtain exit visas. Unlike in the previous year [2002], they did not experience problems returning to the country". [3a] (p16)

Deportations and Repatriations

6.133 The US 2002 Human Rights report stated that, "The Government stopped deporting forcibly Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin after it signed the cessation of hostilities agreement with Eritrea in June 2000". [3a] (p8) However in July 2001 IRIN news reported that the ICRC refused to assist in the repatriation of a group of over seven hundred civilians concerned that they had not expressed their consent. [14i] Dehai news reported that the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs also complained about this group claiming that the group consisted mainly of women, children and the elderly who had been detained for days prior to their deportation. [39] Human Rights Watch in its 2001 report stated that, Ethiopia identified the 772 people as Eritreans and so forcibly expelled from its territory "without prior notification to the International Committee of the Red Cross as anticipated under article 2 of the truce agreement". [8b] (p6)

6.134 The US 2002 Human Rights report stated that, "The last group of approximately 200 civilian detainees of Eritrean origin who had been held at Dedesa internment camp were repatriated to Eritrea in November [2002] under ICRC

auspices, and the Dedesa camp was closed. During the year, the Government transferred 219 Eritrean military deserters who also had been held at the Dedesa detention centre to a refugee camp in northern Ethiopia". [3a] (p8) The report further notes that "Given the improbability that any of the deserters could be repatriated to Eritrea, UNHCR had processed most of them for possible resettlement to third countries by year's end [2002]". [3a] (p17)

6.135 The US 2002 Human Rights report stated that, "Detention and deportation was carried out only in conjunction with the ICRC. The Government, together with the ICRC, monitored the deportation or repatriation of 1,188 Eritrean POWs and 774 Eritrean civilians during the year. In 2001 approximately 80,000 to 100,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin resided in the country; there were no updated statistics by year's end [2002]". [3a] (p17)

6.136 ICRC stated in June 2003 that, "a total of 153 Ethiopian and 75 Eritrean civilians were repatriated to their respective countries under ICRC auspices in two separate operations on 13 and 17 June [2003]...Each group was accompanied by ICRC delegates based in the country of departure. Once across the river, the returnees were met by ICRC staff working on that side and then placed in the care of their own country's authorities. Volunteers from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the Red Cross Society of Eritrea also took part in the operation, handing out food and water". [13d]

Repatriated Ethiopian Refugees

6.137 The United States Commission for Refugees in its 2002 report stated that, "Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians fled their country during the 1974-1991 reign of military dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam...During the past decade, an estimated 800,000 or more Ethiopian refugees have voluntarily repatriated from Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and other countries". [2a] (p3) ICRC advised in a report dated February 2002 that standard procedure for returns involves the co-operation of the ICRC who escort the returnees to an agreed border point and provide any food or water as needed. [13c]

6.138 The United States Commission for Refugees in its 2002 report stated that, "In September 1999, UNHCR declared that a 'fundamental and durable change' had taken place in Ethiopia with the end of the Mengistu regime and that most Ethiopian refugees who fled their country prior to 1991 no longer had a 'valid fear of persecution.' The UNHCR declaration, which became official in March 2000, effectively withdrew automatic refugee status for Ethiopians who had fled the country before 1991. Refugees who claimed to have 'compelling reasons' for not wanting to return to Ethiopia were required to submit to individual screening interviews in asylum countries to determine their legal status". [2a] (p3-4)

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Women

6.139 The 1994 Constitution provides for the equality of women. [9] (p11-12) However the US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "Domestic violence, including wife beating

and marital rape, was a pervasive social problem. There is no specific law regarding domestic violence or sexual harassment. While women had recourse to the police and the courts, societal norms and limited infrastructure prevented many women from seeking legal redress, particularly in rural areas. Social practices obstructed investigations and prosecutions in rape cases, and many women were not aware of their rights under the law. It was estimated that there were more than 1,000 rapes a year in Addis Ababa. The press continued to regularly report on rape cases. Rape sentences were handed down in line with the 10 to 15 years prescribed by law. Unlike in the previous year [2002], there were no reports that members of the military who were redeployed from border areas to other regions sexually harassed and raped some young women. During the year [2003], the EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association] conducted research on the number of rapes committed and the number of rape convictions handed down; however, the results had not been released by year's end [2003]". [3e] (p20)

6.140 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 report noted that, "In some cases, the police and courts began to enforce laws protecting women and children more seriously than in the past, in particular by making greater efforts to arrest men who raped children and, when convictions were secured, by imposing prison sentences on some rapists. In Addis Ababa two policewomen were assigned to each district. However, women's groups claimed that police often did not investigate reports of adult rape, while prosecutors took over a year to bring charges and then only for infractions with the lowest possible penalty. Outside the major cities, customary law continued to govern intra-family relations including inheritance". [8c] (p2)

6.141 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "Although illegal, the abduction of women and girls as a form of marriage continued to be practiced widely in the Oromiya region and the Southern Region, despite the Government's attempts to combat this practice. Forced sexual relationships often accompanied most marriages by abduction, and women often were physically abused during the abduction. Many of those girls married as early as the age of 7, despite the legal marriage age of 18. Abductions led to conflicts among families, communities, and ethnic groups. In cases of marriage by abduction, the perpetrator was not punished if the victim agreed to marry him (unless the marriage was annulled); even after a perpetrator was convicted, the sentence was commuted if the victim married him". [3e] (p20)

6.142 The report further noted that, "The majority of girls underwent some form of FGM. Clitoridectomies typically were performed 7 days after birth and consisted of an excision of the labia. Infibulation, the most extreme and dangerous form of FGM, was performed at any time between the age of 8 and the onset of puberty. According to the findings of a government national baseline survey released during the year [2003] on harmful traditional practices, 90 percent of women undergo one of four forms of FGM—circumcision, clitoridectomy, excision, and infibulation. The National Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices reported that, according to a national baseline survey, harmful practices against women, including FGM, abduction, and early marriage have declined from over 90 percent to 73 percent since 1992". [3e] (p20)

6.143 The OMCT in its report on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia dated 26 June 2003 stated that, "The ritual is practised on girls between the ages of seven days and 16

years old. It is often performed in unsanitary settings by a community 'specialist' using an unclean blade. FGM has terrible effects on the child or young girl's state of health, both at the time and in the future. Apart from potentially fatal haemorrhages, there is a risk of tetanus or septicaemia from the very basic instruments used and neighbouring organs are often damaged due to the girl's distress". [45] (p13)

6.144 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "The Constitution and the Penal Code prohibit bodily injury; however, these provisions did not specifically outlaw FGM. The Government continued to update the Penal Code. The Government also worked to discourage the practice of FGM through education in public schools". [3e] (p20)

