

Ethiopia (19)

ETHIOPIA ASSESSMENT

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Country Information and Policy Unit

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1. SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 This assessment has been produced by the Country Information & Policy Unit, Immigration & Nationality Directorate, Home Office from information obtained from a variety of sources.

1.2 The assessment has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum determination process. The information it contains is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to catalogue all human rights violations. It concentrates on the issues most commonly raised in asylum claims made in the United Kingdom.

1.3 The assessment is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a sign-post to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.4 It is intended to revise the assessment on a 6-monthly basis while the country remains within the top 35 asylum producing countries in the United Kingdom.

1.5 An electronic copy of the assessment has been made available to the following organisations:

Amnesty International UK

Immigration Advisory Service

Immigration Appellate Authority

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

JUSTICE

Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Refugee Council

Refugee Legal Centre

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

2. GEOGRAPHY

2.1 The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has an area of 1,133,380 sq km and lies in north-eastern Africa. Ethiopia has been land-locked since the independence of its former province of Eritrea on the Red Sea coast in May 1993. It is bordered by Eritrea and Djibouti to the north, Somalia to the east, Kenya to the south and Sudan to the west. The population at the 1984 census was nearly 40 million (excluding Eritrea) with an official estimate in mid-1995 of 56,677,100. The 1994 Constitution established a federal structure of nine autonomous ethnically-based 'national states' and the federal capital territory. The largest city is the federal capital Addis Ababa (population 2,112,737 in 1994). Other important towns are Dire Dawa, Harar, Mekele, Jijiga, Nazret, Gondar Bahir Dahr and Dessie. An official estimate of the population in the middle of 1999 was 61,672,000. [1][2][9]

2.2 The official language is Amharic but many other languages are spoken. English is used widely in official and business circles. There are over 70 different ethnic groups in Ethiopia, referred to officially as 'nationalities'. The Oromos are the largest single group, comprising over one third of the total population. The Amharas make up almost another third. Other important population groups are the Tigrayans (or Tigrayans), Somalis and Afars. 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. About 45% of the population are Muslims and 40% adherents of the Ethiopian Orthodox (Tewahido) Church. There are small Evangelical Protestant and Roman Catholic populations. Most of the Jewish Falasha population was evacuated to Israel between 1984 and 1991. Between 5 and 15% of the population are animists. [1][2][3c][9]

2.3 Ethiopia's climate is mainly temperate owing to its high plateau terrain. The average annual temperature is 13° C, with abundant rainfall in some years and low humidity. The lower country is very hot and subject to drought conditions. Ethiopia is one of the world's least developed countries. In 1999 over 82% of the population was engaged in agriculture, and 1997/8 figures show agriculture accounted for over 47% of GDP. Coffee is the principal cash crop, although overall export earnings from coffee have reduced recently from 69% in 1998 to 41% in the 2000/2001 financial year. Major trading partners are Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy, Japan and the USA. The economy, blighted by years of war, State repression, drought, famine and forced resettlement, is heavily indebted and dependent on foreign aid. Ethiopia uses its own solar calendar, some seven years behind the Western calendar. [1][2][43]

THE ECONOMY

2.4 The Ethiopian economy relies heavily on the agricultural sector. Agriculture accounts for around half of Ethiopia's GDP, 90% of exports and 80% of total employment. Coffee was the 'cash-crop' of choice for Ethiopia but her reliance on this has led to problems as the world price plummeted in 2001. However most of the Ethiopian agricultural community exist solely on a subsistence level and seem resistant to government efforts to expand or modernise their operations. The economy is held back by two geographical problems. Firstly since Eritrea's independence no longer has access to a port. Secondly long trading relations with bordering countries have been hard to come by, and indeed maintain. Road links across the boarder are poor, and negotiations over conditions of access to the ports of Assab and Djibouti are difficult. As many as 4.6 million Ethiopians need food assistance annually. [22]

3. HISTORY

EARLY ETHIOPIA TO THE END OF THE MONARCHY

3.1 Ethiopia can trace its history back to around 100BC with the kingdom of Axum. It has existed as a political entity since the 1st century BC. In the 1930s Emperor Haile Selassie wrested power from the old nobility and established a modern autocracy, he continued to rule until 1974, apart from a period of Italian occupation from 1936 to 1941. He in turn was wrested from power in a military coup led by radical elements in the armed forces in September 1974, against a background of growing demands for democratisation, army mutinies, the revolt in Eritrea, serious economic difficulties and famine. Haile Selassie was detained by the military and died in their custody in August 1975. [1][2]

THE DERGUE AND THE 'RED TERROR'

3.2 The 1974 revolution, organised by an Armed Forces Co-ordinating Committee known popularly as the Dergue or Derg (Shadow), established a Provisional Military Government (PMG). This was replaced a few months later by the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC). Ethiopia was declared a socialist state and a programme of rural development introduced. The early years of the regime were fraught with internal disagreements between Marxist-Leninist factions in support of military and civilian rule and in 1977 Lt-Col Mengistu Haile Mariam executed his predecessor and replaced him as Chairman of PMAC and Head of State. He then began a campaign against political and armed opponents during which tens of thousands of Ethiopians, particularly in urban areas were killed or tortured. This became known as the "Red Terror" campaign. [1][2]

3.3 In 1979 all political groups were theoretically abolished and a Commission for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) was established. This led in 1984 to the formation of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia (WPE) modelled on the Communist Party of the Soviet Union with Lt-Col Mengistu as Secretary General. This party did not attract the support of the population who saw it as a vehicle for the regime to maintain control. In 1986 preparations for the transfer of power to a civilian government commenced, a referendum in February 1987 endorsed a new Constitution and national elections were held in June 1987 for a new legislature, the National Shengo (Assembly) with over 800 seats. The National Shengo abolished the PMAC, renamed the country the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (PDRE) and unanimously elected Mengistu President of the PDRE, as well as head of the armed forces. It also announced the creation of five 'autonomous regions' based on ethnicity including Eritrea and Tigray. [1][2]

ETHNIC RESISTANCE 1974 TO 1991 AND THE OVERTHROW OF MENGISTU

3.4 Armed resistance groups took advantage of the confusion following the 1974

revolution. In Eritrea Ethiopian government forces waged a continuing war against the forces of the ELF and EPLF. Continuing divisions within the Eritrean resistance movement were to lead to a civil war in Eritrea in 1981. The EPLF, in alliance with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) from the adjoining Tigray province, forced the ELF into exile in Sudan in 1982. In mid 1986 government forces abandoned the north-east coast to the rebels. [1][2]

3.5 Resistance against the central government also increased in the Somali-populated Ogaden district. Somalia supported some of this resistance and in July 1977 invaded the Ogaden. With military support from Cuba and the Soviet Union, Ethiopia counter-attacked in February 1978, forcing the Somali army's withdrawal in March 1978. Despite this defeat Somalia continued to support resistance groups which operated in the south-eastern Bale and Sidamo regions, into the mid-1980s. Ethiopia backed opposition groups inside Somalia opposed to Siad Barre's regime. Relations between Ethiopia and Somalia improved in 1986 and in 1988 diplomatic relations were resumed. [1][2]

3.6 The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) became active in the 1980s, advocating self-determination for the Oromo people and the promotion of their culture and language. Although Oromo peasant farmers, who had benefited from land reforms in 1975, initially supported Mengistu's Government, peasant opposition to farming co-operatives increased support for the OLF. The Government responded with widespread arrests of Oromos in Addis Ababa and elsewhere. The OLF was militarily weak, able to operate only along the Sudanese border and in an area southwest of Harar. [1]

3.7 In Tigray province the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF), established in 1975, posed a more serious threat to the Mengistu Government. The Eritrean EPLF provided arms and training to the TPLF, and in 1977-78 it was able to defeat opponents in the EPRP, which had been operating in the Tigray region since 1975. Support for the TPLF grew during the period of Mengistu's "Red Terror" and with its calls for self-determination for the Tigrayan people. The TPLF set up the Marxist-Leninist League of Tigray in the mid-1980s. The TPLF received support, like the Eritrean and Oromo groups, from Sudan. However, conflicts with other anti-Government groups, including its former backers the EPLF, weakened the TPLF and Government forces achieved considerable success against the TPLF in campaigns in 1985 and 1986. After 1988 when co-operation with the EPLF resumed the TPLF rapidly took over the whole of Tigray region. [1][2]

3.8 Failure to resolve the political crisis of Ethiopia's nationalities was matched by economic disaster. Recurrent food crises prompted criticisms of the Mengistu Government agricultural policies and 'villagization' programme. Following an attempted coup in 1989 Ethiopian socialism was abandoned in 1990, leading to free market policies replacing economic planning and opposition parties being invited to join a unity party. Military setbacks for the Government from 1988 onwards led to the loss of most of Tigray province to the TPLF in 1989 and most of Eritrea to the EPLF. A State of Emergency was declared in Eritrea and Tigray in May 1988. Government forces made some gains in Tigray but major defeats in early 1989 forced the Government to virtually abandon the region. [1][2]

3.9 The TPLF, in control of Tigray in 1989, established a united front in September 1989, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), with the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM). The EPRDF advanced south creating other organisations including the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organisation (OPDO) when the OLF refused to join. The TPLF remained the major element in the front but instead of simple self-determination became committed to the removal of Mengistu and the establishment of a democratic government for Ethiopia [1][2]

3.10 Mengistu was forced to make concessions as his Government's military position worsened, particularly after the loss of the vital Eritrean port of Masawa to the EPLF in February 1990, which cut supply lines to Addis Ababa. Socialism was effectively abandoned in March 1990 and the WPE was renamed the Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP), with membership open to non-Marxists. Following the fall of communism

in Eastern Europe Mengistu's Government lost access to cheap fuel and its arms supply. During a brief period Israel became an ally providing cluster bombs and military training and in 1991 took control of the airport to evacuate 14,000 Falasha Jews remaining in Ethiopia. [1][2]

3.11 In January 1991 the EPRDF announced a moderate political programme which made no reference to Marxism and was acceptable to the United States. As opposition forces closed in on Addis Ababa Mengistu's armies ended their resistance. Mengistu fled Ethiopia on 21 May 1991, seeking asylum in Zimbabwe, where he remains to the present day. (In March 2001 he was granted permanent residence in Zimbabwe.) Vice-President Lieutenant-General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan assumed control of the Government. [1][2][4f]

THE TRANSITION, ERITREA AND FEDERALISM

3.12 Following Mengistu's departure, talks began in London under United States auspices to ensure an orderly transfer of power. With the failure of these talks, EPRDF forces entered Addis Ababa on 28 May 1991 with the public support of the United States, encountering little resistance. An interim government was established by the EPRDF and at the same time the EPLF set up a provisional administration in Eritrea, pending the holding of a referendum on Eritrean independence. Eritrea thereby effectively seceded from Ethiopia, independence being approved in a referendum by the Eritrean people in April 1993 and formally proclaimed, with recognition by Ethiopia, on 24 May 1993. Agreements between the two countries were reached on defence, security, trade, economic matters and the joint use of the Eritrean port of Assab, vital to Ethiopia's economy. Relations between Ethiopia and independent Eritrea remained generally cordial until a long-running border dispute led to the outbreak of hostilities in May 1998. [1][2]

3.13 The EPRDF convened a national conference in July 1991, attended by some 20 political and ethnically-based groups, to discuss Ethiopia's future political structure and set up the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE). A national charter prepared by the EPRDF was adopted with some amendments and provided for self-determination for Ethiopia's nationalities and guaranteed freedom of association and expression. The conference elected an 87-member Council of Representatives to govern the country for a transitional two year period, following which free elections would be held. The Council of Representatives elected the EPRDF's Chairman and TPLF leader, Meles Zenawi, as Chairman of the Council and thereby President of Ethiopia. Tamirat Layne, Vice-Chairman of the EPRDF and Chairman of the EPDM (which became the ANDM in January 1994), was elected Prime Minister. 32 political groups were subsequently represented on the Council of Representatives, with EPRDF-allied groups holding 32 of the 87 seats. The OLF had 12 of the 27 seats allocated for Oromos. Seven different groups were represented on the Council of Ministers, including the OLF which held four Ministerial positions. [1][2]

3.14 Despite the participation of various political and ethnic groups in the TGE, violent clashes continued in many parts of Ethiopia in 1991, prompted partly by the dominance of the EPRDF and its allies in the new administration. Government forces clashed with the EPRP in the Gojam and Gondar regions and in August and September 1991 EPRDF and OLF supporters clashed, although both parties were co-operating at government level at that time. Government troops, mainly Tigrayans, also encountered opposition from Afar, Issa and Gurgureh forces. [1][2]