6.145 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "The Constitution states that all persons are equal before the law; however, the Government has not yet fully put into place mechanisms for the effective enforcement of these protections. The Family Law sets the legal marriage age for girls at 18, the same as for boys; elevates civil law above customary and religious law; allows for the legal sharing of property for unmarried couples who live together for at least 5 years; eliminates family arbitrators as a means of settling marital disputes in lieu of the court system; allows for the joint administration of common marital property; requires the courts to take into account the situation of children or the weakest member of the family in the event of divorce or separation; and imposes a 6-month waiting period on women seeking to remarry following divorce or the death of a spouse. However, regional councils had authority to determine family law for their respective regions. During the year, the Oromiya Regional Parliament struck down a provision in the Oromiya Family Law banning bigamy in the region". [3e] (p20-21)

6.146 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "Discrimination against women was most acute in rural areas, where 85 percent of the population lived. The Civil Code and the Penal Code contained discriminatory regulations, such as the recognition of the husband as the legal head of the family and the sole guardian of children over 5 years old. Domestic violence was not considered a serious justification to obtain a divorce. There was only limited juridical recognition of common law marriage. Irrespective of the number of years the marriage existed, the number of children raised, and joint property, the woman was entitled to only 3 months' financial support if the common law relationship ended. A husband had no obligation to provide financial assistance to his family and, as a result, women and children sometimes were abandoned when there was a problem in the marriage". [3e] (p21)

6.147 The report further noted that, "All land belonged to the Government. Although women could obtain government leases to land, and the Government had an explicit policy to provide equal access to land for women, this policy rarely was enforced in rural communities. According to the EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association], in nearly all regions, women do not have any access to land. They cannot inherit land, and the only way for them to gain access to land was to get married. However, when the husband dies, his wife was often kicked off her land by other family members. In urban areas, women had fewer employment opportunities than did men, and the jobs available did not provide equal pay for equal work". [3e] (p21)

6.148 With regards to political participation in 2002 the US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "Of the 19 members of the Council of Ministers, 1 was a woman, 2 other women held ministerial positions, and a number of other women held senior positions. There were 42 women in the 548-seat HPR, and 9 of 113 members in the House of Federation were women. Of the 14 members of the Supreme Court, 3 were women". [3e] (p19)

6.149 Trafficking of women is a growing problem. In an IRIN report dated 13 June 2003, "The IOM says that illegal traffickers who prey on women could make up to 7,000 Ethiopian Birr (more than US \$800) for each victim they send overseas. The IOM say women aged between 18 and 25 are targeted by traffickers at colleges and in poor districts in towns and cities". [14am] The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "There were credible reports from the EWLA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that many female workers who traveled to the Middle East as industrial and domestic workers were abused in these positions". [3e] (p20)

For more information on this issue see section titled **People Trafficking**

Children

6.150 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "The Government supported efforts by domestic and international NGOs that focused on children's social, health, and legal issues, despite its limited ability to provide improved health care and basic education". [3e] (p21)

6.151 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "Child labor remained a serious problem, both in urban and rural areas. Under the law, the minimum age for wage or salary employment is 14 years; this age is consistent with the age for completing primary school educational requirements. Special provisions cover children between the ages of 14 and 18, including the prohibition of hazardous or night work. Children between the ages of 14 and 18 years were not permitted to work more than 7 hours per day, work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., work on public holidays or rest days, or perform overtime work. The Government defined hazardous work as work in factories or involving machinery with moving parts, or any work that could jeopardize children's health. While the Government made some effort to enforce these regulations within the formal industrial sector, social welfare activists, civic organizers, government officials, and employers agreed that child labor was pervasive throughout the country, particularly in the informal sector". [3e] (p25)

6.152 The report goes on to note that, "In February [2003], the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs released the findings of a 2001 ILO-funded survey on child labor. The survey found that 40 percent of children start work before the age of 6. It also found the average number of hours worked by children ages 5 to 17 during a 1-week reference period was 32.8 hours. Approximately 13 percent of boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 9 worked from 58 to 74 hours a week. More than two-thirds of all children surveyed were giving either all or part of their earnings to their parents or guardians". [3e] (p25)

6.153 The report further noted that, "Child laborers often were abused. A 1999 study

concluded that physical and emotional abuse were twice as common among child workers compared with nonworkers, sexual abuse was five times as common, and neglect was eight times as common. Among child workers surveyed, rapes occurred exclusively among child domestic laborers". [3e] (p26)

6.154 Amnesty International in its 2002 report noted that "In December [2002] Ethiopia ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child". [6a] (p1) In addition the US report 2003 on Human rights noted that, "On September 2 [2003], the country ratified ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor; however, ILO experts called on the Government to take concrete actions to stem the increasing practice of child labor in the country". [3e] (p26)

6.155 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "In Addis Ababa's police stations, there were 10 Child Protection Units, that were staffed by members of an NGO and protected the rights of juvenile delinquents and juvenile victims of crime. Some police officers completed training on procedures for handling cases of child abuse and juvenile delinquency". [3e] (p21)

6.156 The OMCT in its report on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia dated 26 June 2003 stated that, "Juveniles aged between 15 and 18 are considered to be fully responsible for their actions and, with the exception of death penalty, face full penal responsibility... juveniles who are 15-18 years old can be subjected to life imprisonment". [45] (p21)

6.157 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "Child prostitution continued to be a problem and was widely perceived to be growing, and children were trafficked out of the country in adoption schemes". [3e] (p22)

6.158 IRIN reported on 15 July 2003 that, "Child prostitution in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa is 'increasing at an alarming rate', according to a study by Save the Children-Denmark (SCD). The NGO revealed that the lure of work brought many child prostitutes – some as young as 13 - to the city. The report, compiled with government officials and a local child rights organisation, urged immediate action to tackle the magnitude of the problem". [14a]

6.159 The US 2002 Human Rights report noted that, "Young girls reportedly were forced into prostitution by family members. There were several anecdotal accounts from the EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association] of young persons, especially girls, traveling to the Middle East to work as domestic laborers, some of whom were beaten and sexually abused". [3a] (p27)

6.160 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "There were unconfirmed reports that children from the south were transported into Kenya by child traffickers operating adoption rings, and adopted as other nationalities. Unlike in the previous year [2002], the Government did not close down adoption agencies operating in the country that failed to observe proper rules and regulations. The Government granted licenses to three adoption agencies in the country". [3e] (p26)

6.161 The US 2002 Human Rights report noted that, "Among the sex workers, 60 percent were between the ages of 16 and 25. Underage girls worked as hotel

workers, barmaids, and prostitutes in resort towns and rural truck stops. The unwanted infants of these young girls usually were abandoned at hospitals, police stations, welfare clinics, and adoption agencies. Pervasive poverty, migration to urban centers, early marriage, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and limited educational and job opportunities aggravated the problem of children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. There were a few NGOs that aided child victims, including the Forum on Street Children-Ethiopia, which provided shelter and protection for children forced into prostitution or commercial sexual exploitation". [3e] (p27)