THE ELECTIONS OF 1992 AND 1994

3.15 The regional elections in June 1992 were boycotted by the OLF and other groups who alleged EPRDF intimidation of opposition groups, although the OLF itself harassed civilians and election officials. International observers, including representatives of the European Union, the United States and the Organisation of African Unity, concluded that some of the claims of electoral malpractice made against the EPRDF were, at least in part, justified. The EPRDF and its allies won 90% of the votes cast. Shortly afterwards

the OLF withdrew from the TGE and warned of the risk of a renewed civil war. On 10 July 1992 political groups, which were signatories to the July 1991 national charter, demanded that the regional election results be annulled. While in the same month the TGE set up a board to look into alleged electoral errors, regional councils were in place in all areas, except the Afar and Somali regions (where elections had been postponed), by late August 1992. Complaints of harassment by the EPRDF and its allied party the OPDO were also made by ethnic Somalis in respect of the regional elections held in the south-east in October 1992. [1][2]

3.16 The Ethiopian Human Rights Council reported in mid-1992 that it had documented over 2,000 cases of people being detained without charge and 13 extra-judicial killings, mainly political opponents of the EPRDF. [2]

3.17 OLF forces captured Asbe Teferi, 150 km from Addis Ababa, in late June 1992 but stronger Government forces were able to secure the capital. Talks in October 1992 between the Government and the OLF, organised by Eritrea's EPLF, proved unsuccessful and the OLF maintained its insistence on the annulment of the June 1992 election results. The EPRDF encouraged the OLF to rejoin the transitional government but hostilities continued between the Government and the OLF in various areas and by mid-December 1992 the Government held some 20,000 prisoners of war. [2]

3.18 In January 1993 Government security forces ruthlessly suppressed a student demonstration in Addis Ababa, in protest against UN involvement in Eritrean independence discussions. One student died and over 30 were injured. A Government commission of enquiry set up to investigate the matter, which reported in January 1994, blamed the demonstration's organisers for causing chaos and disorder. [2]

3.19 Differences within the EPRDF emerged in July 1993 when the party's Executive Committee denounced an undisclosed number of party members, apparently in response to criticism by middle-ranking TPLF members of the Government's ethnic regionalisation policy and the lack of economic reform. [2]

3.20 Elections were held in June 1994 to a new national assembly, the Constituent Assembly. The EPRDF won 484 of the assembly's 547 seats. The elections were boycotted by the OLF, the All-Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO) and the recently-formed Coalition of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia (CAFPDE), who alleged that Meles' EPRDF-led Government had intimidated their supporters and refused to allow opposition parties to open offices, allegations denied by the Government. [2]

1995 CPR & NATIONAL STATE ELECTIONS, DERGUE TRIALS

3.21 Elections of deputies to the Council of People's Representatives (CPR) and the national state assemblies were held simultaneously on 7 May 1995 but were boycotted by most opposition parties. The EPRDF and its allies won a landslide victory of 483 of the 537 confirmed seats on the CPR. In Tigray the TPLF won all the seats in the state assembly and all the state's seats on the CPR. EPRDF-allied parties met with similar success in the Amhara and Oromo states. The EPRDF won all 92 local assembly seats in Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian National Democratic Movement (ENDM) was the largest opposition party that participated in the election but it failed to win any of the 80 seats it contested. Elections in the Afar and Somali regions, where opposition to the EPRDF was strong, were postponed to June 1995, when pro-EPRDF parties secured narrow victories. International observers concluded that the elections were largely free and fair but were worried about the lack of participation by opposition parties in the political process. [2][3c]

3.22 Legislative power was transferred from the transitional Council of Representatives to the new Federal Parliamentary Assembly (FPA) on 21 August 1995. The TGE was wound up on 22 August 1995 when the new Constitution took effect and the country was

officially renamed the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). On the same day Dr Negasso Gidada, Minister of Information in the TGE and a member of the EPRDF-allied OPDO, was elected President of Ethiopia at a joint session of the FPA. On 23 August 1995 ex-President Meles Zenawi was elected Prime Minister by the CPR and on 24 August Meles appointed a 17-member Council of Ministers, which was approved by the FPA. [2][9]

3.23 In December 1994 the trial of 69 officials of the former Mengistu Government, including Mengistu who is living in exile in Zimbabwe, commenced in Addis Ababa. The Special Prosecutor's Office (SPO) was established in 1992 to create an historical record of human rights abuses during the Mengistu administration and to bring to justice those found to be criminally responsible. 23 of the defendants were being tried in absentia and five had died while awaiting trial. The defendants were charged with crimes against humanity and genocide between 1974 and 1991. The trial of a total of 5,198 people charged with genocide and war crimes committed under the Mengistu administration began at the Federal High Court in Addis Ababa in 1997. [2][3c]

3.24 Prime Minister Meles' Government came under increased criticism in late 1995 and early 1996 over its treatment of political opponents, particularly those in the press, intellectuals and civil rights workers. The Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association (ETA), Dr Taye Woldeesemayat, was arrested in mid-1996 on his return from a visit abroad along with several associates, accused of organising the Amhara-based Ethiopian National Patriotic Front (ENPF). The Government held this organisation responsible for terrorist acts, including the attempted assassination of an employee of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1994 and a grenade attack on USAID's offices in Addis Ababa in 1995. In July 1999 Dr Woldeesemayat was sentenced to 15 years in prison and is regarded as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. [1][2]

3.25 In 1996 Ethiopia made armed incursions into Somalia to attack bases of al-Ittihad al-Islamia (the Islamic Unity Party), a group seeking independence for the Somali-populated Ogaden district, which claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks on three hotels in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa in early 1996 and the attempted assassination of the Chairman of the Ethiopian Somali Democratic League and Minister of Transport and Communications in the Federal Government. Further armed incursions into Somalia against al-Ittihad bases were made by Ethiopian forces in following years and in 1999 these operations intensified when Eritrea attempted to distract Ethiopia from the border conflict by supplying Somali factions opposed to Ethiopia. There were reports in September 2000 that Ethiopian troops entered Somalia killing Somali civilians. The Ethiopian Government denied these reports. [1][2][3b]

3.26 The Government launched a drive against corruption in September 1995, which it claimed was endemic in Ethiopia. In October 1995 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Tamirat Layne was accused of 'indiscipline' and removed from office. He was later implicated in corrupt activities. He was also dismissed as Secretary-General of the ANDM and was finally sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in February 2000. Tefera Walwa replaced him as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. [1][2]

3.27 In response to an increase in armed attacks by the Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Front (ARDUF) the Government set up a 25,000 strong Afar military force, under the Afar People's Democratic Organisation, in late 1996. Government efforts in November 1996 to negotiate an end to ARDUF's military activities failed, although following a withdrawal of Government forces from sensitive areas in the Afar region and concessions on political prisoners in January 1997 discussions between the two sides resumed. [2]

BORDER CONFLICT WITH ERITREA 1998-2001

3.28 A simmering border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and a deterioration in relations since Eritrea adopted its own currency to replace the Ethiopian birr in 1997

which resulted in disruption of cross-border trade, led to an outbreak of hostilities on 6 May 1998. Both states accused the other of invading disputed border territory. The dispute was centred on an area of land in the Badme area, although Eritrean forces made incursions into other areas along the border. Ethiopia and Eritrea launched air raids against each other's territory on 5 June 1998. Eritrean aircraft bombed the northern Ethiopian town of Mekele, killing 44 people. Ethiopian aircraft attacked Asmara airport, killing and injuring several people. [1][2][24]

3.29 In June 1998 Ethiopia and Eritrea accepted a United States-brokered agreement for an immediate cessation of air attacks against each other. Diplomatic efforts by various countries and organisations, including the European union and the OAU, to resolve the dispute continued after fighting halted. Also in July 1998 Ethiopia accused the OLF and the al-Itihad al-Islamia militia of entering agreements with the Eritrean Government to fight against Ethiopia. The Eritrean Government denied that any such agreements had been made. [1][2][10a][11a][12]

3.30 Large numbers of Ethiopians and Eritreans were expelled from each other's countries in the wake of the border dispute. Each side accused the other of illegal deportations, involving several thousand people, and mistreatment of those remaining. [1][2]

3.31 Both Ethiopia and Eritrea have issued regular reports that the other side had expelled large numbers of its citizens. In September 1998 the Legal Forum for Peace, a committee of academics and government officials, was established in Ethiopia to draw international attention to claimed Eritrean atrocities against Ethiopian citizens. The Ethiopian Government claimed in December 1998 that Eritrea had expelled over 39,000 Ethiopians since May 1998. In the same month the Eritrean Government claimed that expulsions of Eritreans from Ethiopia exceeded 41,000. [10c][10d][11b]

3.32 An Amnesty International report issued in January 1999 stated that 52,000 Eritreans had been expelled from Ethiopia since June 1998. Amnesty believed that Ethiopia was operating a systematic policy to arrest and expel anyone of full or part Eritrean descent. Amnesty reported that at least 22,000 Ethiopians had left Eritrea but found no evidence to support Ethiopian claims that 40,000 Ethiopians had been mistreated and forcibly expelled from Eritrea. The Ethiopian Government stopped deporting Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin after it signed a cessation of hostilities agreement with Eritrea in 2000. On 27 June 2001, the Government repatriated 723 Eritreans without notifying the ICRC in advance according to established procedures. The ICRC monitored the deportation or repatriation of 2,892 Eritreans or Ethiopians of Eritrean origin during the year. It is estimated that approximately 80,000 to 100,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin remain in Ethiopia. [6d]

3.33 After a lull in fighting since June 1998, heavy fighting broke out along the disputed border on 6 February 1999, resulting in hundreds of casualties. Each side accused the other of breaking an aerial cease-fire, which had been in place since June 1998. [1][2]

3.34 There were numerous clashes between Ethiopian and Eritrean forces throughout late 1999 and early 2000. Ethiopia continued to insist on Eritrea's withdrawal from all Ethiopian territory, Eritrea repeatedly rejected this demand, inhibiting progress. In April 2000 delegations from Ethiopia and Eritrea agreed to attend OAU sponsored talks in Algiers, although the delegations would not agree to meet face to face, and the talks collapsed after 6 days. [1]

3.35 In mid May 2000 hostilities resumed with Ethiopia launching a major offensive. It was estimated that eight million Ethiopians were in need of emergency assistance. Fighting continued although both sides agreed to attend peace talks in Algiers under the auspices of the OAU. [1]

3.36 Peace talks commenced on 29 May 2000 although fighting continued until a revised

agreement was eventually signed on 18 June 2000. The agreement allowed for a return to the pre-May 1998 border positions, a 25km security zone inside the Eritrean border and the deployment of a UN peace-keeping force. [1]

3.37 In mid September 2000 the UN Security Council approved the deployment of a 4,200 strong peacekeeping force, UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), on the Eritrean side of the border. UNMEE was given an initial mandate of 6 months and charged with monitoring and ensuring that Eritrea and Ethiopia comply with their agreement on the cessation of hostilities, including the redeployment of respective forces to agreed positions. [1]

3.38 On 12 December 2000 in Algiers Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a comprehensive peace agreement ending the border conflict. 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. On 18 April 2001 the UN declared that a 25km buffer zone, separating the forces of the 2 countries, had been established. [2][4b][4]

3.39 On 9 March 2001 the UN Security Council voted to extend the UN Mission until 15 September 2001. Problems continued in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) with complaints about its operation from Ethiopia, Eritrea and the peacekeepers. At the 8th meeting of the UNMEE Military Co-ordination Committee the return of those displaced during the war and the reduction of tensions on the southern boundary of the TSZ were identified as priorities and both parties confirmed continued support for UNMEE and a commitment to establish peace. The 9th meeting of MCC scheduled for 3 October 2001 did not take place because discussion with the parties on a venue could not be completed in time. The return of prisoners of war, which had commenced, stopped in late July following Ethiopian concerns over the whereabouts of a missing pilot. On 14 September 2001 the UN Security Council voted to extend the UN Mission until 15 March 2002. On 23 September 2001 UNMEE expressed growing concern about the situation in the buffer zone between the two countries. [5a][14d][14e][14f][4c][30a][30b][14g][4p]