6.162 The US State Department Human Rights Report 2003 noted that, "in the Afar region of the east, young girls continued to be married to much older men, but this traditional practice continued to come under greater scrutiny and criticism. Indigenous NGOs, such as the Kembatta Women's Self-Help Center and the Tigray Women's Association, also affected societal attitudes toward harmful traditional practices and early marriage. Pregnancy at an early age often led to obstetric fistulae and permanent incontinence. Treatment was available at only 1 hospital in Addis Ababa that performed more than 1,000 fistula operations a year. It estimated that for every successful operation performed, 10 other young women needed the treatment". [3e] (p21)

6.163 The US 2002 Human Rights report notes that, "The Ministry of Defense did not permit persons under the age of 18 to join the armed forces, and the Government made efforts to enforce this policy. There were no reports that children under the age of 18 were recruited into the military during the year [2002]; however, in the past, military officers admitted that underage applicants sometimes were enlisted". [3a] (p24)

Childcare Provisions

6.164 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "Official government estimates put the number of street children in the country at 150,000 to 200,000, with approximately 50,000 to 60,000 street children in Addis Ababa. UNICEF estimated that there were probably close to 600,000 street children in the country and over 100,000 in Addis Ababa. UNICEF believed the problem was growing worse because of the families' inability to support children due to parental illness and decreased household income. These children begged, sometimes as part of a gang, or worked in the informal sector...There were unconfirmed reports during the year that the Government forcibly rounded up street children and dumped them on the outskirts of Addis Ababa. Government and privately run orphanages were unable to handle the number of street children, and older children often abused younger children. Due to severe resource constraints, abandoned infants often were overlooked or neglected at hospitals and orphanages. Children sometimes were maimed or blinded by their "handlers" to raise their earnings from begging". [3e] (p22)

6.165 IRIN news reported on 23 July 2002 that "hundreds of street children and homeless people were last month forced out of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and dumped in a forest outside the city...Some of the children were reportedly only 11-years-old. The round-up, which has only come to light a month after it happened took place during the World Cup...The homeless and the children were rounded up

from the centre of the city where a huge television screen had been erected so that people could watch the football matches". [14x]

Homosexuals

6.166 The International Lesbian and Gay Association stated in its report on Ethiopia that, "Sections 600 and 601 prohibit homosexual acts between men and between women, with a penalty of 10 days to 3 years' 'simple imprisonment'. This penalty may be increased by 5 or more years when the offender 'makes a profession of such activities', or exploits a dependency relation in order to exercise influence over the other person. The maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment can be applied when the offender uses violence, intimidation or coercion, trickery or fraud, or takes unfair advantage of the victim's inability to offer resistance. The maximum sentence can also be applied when the victim is subjected to acts of cruelty or sadism; when the offender transmits a venereal disease although fully aware of being infected with it; when an adult is charged with committing homosexual acts with persons under 15 years of age; or when distress, shame or despair drives the victim to committing suicide". [15] (p1)

6.167 The British Embassy in Addis Ababa stated on 19 November that "Homosexuality is illegal in Ethiopia under Article 600 of the Penal code. The practice is punishable by a term of simple imprisonment (between 10 days and 3 years) to be fixed by the court...Practising homosexuals would only be prosecuted if denounced, owing to the difficulty of finding evidence to satisfy the court...Although the likelihood of prosecution is small, homosexuality is not well regarded by Ethiopian society. Even the most educated in Ethiopia see the practice as a perverse, and contrary to reason and the teachings of the church". [42]

6.168 Behind the Mask (a website on gay and lesbian affairs in Africa) when accessed on 23 February 2004, reported that, "Ethiopia voted against ILGA [International Lesbian and Gay Association] having consultative status at the UN in January and on April 30, 2002. Berhane Meskel Abebe, the Ethiopian representative on the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations, said his country voted against ILGA in January because homosexuality is a crime punishable by imprisonment in Ethiopia. 'It doesn't go with our society's belief and general culture and practice,' he is reported to have said". [49a] (p2)

6.169 On 27 May 2003 Behind the Mask stated, "Local government officials recently called meetings in the various suburbs and villages of Addis Ababa to warn parents about the hazards of homosexuality. Concerned that homosexuality is becoming more visible in the city local authorities are reacting to a recent spate of people coming out as gay or lesbian in the city...[Local officials] also warned that the recent rise in homosexuality is due to parents not looking after their children properly". [49b]

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6.C Human Rights – Other Issues

Use of Torture

6.170 The US State Department's Human Rights report 2003 documented that, "The Constitution prohibits the use of torture and mistreatment; however, there were several credible reports during the year that security officials often beat or mistreated detainees". [3a] (p4). The US State Department and the Human Rights Watch report that security forces and prison authorities are rarely held to account for their human rights abuses. [3a] (p5) [8d] (p2)

6.171 The US State 2003 report further noted that, "There were reports during the year [2003] that security forces raped or sexually abused persons during arrests, detentions, or other government operations". [3a] (p5)

6.172 This is supported by Amnesty International in its 2003 report, which stated that "Torture of political prisoners, particularly those accused of links with armed opposition groups, continued to be frequently reported. Several women accused of involvement with such groups were reportedly raped. Courts rarely investigated defendants' allegations of torture, but in August 2002 a regional court in Awassa ordered police to stop the beating of prisoners held in connection with the May demonstration". [6a] (p3)

6.173 Human Rights Watch report of 2004 stated that being forced to run barefoot and to crawl on bare knees and elbows on gravel and sand for several hours each day, is a form of abuse that has been used repeatedly in mass arrests in past years. [8d] (p2)

NGO's in Ethiopia

6.174 The US 2003 Human Rights report noted that, "A number of domestic and international human rights groups operated with limited government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. The Government generally was distrustful and wary of domestic and international human rights groups. Two of the most prominent domestic human rights organizations were EHRCO and the Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association (EWLA). The Government frequently discounted EHRCO's reports and labeled it a political organization. The EWLA's primary function was to represent women legally. These, and numerous other groups, primarily engaged in civic and human rights education, legal assistance, and trial monitoring. However, the Government neither shared information about nor acknowledged the existence of human rights abuses with members of the domestic NGO community". [3e] (p19)

6.175 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 report observed that, "Two leading members of EHRCO who had been arrested and bailed in 2001, charged with inciting university students to riot, appeared in court periodically in 2002 but a trial on the merits had not begun at this writing. The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, which like EHRCO had been temporarily shut down by the government in 2001, faced no overt government interference in 2002. The government continued to refuse to register the Human Rights League". [8c] (p3)

6.176 The US 2003 report further noted that, "The Human Rights League (HRL) continued to be investigated by the Government at year's end [2003] for its alleged ties to the OLF. In 2001, the HRL sued the Government for not processing its

registration, and the court ordered the Ministry of Justice to reply to the HRL petition for registration by February 2002. The lawsuit was pending at year's end [2003]" . [3e] (p19)