NATIONAL ELECTIONS MAY 2000

3.40 National elections were held in May 2000 for the House of Peoples Representatives (HPR). Prior to the elections opposition parties claimed that candidates had been refused registration and endorsement, supporters had been harassed and intimidated, local administrators had been partial and state media had failed to provide agreed services. There were also reports of violence associated with polling and demonstrations prior to polling. [4e][5b][3b]

3.41 At the end of 1999 the National Election Board (NEB) had begun investigating abuses related to candidate registration. Reports from throughout the country indicated NEB instructions on registration had been ignored and offices where registration should have taken place were closed hindering the registration of opposition candidates. Citizens who tried to register to vote were told by government personnel that they had to prove citizenship, under the law only citizens can vote and it was reported that Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were not allowed to register or vote. There were reports that local authorities in Oromiya, Amhara, and Southern Regions occasionally arrested and detained supporters of opposition parties prior to, and following the May elections. Most were released without being charged and although some were released on bail without charges being dropped, trials are not expected to be held. [3b]

3.42 According to observers from the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), local UN staff, diplomatic missions, political parties, and domestic NGO's, elections were generally free and fair in most areas. Serious election irregularities were reported in the SNNPRS region, particularly Hadiya zone where there were incidents of election officials instructing voters who to vote for, candidates campaigning at polling stations and

candidates being pressured into quitting. As a result of these allegations the NEB investigated and ordered new elections in 16 constituencies of SNNPRS. The new elections were held in June and were declared generally free and fair by international observers. [1][3b][8a]

3.43 The elections were contested by 17 opposition parties and as expected the incumbent EPRDF won an overwhelming victory gaining 481 seats in the HPR, EPRDF affiliate candidates won a further 37 seats, opposition party candidates 16 and independent candidates 13. [1][3b][32].

3.44 The EPRDF domination was only challenged to any extent in the SNNPRS region where opposition candidates won a significant number of seats. A notable result was the Minister of Defence losing his seat to an AAPPO candidate. [1][3b][32].

EVENTS OF 2001 AND EARLY 2002

3.45 In late May 2001 it was reported that some twenty heads of government institutions and businessmen had been arrested on suspicion of involvement in corruption. Those arrested included Siye Abraha leader of the TPLF dissident group involved in the split with the Prime Ministers ruling group. Others arrested included his three brothers and high-ranking officials of the Ethiopian Privatisation Agency. It has been reported however that most of the ousted members of the TPLF have been allowed to remain at liberty although they have not been permitted to return to Tigray, and at least one of them has had articles attacking the party published in the independent press. In July 2001 the Federal High Court ruled to block personal and business accounts of government officials and private businessmen accused of corruption. On 30 August 2001 the Federal Supreme Court ordered that all businessmen and government officials who had been detained be moved to the central prison in Addis Ababa pending the establishment of formal charges within 15 days. [14i][14m][14n][45]

3.46 On 22 June 2001 Dr Negaso Gidada, President since 1995, walked out of a meeting of the ruling coalition EPRDF. He was then dismissed from the OPDO central committee, one of the constituent parties of the ruling coalition, following accusations that he was helping dissidents in the TPLF. He later announced that he would continue serving as head of state despite a campaign to discredit him. Another prominent member of the OPDO Almaz Meko speaker of the House of Federation, the upper chamber of parliament, announced in August 2001 that she was applying for asylum in the United States. She had stopped in the United States on transit on her way back to Ethiopia after attending a convention of women MP's in the Caribbean. She explained that she felt the Oromo people were not being democratically represented by the OPDO and as a result said she would join the OLF to continue her struggle for the cause of the Oromo. [14o][14p][4i][38c]

3.47 In September 2001 Dr Negaso announced he had withdrawn from the OPDO as of 31 August 2001. In October 2001 following the completion of his 6-year term as president Dr Negaso was succeeded by Lieutenant Girma Wolde Giorgis a 76-year-old independent member of parliament and businessman from the majority Oromo ethnic group. [4q][14w]

3.48 As Ethiopia entered into 2002 however the two most important subjects in Ethiopia were the border dispute and the Prime Minister's anti-corruption drive. This follows the amending of the Anti-Corruption law in June 2001. The amendment prohibits bail to anyone accused of corruption by the police. This amendment was immediately and retroactively applied to former colleagues of the Prime Minister who had been purged from the EPRDF's constituent parties. The most prominent of these being former defence minister Siye who was arrested with seven others in mid-June of 2001, although several other high profile politicians were also arrested, including Abate Kisho, former President of the SNNPRS and Kuma Demeksa, former President of the Oromiya Regional State, as well as a number of important business men. [14y][8b]

3.49 Siye has been bailed and then arrested again outside the courthouse, then when time was running out for the trial he was charged with corruption and thus bail was denied. HRW say that Abate was arrested in July for allegedly steering contracts to a defendant in the Siye case. He claimed that the acts for which the police arrested him, pre-dated the laws that he is alleged to have violated. He was kept for 4 months without charge. In late October Abate was charged with having used his office to make illegal purchases. [8b]

3.50 Prime Minister Meles Zenawi stated at the end of January 2002 that there would be no hiding place for "sleaze and dishonesty" as he continued his crackdown on corruption in the country. The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission brought charges totalling of 1.2 billion birr (around \$150 million US) against businessmen in 2001. HRW says that several of those arrested had no obvious political ties. [14y][8b]

3.51 On 13th April 2002 the long awaited border decision was announced by the International Tribunal at the Hague. The determination gave something to both sides and was welcomed publicly by the two governments. Each government welcomed the ruling and declared victory and there were reports of celebration in both capitals. Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki said that he was "completely satisfied" with the ruling. For his part, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has said that "the ruling vindicates Ethiopia's land claims". Some confusion remains however over which side of the border lies Badme town, the flashpoint for the conflict. Internationally the outcome and reaction from the two governments has been lauded, a significant endorsement coming from the Arab League on 18 April 2002. The boundary was decided by a five-member panel of judges, treaty experts and international jurists. [4r][44b]

4. STATE STRUCTURES

THE CONSTITUTION

4.1 The new Constituent Assembly was inaugurated in October 1994 to discuss a draft of a new Constitution, which it approved in December 1994. The resulting Constitution guarantees all the rights that would be expected in a western country, with the same freedoms, rights and respects. [1][2] [3c][9][3a]

4.2 The Constitution gives prominence to the respect for human rights, it provides for freedom of the press, right to peaceful assembly, freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted political activity, guarantees the right to belong to a recognised Trade Union, an independent Judiciary and right to a public trial. It also prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention, prohibits slavery (which had already been abolished in 1942) as well as involuntary servitude, prohibits the use of torture and mistreatment of prisoners. Guarantees freedom of speech and the press, freedom of travel and residence, freedom of religion and the right of conversion, as well as establishing the equality of women and recognition of all languages (although Amharic is the official language of the workings of the Federal Government). [1][2][3c][9][3a]

4.3 The Constitution established a federal system of government, dividing Ethiopia into nine autonomous 'national states' and the federal capital territory (Addis Ababa). The Constitution allowed for regional autonomy, including the right of secession. The Constituent Assembly was replaced by a new legislature, the bicameral Federal Parliamentary Assembly, comprising the Council of People's Representatives (CPR), with 548 directly elected members, and the Council of the Federation, with 117 deputies elected by the new regional state assemblies. [1][2][3c][9][3a]

4.4 The 1994 Constitution also requires the Government to establish a human rights commission and office of the ombudsman. Progress on this has been slow; in July 2000

parliament completed legislative action to create both of these, and although progress has been slow, both are said to be on course to become operational in July 2002. [3a][9]
[33b]

POLITICAL SYSTEM

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

4.5 Ethiopia is a Federal Republic with 9 ethnically based states and 2 self-governing administrations as its administrative divisions. In December 1994, Ethiopia ratified its Constitution, which was made effective from 22 August 1995. Nationally the government is split into Executive and Legislative Branches. [22]

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

4.6 The Chief of State is President Girma Wolde Giorgis who replaced Negasso Gidada at the end of the latter's term of office in September 2001. The Head of the Government is Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Negasso Gidada and Meles Zenawi both took these offices 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]

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

4.7 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]

ETHIOPIAN POLITICS IN GENERAL

4.8 The Constitution provides for the right of peaceful assembly and free speech, although on occasions the Government has restricted these rights. Organisers of large public meetings or demonstrations must obtain a permit in advance and on occasions the issue of permits has been delayed hindering the organisation of the events. In particular in January 1999 a rally of the Coalition of Ethiopian Opposition Political Parties in Addis Ababa was attended by less than 3,000 and organisers claimed this was as a result of the permit not being issued until the day before the event. The EHRCO and some opposition groups reported problems renting halls from local government officials. [3c]
[3b][9]

4.9 Politics in Ethiopia is dominated by the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). This grouping was formed in 1989 by the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF) in union with the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), the Oromo People's Democratic Movement (OPDO) and the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Front (SEPDM). From its creation it has always been seen as a group that is dominated by the TPLF and critics claim a disproportionate Tigrayan dominance in government because of this. All main parties, government or opposition have since the time of the Dergue tended to be ethnically based apart from the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP) formed in early 2000. [3c][3b][9]

4.10 The Constitution provides for freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted peaceful political activity. Political parties must register with the National

Election Board (NEB). Parties that do not participate in two consecutive national elections are liable to be de-registered. Registered political parties must also receive permission from regional governments to open local offices and in 1999 the opposition AAPO complained that the Oromiya regional government refused its application to open branch offices in the region. There are 58 organised political parties, eight of which are national; the remainder operate only in limited areas. [3b][9]

ETHNICITY IN ETHIOPIAN POLITICS

4.11 The question of ethnic groups/nationalities has always been a problem for Ethiopian leaders as Ethiopia is deeply divided along ethnic lines (**also see Human Rights - Ethnic Group, and Annex B - Main Political parties**). It is an issue that helped to bring down the Dergue and remains an important issue in Ethiopian politics. This is not the most important aspect of Ethiopian politics but it is a significant one. The most significant factor being the dominance of the ruling EPRDF coalition. The three largest region-specific nationalities are the Oromo, the Amhara and the Tigray people. There is a great dominance within the regions to the extent that non-ethnically based parties' struggle for representation. 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). Only the EDP has set itself up as a non-ethnically based party yet it even relies on a mainly Amhara constituency. [1][32]

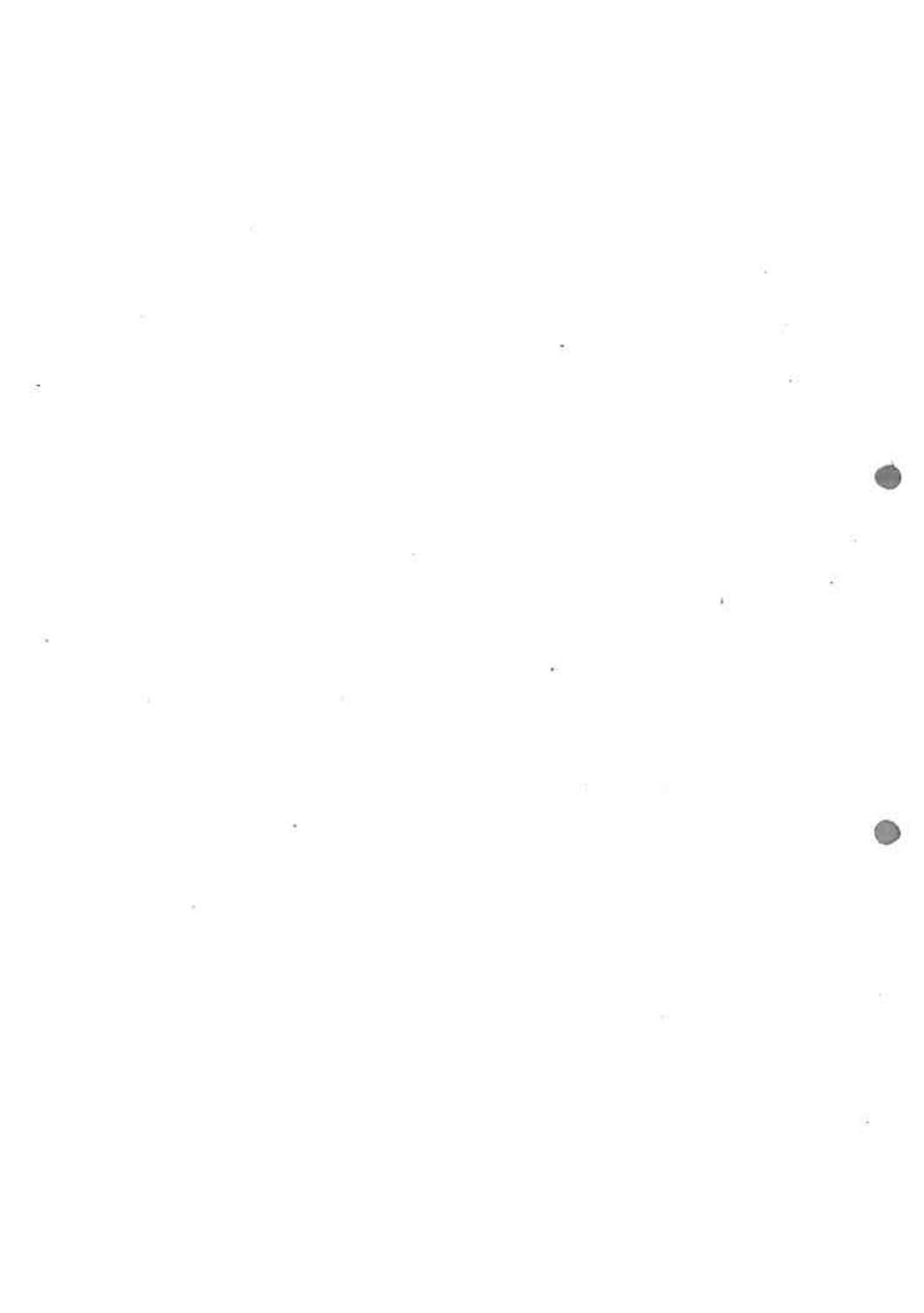
4.12 A great many of these new political parties, mostly ethnically based, emerged in the early 1990s. By 1993 there were over 100 parties although in the May 1995 elections only 49 groups participated. As Tigrayans make up only 7% of Ethiopia's politicians the Tigrayan-dominated EPRDF has set up surrogate parties with which it could form alliances, although only one such organisation, the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Union (SEPDU), established in 1992, has formally joined the EPRDF to date. [1]