6.177 The report further observed that, "Several international human rights groups visited the country during the year [2003]" . [3e] (p19)

6.178 The US Human Rights report 2003 noted that, "The Government permitted independent monitoring of prisons and police stations by the ICRC. Unlike in the previous year [2002], diplomatic missions were also granted access upon providing advance notification to prison officials. The ICRC generally had access to federal and regional prisons, civilian detention facilities, and police stations throughout the country during the year [2003]. During the year [2003], the ICRC carried out more than 160 visits to 128 detention centers throughout the country and was permitted to visit regularly all of the 29 police stations in Addis Ababa during the year. The ICRC was allowed to meet regularly with prisoners without third parties being present. The ICRC received government permission to visit military detention facilities where suspected OLF fighters were detained. The ICRC also continued to visit civilian Eritrean nationals and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin detained on national security grounds. Government authorities continued to permit diplomats to visit prominent detainees held by the Special Prosecutors Office (SPO) for alleged involvement in war crimes and terrorist activities" . [3e] (p6)

6.179 Furthermore the report noted that, "The Government is required under the Constitution to establish a Human Rights Commission, and an Office of the Ombudsman with the authority to receive and investigate complaints with respect to misadministration by executive branch offices. Although Parliament passed legislation creating both entities in 2000, neither entity was operational by year's end [2003]" . [3e] (p20)

Refugees in Ethiopia

6.180 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "The law provides for the granting of refugee status or asylum to persons who meet the definition in the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. In practice, the Government generally provided for protection against refoulement and granted refugee status or asylum. The Government generally cooperated with UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations in assisting refugees and returning citizens" . [3e] (p17)

6.181 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "As of September [2003], the country hosted approximately 128,610 refugees, down from 138,816 refugees at the end of 2002. Of these, 93,797 Sudanese refugees were located in the western refugee camps. The number of Eritrean refugees increased to 5,980 during the year. As the result of the ongoing repatriation program in the eastern camps, the number of Somali refugees decreased to 28,347. The Hartishek camp remained open at year's end [2003]. The Government, in cooperation with the UNHCR, continued to provide temporary protection to refugees from Sudan and Somalia" . [3e] (p17)

6.182 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "There were approximately

5,651 Eritrean Kunama refugees and a small population of urban refugees from other countries at the Wa'ala Nhibi camp at year's end [2003]. The refugees remained in a camp with inadequate health, education, water, and sanitation facilities. UNHCR reported that it had no plans to move these refugees to another site. By year's end [2003], there were plans to move the Eritrean Kunama refugees to another site". [3e] (p17)

6.183 Amnesty International in its 2003 report stated that, "Ethnic clashes among Sudanese refugees in Fugnido camp in Gambela region in November [2002] left over 40 dead and scores wounded". [6a] (p1)

6.184 Amnesty further report that, "Two Sudanese refugee community leaders arrested in December 2001 in Fugnido refugee camp in Gambela region and allegedly tortured for protesting against the ill-treatment of refugees, were released in March [2002] without being charged". [6a] (p2) The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "Unlike in the previous year, there were no reports that government security forces tortured refugees or that the Government's refugee agency beat refugees. By year's end [2003], it was unclear whether the Government's refugee agency had conducted investigations into such abuses from previous years". [3e] (p5)

6.185 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "The UNHCR had no information about whether the Government had taken any action against security forces involved in the torture of three Sudanese refugee leaders in December 2001 at Fugnido refugee camp in the Gambella Region. It was also unclear whether the Government had investigated the June 2002 attack by staff members of the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs against Sudanese refugees at the Sherkole Camp; however, the agency transferred to Addis Ababa one of its members accused of abusing refugees and placed him on 'indefinite leave'". [3e] (p17)

6.186 The US 2003 report on Human Rights noted that, "Unlike in the previous year, there were no reports that security forces bribed Kenyan police to harass, intimidate, and arbitrarily arrest Ethiopian refugees in Nairobi". [3e] (p17)

6.187 The United States Committee for Refugees in its 2002 report stated that, "Approximately 15,000 Ethiopians were refugees or asylum seekers at the end of 2001, including nearly 5,000 in Kenya, some 2,000 in Sudan, more than 2,000 in Djibouti, more than 1,000 in Yemen, and some 3,000 new Ethiopian asylum applicants in Europe and the United States. Some 10,000 Ethiopians lived in refugee-like circumstances in Sudan". [28] (p1)

Internally Displaced People

6.188 The Guardian newspaper reported on 3 March 2004 that, "Ethiopia has begun a resettlement programme which aims to move up to a million people away from the country's drought-stricken and over-worked central highlands to more fertile regions. Tens of thousands of families are to be moved before the rains come in May as the result of a pilot project last year, which the government says resulted in improved harvests. Critics say the lands available for resettlement - mainly along Ethiopia's

border with Sudan - are in areas notorious for diseases including malaria and kala azar or visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease transmitted by sandflies....Over the next three years the government aims to relocate more than 2 million people, including the million who are being moved in the coming months". [56a]

6.189 Mediciens sans Frontieres in a report dated 1 December 2003 stated that, "Over the next three-year period the Ethiopian government intends to resettle 2.2 million people in an attempt to address food insecurity in the country by providing settlers with available land. Despite preparations made by the authorities in Abrihigira, the health situation in the region has deteriorated and resulted in very high mortality and malnutrition rates". [25b]

6.190 Mediciens sans Frontieres go on to note that, "The lack of year round access to the area, especially in the rainy season, has exacerbated an already dire situation. Poor access to drinking water due to water pumps breaking down and not being fixed has forced the population to rely on river water, resulting in high rates of diarrhea. The inaccessibility of the area has caused ruptures in the drug supply, no monitoring and reporting of morbidity or mortality data, and a total inability of the health services to refer and treat emergency cases". [25b]

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ANNEX A: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1930s Emperor Haile Selassie wrests power from old aristocracy and establishes modern autocracy. [1a] (p408)

1935 Italy invades Ethiopia. [1a] (p408)

1941 Allied forces end Italian occupation. [1a] (p408)

1952 Former Italian colony of Eritrea, which had become a UN mandated territory after World War II, federated with Ethiopia. [1a] (p408)

1962 Eritrea formally annexed by Ethiopia. [1a] (p408)

1970s Increased Eritrean resistance to Ethiopian control by ELF and EPLF. [1a] (p408-409)

September 1974 Calls for democratisation, army mutinies, Eritrean resistance, economic problems and famine culminate in overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in a military coup. Haile Selassie dies in military custody in 8/1975. The Derg takes control of Ethiopia and establishes Provisional Military Government (PMG) under Lt-Gen Aman Andom. [1a] (p409)

November 1974 Gen Aman assassinated, 57 former civil and military officials, including two former Prime Ministers executed without trial. Brig-Gen Teferi Benti, Chairman of the Derg, becomes Head of State. Major (later Lt-Col) Mengistu Haile Mariam one of two Vice-Chairman of the Derg. [1a] (p409)

December 1974 Derg declares Ethiopia a socialist state. PMG replaced by Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC). [1a] (p409)

1975 Col Mengistu emerges as most influential member of the Derg. PMAC embarks upon 'Ethiopia Tikdem' (Ethiopia First) reforms - nationalisation of land, financial institutions and large firms, literacy drive and establishment of peasant co-operatives. Power struggles within Derg, continuing into 1976, between supporters of MEISON and EPRP. Joint ELF/EPLF attack almost captures Eritrean capital Asmara. Severe retaliation taken against Eritrea. Tigrean support for Eritrea grows. TPLF formed. [1a] (p409) [2] (p1566)

February 1977 Col Mengistu assumes control as Head of State and Chairman of PMAC. Gen Teferi Benti and five other Derg members executed. "Red Terror" campaign launched against Mengistu's political and armed opponents, particularly the EPRP. Tens of thousands killed or tortured. [1a] (p409)

Mid-1977 "Red Terror" campaign turns on MEISON. EPRP and MEISON neutralised by end of 1978. Ethiopia under Mengistu moves increasingly closer to Soviet Union. [1a] (p409)

1977-78 TPLF grows stronger with EPLF support, defeating EPRP opponents in Tigre. [1a] (p409) [2] (p1566)

June 1977 Somalia invades Ethiopia's Ogaden region. [1a] (p409)

February 1978 Ethiopia counter-attacks with large-scale Soviet and Cuban support; Somalia withdraws in early 1978. [1a] (p409)

June 1978 Large Ethiopian offensive launched in Eritrea; most towns recaptured and EPLF retreats to Nakfa. [2] (p1566)

1979 Mengistu sets up Committee for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE); all other political groups abolished. [1a] (p409)

1981 Civil war in Eritrea between ELF and EPLF. [1a] (p409)

1982 EPLF, with TPLF allies from Tigre, force ELF into exile in Sudan. [1a] (p409)

1985-6 Military successes against TPLF. [2] (p1566)

September 1989 TPLF establishes EPRDF as united front with Amhara-based EPDM. Unsuccessful peace negotiations between Government and EPLF. [1a] (p410)

November 1989 EPRDF forces close in on Addis Ababa. [1a] (p410)

1990 EPLF captures Masawa. Peace talks between Government and EPLF broken off. [2] (p1566)

1990 Peace talks between Government and TPLF collapse. Socialism effectively abandoned by Mengistu Government; WPE becomes the EDUP and open to non-Marxists. Moves towards market economy begin, but economy close to collapse. [2] (p1566)

January 1991 EPRDF announces moderate, non-Marxist programme, which wins United States support. [1a] (p410)

21 May 1991 Mengistu flees Ethiopia and goes into exile in Zimbabwe; Vice-President Lt-Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan assumes control of Government. [1a] (p410) [2] (p1566)

28 May 1991 EPRDF forces enter Addis Ababa, with public support of United States; EPRDF establishes interim Government. At the same time EPLF establishes provisional administration in Eritrea, effectively seceding from Ethiopia. [2] (p1566)

July 1991 National conference attended by 20 political groups establishes Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE); TPLF leader and EPRDF Chairman Meles Zenawi becomes President, with Tamirat Layne Prime Minister. 32 political groups represented on Council of Representatives, including the OLF, which also holds four Ministerial positions on Council of Ministers. [1a] (p410)

November 1991 14 new autonomous administrative regions established, broadly reflecting ethnic boundaries. [2] (p1567)

1991-2 Relations between EPRDF and OLF deteriorate; clashes between rival EPRDF and OLF supporters in Oromo region. US and EPLF broker cease-fire between EPRDF and OLF supporters in April 1992. [2] (p1567)

June 1992 OLF and other groups boycott regional elections. EPRDF and allies win over 90% of votes cast. OLF withdraws from TGE and goes into armed opposition. OLF forces capture Asbe Teferi but Government forces retake the town. [2] (p1567)

April 1993 Referendum in Eritrea approves independence from Ethiopia. [2] (p1567)

24 May 1993 Eritrea achieves formal independence, with recognition from Ethiopia. [2] (p1567)

June 1994 EPRDF wins large majority of seats in elections to new Constituent Assembly. Polls boycotted by OLF, AAPO and CAFPDE. [2] (p1567)

October 1994 Constituent Assembly inaugurated. [2] (p1567)

December 1994 Constituent Assembly approves new Constitution, establishing federal system of government with nine ethnically-based national states and the federal capital territory. Constituent Assembly replaced by bicameral Federal Parliamentary Assembly (FPA), made up of the Council of People's Representatives (CPR) and the Council of the Federation. [1a] (p411)

December 1994 Trial of Derg officials begins, including Mengistu. Trials held by SPO, created in 1992 to investigate and try cases of human rights abuses committed under the Mengistu administration. [2] (p1567) [3c] (p9)

May 1995 Elections to the CPR and national state assemblies, boycotted by most opposition parties, produce landslide win for EPRDF and allies. Elections deemed to be neither free nor fair by international observers. [1a] (p411)

21 August 1995 Legislative power transferred to new Federal Parliamentary Assembly. [2] (p1567)

22 August 1995 TGE wound-up as new Constitution becomes effective. Country renamed the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). Dr Negasso Gidada, an ethnic Oromo, elected first President of FDRE by FPA. [2] (p1567)

23 August 1995 Meles Zenawi, President under TGE, elected first Prime Minister of FDRE by CPR. [2] (p1567)

1996 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Tamirat Layne removed from office on suspicion of corruption. [1a] (p413)

May 1998 Border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea leads to armed clashes along the border, centred on the Badme area. [1a] (p413)

June 1998 Eritrea aircraft bomb Mekele in northern Ethiopia, killing 44. Ethiopia launches air attacks on Asmara airport in Eritrea. [1a] (p413)

June 1998 Ethiopia and Eritrea accept a US-brokered agreement to halt air-strikes against each other. [2] (p1569)

February 1999 Resumption of heavy fighting in border dispute with Eritrea. [1a] (p414)

May 2000 Ethiopia launches all-out offensive against Eritrea to recapture land occupied by Eritrea since May 1998; Ethiopia recaptures all occupied land by end May 2000. [2] (p1570)

May 2000 Ruling EPRDF coalition wins national elections but loses ground to opposition parties and independents in some regional elections. [1a] (p411)

June 2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea sign cease-fire agreement; Eritrea agrees to UN border monitoring force within its territory. [1a] (p413)

12 December 2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea sign peace agreement ending border war, which establishes commissions to mark the border exchange prisoners, return displaced people and hear compensation claims. [2] (p1570)

22 February 2001 Ethiopia announces it has completed its troop withdrawal from Eritrea in accordance with a United Nations-sponsored agreement to end the border war. [2] (p1570)