4.13 Relations between the EPRDF and the OLF deteriorated during 1991 and 1992, although the OLF remained within the TGE. The OLF was opposed to the EPRDF-sponsored OPDO and clashes between OLF and EPRDF supporters occurred as both groups sought to better their position in the Oromo-populated areas in the run up to the 1992 regional elections. A cease-fire between the EPRDF and OLF, under United States and EPLF auspices, was agreed upon in April 1992. [1][2]

4.14 In March 2001 a split was reported in the TPLF with senior members of the Central Committee opposing the policies of the Prime Minister. 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. As a result twelve members of the Central Committee known as the "Siye group" walked out of a meeting and were held for a time in the former emperor's palace in Addis Ababa. The group was named after Siye Abraha the former defence minister removed from his position in 1995 by Prime Minister Meles. Further events believed to be linked to this split included the removal of the president of Tigray state from his post in April 2001, the resignation of a senior army general in May 2001 and the murder of the security chief Kinfu Gebre-Medhin in May 2001. Mr Kinfu was a close ally of the Prime Minister but the reasons for his murder were unclear. [4g][14i][14j][33a][4h]

4.15 Ethiopia continued its transition from a unitary to a federal system of government. The May 2000 elections were the second to be held based on the concept of ethnic federalism. Highly centralised authority, poverty, civil conflict and unfamiliarity with democratic concepts combine to complicate the implementation of federalism. [3b]

4.16 There were reports of arrest and detentions of opposition party supporters in Oromiya, Amhara and southern regions prior to and following the May elections. There were also instances of federal and regional authorities arresting and detaining members



of armed opposition parties particularly the OLF and ONLF, these detentions being for involvement in armed actions and the detainees were typically held for days or weeks before being released. [3b][8b]

THE JUDICIARY

OVERVIEW

4.17 The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary, but the judiciary remains weak and overburdened. The federal and regional courts showed signs of judicial independence although in practice severe shortages of adequately trained personnel in many areas and serious financial constraints combined to deny many citizens the full protections provided by the Constitution. For example in July 2001 residents of Oromiya Regional State complained of delays in the justice process alleging that some suspects had been in detention without charge for periods of up to six years. The head of the Ministry of Justice in Oromiya admitted there were 600 suspects in jail who had not been charged and the assistant Chief Prosecutor for the area said that of the 1,200 suspects awaiting trial or being tried most had been in detention since 1999. He blamed lack of manpower and delays in the judicial system for the delays in these cases. [3d][3c][3b][9][14q]

4.18 In 1992 the Special Prosecutors Office (SPO) was set up to create a historical record of the abuses committed in the Red Terror Campaign during the Mengistu Government and to bring to justice those criminally responsible for human rights violations. [3d][3c][3b]

4.19 In keeping with the Constitution the Government continues to decentralise and restructure the judiciary along federal lines, establishing courts at district, zonal and regional levels. The Federal High Court and Federal Supreme Court hear and adjudicate original and appeal cases involving federal law, trans-regional issues and national security. The regional judiciary is increasingly independent with district, zonal, and high and supreme courts mirroring the structure of the federal judiciary. In March 2000 the federal High Court created two new three-judge benches at the High Court level to handle criminal cases. [3c][9][3b]

4.20 The Constitution provides legal standing to some pre-existing and customary courts and gives federal and regional legislatures the authority to recognise other courts. By law both 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. Although not sanctioned by law some traditional courts still function, and these courts resolve disputes for the majority of citizens who live in rural areas and have little access to formal judicial systems. [3c][9][3b]

4.21 Regional offices of the federal Ministry of Justice monitor local judicial developments but the federal judicial presence in the regions is limited. All judges are guided by the Federal procedural and substantive codes, pending the passage by national state legislatures of laws particular to their regions. [3d][3c][3b]

4.22 The Government is aware of the severe lack of experienced staff in the judicial system and continues to identify and train lower court judges. Senior government officials charged with judicial oversight estimate that the creation of a truly independent and skilled judiciary would take decades. The government welcomed foreign financial and technical assistance to accelerate this process. [3d][3c][3b]