March 2001 Meles Zenawi says he has thwarted an attempt to cause political upheaval by a dissident group in the dominant Tigre People's Liberation Front. [2] (p1568)

April 2001 Thousands of demonstrators clash with police in Addis Ababa in protest against police brutality and in support of calls for political and academic freedom. [2] (p1568)

May 2001 Intelligence and security chief Kifle Gebre-Medhin - a key ally of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi - assassinated as he entered an armed forces officers' club in Addis Ababa. [2] (p1568)

June 2001 Dr Negaso Gidada is expelled from the ruling coalition EPRDF. He continues to serve as head of state until October 2001. [2] (p1568) [1a] (p413)

August 2001 Almaz Meko Speaker of the House of Federation and prominent member of the OPDO states that she was applying for asylum in the United State. She felt the Oromo people were not being democratically represented by the OPDO and as a result said she would join the OLF. [1a] (p413)

March 2002 In Tepi, members of two minority ethnic groups, the Sheko and Majenger, clash with local officials and police over political rights. In the following

days, more than one hundred were killed and villages razed on the order of local authorities, leaving some 5,800 homeless. Nearly one thousand civilians were arrested after the disturbance. [1a] (p412) [2] (p1568)

April 2002 The International Tribunal announces the border decision. Both government's declare victory. Confusion over which country controls Badme remains. [1a] (p415) [2] (p1570)

May 2002 In the city of Awassa, soldiers using machine guns mounted on armoured cars shoot into a crowd of farmers protesting a change in the administrative status of the city. [2] (p1568)

June 2002 Police arrest several hundred students, teachers, and others whom it accuses of being supporters of OLF. The government claims the OLF had instigated the student protests. [8c] (p2)

August 2002 After international pressure, 90 state employees are arrested by the authorities for their role in the March riots. [2] (p1568)

Late August 2002 Eritrea repatriates 279 Ethiopian prisoners of war. [8c] (p4)

November 2002 Ethnic clashes among Sudanese refugees in Fugnido camp in Gambela region leave over 40 dead and scores wounded. [8a] (p1)

29 November 2002 1,130 POWs and 95 civilian internees of Eritrean origin are released by the Ethiopian authorities and repatriated. [13a] (p1)

March 2003 The Boundary Commission categorically rules Badme to be in Eritrean territory. Ethiopia voices its opposition to the ruling. [1a] (p415) [2] (p1570)

December 2003 There were a spate of killings in the Gambella region [14a] (p1)

January 2004 There were mass arrests and physical abuse of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa [14a] Several Oromo students protested to Oromia regional state officials about the recent federal government decision to transfer the regional state capital from Addis Ababa to Adama [6]

January 2004 The Justice Ministry bans the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association (EFJA) [14a] (p1)

February 2004 New leaders of EFJA elected during a government-held meeting [14a] (p1)

6 February 2004 More clashes break out in Gambella region in Dima refugee camp. [14a] (p1)

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ANNEX B: GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS, MAY/AUGUST 2000

PARTY	Abr	SEATS
OROMO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	OPDO	178
AMHARA NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	ANDM	134
TIGRAY PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	TPLF	38
WALAYTA, GAMO, GOGA, DAWRO, AND KONTA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	WGGPDO	30
ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT	EPRDF	19
SOMALI PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY	SPDF	19
SIDAMA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	SPDO	18
GURAGE NATIONALITIES DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	GNDM	15
KAFA SHAKA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	KSPDO	10
AFAR NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	ANDP	8
GEDEYO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT	GPRDF	7
SOUTH OMO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	SOPDM	7
BENISHANGUL GUMUZ PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNITY FRONT	BGPDUF	6
KEMBATA, ALABAA AND TEMBARO	KAT	6
BENCH MADJI PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	BMPDO	5
HADIJA NATION DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	HNDO	5
GAMBELLA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT	GPDF	3
SOUTH ETHIOPIA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT	SEPDF	3
COUNCIL OF ALTERNATIVE FORCES FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN ETHIOPIA	CAFPDE	2
DERASHE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	DPDO	2
ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY	EDP	2
HADIJA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	HPDO	2
SOUTH ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION	SEPDU	2
ALL-AMHARA PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION	AAPO	1
ARGOBA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	APDM	1
BURGI PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION	BPDF	1
GAMBELLA PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS	GPDC	1
KONSO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	KPDO	1
KORE NATIONALITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	KNDO	1
OROMO LIBERATION UNITY FRONT	OLUF	1
OROMO NATIONAL CONGRESS	ONC	1
OYDA NATIONALITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	ONDO	1
SIDAMA HADICHO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION	SHPDO	1
SILTE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNITY PARTY	SPDUP	1

YEM PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNITY PARTY	YPDUP	1
INDEPENDANTS		13
TOTAL	—	546

[2] (p1579)

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ANNEX C: POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) – New name for the All-Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO). See AAPO. President Hailu Shawol. Member of JADE (see JADE) [1a] (p426)

Afar People's Democratic Organisation (APDO) - formerly the Afar Liberation Front (ALF); based in former Hararge and Wollo administrative Regions. Leader Ismail Ali Sirro [2] (p1579)

Al-Ittihad al-Islamia (Islamic Union Party) - Somalia-based armed opposition group seeking self-determination for the Somali-populated Ogaden district [1a] (p411)

All-Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO) - ethnic-based. In August 2002 the AAPO changed its name to the All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) [1a] (p426) [7c]

All-Ethiopia Socialist Movement (MEISON) - see COEDF [1a] (p426)

Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM) - formed as the EPDM by the TPLF to campaign in Amhara-populated areas, re-named the ANDM in January 1994. Formed the EPRDF with the TPLF in September 1989. Secretary-General Tefera Walwa [1a] (p410 & 426)

Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia (CAFPDE) - formed 1993, broad based coalition of groups opposed to the EPRDF. Granted official registration July 1996. EPRDF pressure and influence over the media, as well as CAFPDE's own divisions, have limited the group's impact. Member of JADE (see JADE). Chair Dr Beyene Petros (also Chair of SEPDC) [1a] (p411-412 & 426) [14ah]

Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic Forces (COEDF) - formed 1991 in USA by the EPRP with a faction of the EDU and MEISON, opposed to the EPRDF. Chair Mersha Yoseph [1a] (p426)

Coalition of Ethiopian Opposition Political Organisations (CEOPO) – formed in 1998 in France as a coalition of groups opposing the EPRDF. Chair Negede Gobezie, Chair (Ethiopia) Kifleh Tigneh Abate [1a] (p412 & 426)

Commission for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) - set up by Mengistu in 1979, precursor of the WPE [1a] (p409)

Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) - fought in alliance with TPLF/EPRDF against Mengistu Government, formed provisional administration of Eritrea May 1991 and Government of independent Eritrea May 1993 [1a] (p409-410)

Ethiopian Democratic Organisation - see ENDP [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian Democratic Organisation Coalition - see ENDP [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP) - formed in 1998, Secretary General Lidetu Ayalew, fielded 15 candidates for the May 2000 elections. Joined **EDUP** in July 2003 to create **UEDP** [7a] [14a] [44] (p169)

Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU) - see **COEDF** [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP) - replaced the WPE in March 1990 and abandoned the WPE's reliance on Marxist-Leninist doctrine, the sole legal party until May 1991. Leader Ras Mengesha Secretary-General Lt-Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan. Joined **EDP** in July 2003 to create **UEDP** [14a] [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian National Congress (ENC) – USA based organisation; aims to form a unified opposition among anti-Government parties . Chair Gebeyehu Ijugu [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian National Democratic Party (ENDP) - formed 1994 by the merger of five pro-Government organisations with members in the Council of Representatives: the Ethiopian Democratic Organisation, the Ethiopian Democratic Organisation Coalition, the Gurage People's Democratic Front, the Kembata People's Congress and the Wolaita People's Democratic Front. Chair Fekadu Gedamu [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM) - see **ANDM** [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) - formed 1989 by the TPLF as an alliance of insurgent groups. Ousted Mengistu Government May 1991 in alliance with EPLF. Dominant party in the TGE from July 1991 onwards. Present governing party of the FDRE. Leader Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The EPRDF comprises the TPLF, the ANDM and the OPDO [1a] (p410 & 426)

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) - see **COEDF** [1a] (p426)

Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL) - formed 1994 by the merger of 11 Ethiopian Somali organisations. Merged with other Somali groups June 1998 to form the Somali Democratic Party (SDP) - see **SPDP** [1a] (p426)

Gambela People's Democratic Front (GPDF) – Pro-Government group based in the Gambela region. Chair Akilo Nigilio [1a] (p426)

Gurage People's Democratic Front - see **ENDP** [1a] (p426)

Hadiya National Democratic Organisation (HNDO)- founded in 1991, a regionally-based party with wider alliances. Won 5 seats in the federal House of People's Representatives in 2000. Leader Beyene Petros [44] (p169)

Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia – Leader Abdelkarim Inrahim Hamid. see **UOLF** [1a] (p427)

Islamic Unity Party - see **al-Ittihad al-Islamia** [1a] (p411)

Joint Action for Democracy in Ethiopia (JADE) – founded in 2003 by the CAFPDE, the AEUP, and the ONC as a common forum to enable them to co-ordinate their opposition the EPRDF [1a] (p426)

Kembata People's Congress - see ENDP [1a] (p426)

MEISON - see All-Ethiopia Socialist Movement [1a] (p426)

Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) - a party based in Somali state. The OLF and the ONLF signed a military co-operation agreement in July 1996. They demand greater autonomy. The ONLF received support from another Somali organization, the Islamic Union Party (al-Ittihad al-Islam), which has been fighting for an Islamic state in Somalia. [1a] (p411)

Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) – formed in 1975. Clashes between members of the OLF and members of the OPDO (an EPRDF member-party) during the run up to elections led to a final break with the EPRDF in 1992, after which the OLF went into armed opposition. In alliance with armed wing of the ONLF from July 1996. They advocate self-determination for the Oromo People and the use of Oromo language and culture. Member of UOLF. Chairman Daoud Ibsa Gudina [44] (p169) [1a] (p409)

Oromo National Congress (ONC) – Founded in 1996. Exists to oppose the OPDO through legitimate electoral channels. Member of JADE (see JADE). President Merera Gudina [1a] (p426) [44] (p169)

Oromo People's Democratic Organisation (OPDO) - formed 1990 by the TPLF to campaign in Oromo areas, opposed to the OLF. Part of the EPRDF alliance. Leader Abedula Gemedo [1a] (p426) [2] (p1579)

Oromo People's Liberation Front - see UOLF [1a] (p427)

Somali Abò Liberation Front (SALF) - operates in the Bale district of the Somali National State, received military assistance from Somalia in the mid-1980s. Secretary-General Masurad Shu'abi Ibrahim [1a] (p426)

Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP) – operates in former Bale Administrative Region; has received Somali military assistance. Secretary General Shu'abi Ibrahim [1a] (p426)

Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) – opposition alliance; Chair Dr Beyene Petros [1a] (p426)

Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Union (SEPDU) - alliance formed 1992 by 10 ethnically based political groups in southern Ethiopia, represented in the Council of Representatives, although 5 of the 10 groups were expelled from the Council in April 1993. [1a] (p426-427)

Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) - formed 1975. Dominant group within the EPRDF, formed in 1989. Chair Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Vice Chair Seyoum Mesfin. [1a] (p426)

United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) – formed August 2003 as a coalition of 15 opposition parties to challenge the current government in the 2005 elections. Chair for 6 months - Dr Beyene Petros [14ak]

United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP) – formed in July 2003 and is made up of the EDP and the EDUP. Head is Dr Admasu Gebeyehu [14al]

United Oromo Liberation Forces (UOLF) - formed in 2000 in Asmara, Eritrea as a common Oromo Front seeking to overthrow the Ethiopian Government. Alliance comprises of Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia, Oromo Liberation Council (OLC), Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), Oromo People's Liberation Front (OPLF), Oromo's People's Liberation Organisation (UPLO) and United Oromo People's Liberation Front (UDPLF). Chair Waqo Cutu; Secretary General Galasa Dilbo [1a] (p427)

Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) – formed in 1975. Aims to unite the Ogaden region with Somali. Maintains guerilla forces of c.3000 men. Has received support from regular Somali forces. Secretary-General Issa Shaykh Abdi Nasir Adan. [1a] (p427)

Wolaita People's Democratic Front - see **ENDP** [1a] (p426)

Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) - formed 1984 by Mengistu, renamed the EDUP in March 1990, the sole legal party until May 1991. [1a] (p426) [2] (p1566)

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ANNEX D: PROMINENT PEOPLE*

Abadula Gemada - Minister of Defence and Chairman of the OPDO [1a] (p413) [14a0]

Adisu Legeso - deputy Prime Minister and Rural Development Minister [14a0]

Dr Admasu Gebeyehu – Head of the UEDP [14a0]

Ismail Ali Sirro - Leader of the APDO [1a] (p426)

Lt-Gen Aman Andom - Head of State and Chairman of the Derg September 1974, assassinated November 1974 [1a] (p409)

Dr Beyene Petros - Chairman of CAFPDE and the SEPDC, President of the Hadiya National Democratic Organisation (HNDO). Dr Beyene is a Member of the Ethiopian Parliament and a Professor at Addis Ababa University. Head of Coalition UEDF for 6months from August 2003 [1a] (p426) [44] (p169)

Daoud Ibsa Gudina – Chairman of the OLF [44] (p169)

Fekadu Gedamu - Chairman of the ENDP [1a] (p426)

Girma Wolde Giorgis – Current Ethiopian President; ethnic Oromo [1a] (p413) [4m]

Hailu Shawol– President of AAPO, now AEUP [1a] (p426)

Meles Zenawi - TPLF leader and Chairman of the EPRDF, President of Ethiopia July 1991-August 1995, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia August 1995 to the present [1a] (p410-411)

Emperor Menelik - Modernising and unifying ruler in late nineteenth century, died 1913. Founded Addis Ababa in the late 1880s, defeated the Italians in 1896 [1a] (p408)

Lt-Col Mengistu Haile Mariam (Col Mengistu) - assumed power February 1977, Secretary-General of the WPE from 1984, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1977 until he fled in May 1991; lives in exile in Zimbabwe [2] (p1566)

Merera Gudina – President of ONC [1a] (p426)

Mersha Yoseph - Chairman of COEDF [1a] (p426)

Mohamoud Dirir Gheddi- Chair of the SPDP [1a] (p426)

Dr Negasso Gidada - President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1995 until October 2001, ethnic Oromo [1a] (p411-413)

Emperor Haile Selassie - Regent 1916, King 1928, Emperor from 1930 until deposed in 1974, died in military custody 1975 [2] (p1566)

Tamirat Layne – Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia in 1991, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence and Minister of Defence in 1996. Dismissed and detained in 1996 and tried on corruption charges. Sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in 2000. [1a] (p410 & 413)

Dr Taye Woldesemayat - Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, arrested June 1996 and held in detention until his release in May 2002 [2] (p1567) [1a] (p412)

Tefera Walwa - Secretary-General of the EPRDF-allied ANDM [1a] (p426)

Brig-Gen Teferi Benti - Replaced General Aman as Chairman of the Derg and Head of State 1974, executed by Mengistu February 1977 [1a] (p409) [2] (p1566)

Lt-Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan - Vice-President under Mengistu who briefly assumed control of the country after Mengistu fled Ethiopia in May 1991; Secretary-General of the EDUP [1a] (p426) [2] (p1566)

* It is more usual for people in Ethiopia and Eritrea to be addressed by the first name. This is reflected in this list and at times in the text of this report.

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ANNEX E: LIST OF SOURCE MATERIAL

[1] Europa Publications:

- a. South of the Sahara 2004

[2] Europa World Yearbook 2003, 44th Edition, Volume 1, Europa Publications Ltd, London. 2003

[3] United States Department of State Reports <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/>

- a. Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia – report for 2002 dated March 2003.
- b. Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia - report for 2000 dated February 2001.
- c. Report on Religious Freedom; Ethiopia – report for 2001 dated October 2001
- d. Report on Religious Freedom; Ethiopia – report for 2002 dated December 2003
- e. Report on Human Rights Practices; Ethiopia - report for 2003 dated March 2004.

[4] British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News Online, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

- a. BBC Country Profile – Ethiopia, updated on 27 May 2003
- b. Ethiopia votes amid war, report dated 14 May 2000
- c. Horn peace deal: Full text, report dated 11 December 2000
- d. Israel to take all Ethiopian Jews, report dated 8 January 2004
- e. Threat to Ethiopian PM "averted", report dated 21 March 2001
- f. Mengistu to stay in Zimbabwe, report dated 22 March 2001
- g. Horn buffer zone formally established, report dated 18 April 2001
- h. University reopens after Addis riots, report dated 24 April 2001
- i. Slain Ethiopia security chief buried, report dated 14 May 2001
- j. Ethiopian students remain defiant, report dated 12 June 2001
- k. Ethiopia's nail eater highlights malaise, report dated 22 June 2001
- l. Ethnic tension sparks Ethiopian defection 14 August 2001
- m. 'Unknown' elected Ethiopian president, report dated 8 October 2001
- n. Controversy over border ruling, report dated 16 April 2002
- o. EU wants Ethiopian 'atrocities' inquiry, report dated 16 July 2002
- p. Alarm over new Ethiopian press laws, report dated 26 July 2002
- q. Ethiopia 'faces new rebellion', report dated 12 February 2004
- r. Ethiopia: More aid, more hunger still, report dated 4 January 2004
- s. UK rejects Ethiopia aid proviso, report dated 16 February 2004

[5] Cable News Network (CNN) World <http://edition.cnn.com/>

- a. Mandate for peacekeeping at Eritrea-Ethiopia border
- b. Opposition says five killed in Ethiopia elections 15 May 2000

[6] Amnesty International <http://web.amnesty.org>

- a. Amnesty International Report 2003 (covers 2002)
- b. Notice dated 21 May 2001: Ethiopia: Freedom of expression and association under attack
- c. Action dated 12 July 2001: Ethiopia
- d. Amnesty International witnesses cruelty of mass deportations 29 January 1999
- e. ETHIOPIA Daniel Zerfu (m) Deacon Scores of others 10 January 2003
- f. Arbitrary detention/Fear of ill-treatment 23 January 2004

- g. Death Penalty news December 2003
- h. Fear of ill-treatment or torture/incommunicado detention 19 April 2004

[7] Addis Tribune (Ethiopian Newspaper) <http://www.addtribune.com/>

- a. District Court Releases Lidtu Ayalew on Bail - 20 July 2001
- b. Dr Taye calls for the release of other prisoners of conscience – 17 May 2002
- c. AAPO becomes a multi-ethnic organisation – 19 August 2002

[8] Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

- a. World Report 2001, (covers 2000) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
- b. World Report 2002, (covers 2001) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
- c. World Report 2003, (covers 2002) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments
- d. World Report 2004, (covers 2003) Ethiopia-Human Rights Developments – 26 January 2004

[9] Ethiopian Constitution.

[10] Languages of the World – by Kenneth Katzner

[11] World Directory of Minorities, Edited by Minority Rights Group International. 1997.

[12] The Encyclopaedia of the Peoples of the World – Edited by Amiram Gonen. 1993.

[13] The International Committee of the Red Cross <http://www.icrc.org/eng>

- a. ICRC Annual Report – 2002
- b. ICRC News – Help for over 2,000 war-disabled – 27 September 2001
- c. ICRC News – 134 Ethiopians repatriated from Eritrea – 7 February 2002
- d. ICRC News – Eritrea/Ethiopia: Hundreds repatriated from both sides – 17 June 2003

[14] Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) <http://www.irinnews.org/>

- a. Ethiopia: Government bans journalists' association - 19 January 2004
- b. Ethiopia: Abduction linked to high divorce rate, 12 Feb 2001
- c. Ethiopia: Government moves on dissident group 27 March 2001
- d. Ethiopia: Leprosy awareness addresses "curse" 17 April 2001
- e. Ethiopia: Former Tigray president says dismissal was "unconstitutional" 25 April 2001
- f. Ethiopia: Human Rights Watch accuses government of harassing journalists 13 February 2004
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