RECENT EXPERIENCE

4.23 The Constitution affords accused persons the right to a public trial by an ordinary court of law within a reasonable time of charges being made. Accused persons have the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choice. In practice lengthy pre-trial

detention is common, closed proceedings occurred between 1998 and 2001. On occasions detainees were allowed little or no contact with their legal counsel. The Law does not provide for the defence to have access to the prosecution's evidence before a trial, and some trials have historically lasted for years. HRW report that some times prisoners have been released after months of captivity without ever being charged or facing a trial. [3d][3c][9][3b][8b]

4.24 The Government had been implementing a major overhaul of the military justice system, which relied upon foreign assistance to train officers in topics including judicial and non-judicial punishment, human rights and the conduct of soldiers during military operations. The outbreak of hostilities with Eritrea lead to the suspension of most foreign assistance delaying this process. [3d][3c][3b]

THE MILITARY

MILITARY SERVICE

4.25 There is no compulsory military service; the country has maintained an all-volunteer military since the Transitional Government abolished conscription in 1991. The rapid expansion in numbers in the military, from 60,000 in 1998 to over 250,000 in 2000, assisted the goal of bringing more ethnic groups into the military. Most reports indicate that it is now an ethnically diverse organisation with very little friction in the lower ranks between the ethnic groups. In the higher ranks officers are much less ethnically diverse. Promotions in late 2000 were proportionately higher among Tigrayans although there were promotions amongst a range of ethnic groups. In 2000 Oromos were promoted in higher numbers than in previous years. Since the start of the border war with Eritrea the military justice system has been adversely effected due to the withdrawal of foreign assistance in training at a time when the rapid expansion of the military greatly increased the need for trained military lawyers and judges. [3d][3c][3b][19]

CHILD SOLDIERS

4.26 During 1999 military officers admitted that some children under the age of 18 were enlisted and in 2001 the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers claimed that there is evidence of child soldiers being used, both by the military and armed opposition groups. Scarce birth certificates, poor educational facilities, patriotism and pervasive poverty together enticed underage applicants to attempt to circumvent restrictions on underage applicants. Young boys found to be under 18 are prohibited from military service. Children from rural areas often do not have birth certificates and unit commanders who suspect but cannot prove recruits are under 18 can transfer them from frontline combat to rear-area command. [3d][3c][3a] [25][42]

4.27 In March 2002 a United Nations special representative for Children and Armed Conflict stated that during his visit to Eritrea and Ethiopia, he saw no systematic use of child soldiers and also had found no evidence of child abuse in refugee camps. This absence was particularly impressive, "since no other conflict zone he has visited recently had been free of the problem. He attributed this to local authorities and communities organising and monitoring life in the camps. [14z]

INTERNAL SECURITY

4.28 The security forces consist of the military and the police, both of which are responsible for internal security. The police in previous years were subordinate to the Ministry of Justice and reported to the Security, Immigration, and Refugees Affairs Authority (SIRAA); however, after the October reorganisation of the federal Government, the Federal Police Commission and the Federal Prisons Administration became subordinate to the new Ministry of Federal Affairs. The military consists of both air and ground forces and reports to the Ministry of National Defence. Following the end of fighting between Ethiopian and Eritrean armed forces in 2000, some Ethiopian troops

were demobilised, and others were redeployed from the border area in Tigray to other regions throughout the country, which increased the internal military presence in some parts of the Somali, Oromiya, and the Southern Regions. Military forces continued to conduct an increased number of low-level operations against the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), the Somalia-based Al'Ittiihad Al' Islami terrorist Organisation, and elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) both in the country and in southern Somalia and northern Kenya. [3b]

LEGAL RIGHTS AND DETENTION

OVERVIEW

4.29 The Constitution and the Criminal and Civil Codes prohibit arbitrary arrest and detention. However, these rights are not always respected in practice by the Government. The Criminal Procedure code requires that any person detained must be charged and informed of the charges within 48 hours and, in most cases, be offered release on bail. Persons charged with serious offences may be detained for 15 days while police investigate the case and for further periods of 15 days while investigations continue. Bail is not available to those charged with murder or treason. People are, however, often detained without a warrant, particularly in outlying regions, often not charged within the required 48 hours, and, if bailed, never recalled to appear before a court. At the end of 2000 7,500 people allegedly associated with armed opposition groups remained in detention without charge or trial, mostly suspected OLF supporters or guerrilla fighters, the majority of such detentions being attributable to the shortage and limited training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. Judicial search warrants are required to search houses but in practice are seldom obtained outside Addis Ababa. [3c][3b][9]

4.30 The 1994 Constitution proscribes slavery, which had been formally abolished in 1942, and involuntary servitude. There are no reports of slavery in Ethiopia, although child prostitution involving the sale or abduction of young girls remains a problem and there were continued reports that young girls were sold or forced into prostitution by family members. The Criminal Code prohibits forced labour but courts as a punishment for over-15s can order its use. [3c][3b][9]

RECENT EXPERIENCE

4.31 There have been several reports in the past few years of police brutality, beatings, political intimidation and unlawful killings. These include the beating of a group of mothers who were attempting to visit their children detained at Sendafa, a police college being used as a temporary detention centre in 2001. There were also reports of subsequent police visits resulting in violence. In addition there were problems at University demonstrations including the demonstrations at Addis Ababa University (see Education), and according to the Chairman of the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC), government forces killed at least 11 supporters of the SEPDC in the period leading up to the December elections although this is largely unconfirmed. [3a]

4.32 The International Committee of the Red Cross however announced in February 2002 that it has now completed courses for the Ethiopian police on human rights and good policing. The ICRC say that these courses tackled such key concepts 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. These courses have so far benefited 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. [21d]

PRISONS

OVERVIEW

4.33 Prison conditions in Ethiopia are poor and overcrowding remains a problem. Several prisoners and detainees reportedly died during 1999 from illness and disease, including the acting Secretary-General of the ETA, Shimelis Zewdie, who died in June 1999 from tuberculosis. Although the Constitution prohibits the use of torture and mistreatment of prisoners there are many credible reports of detainees being beaten sometimes by security officials. Following the outbreak of hostilities with Eritrea in May 1998 the Government detained and then deported civilians of Eritrean origin. [3c][9]

4.34 The Government permits some independent monitoring of prison conditions and police stations by the ICRC and diplomatic missions. The ICRC, in general, had access in 1999 and 2000 to federal and regional prisons and detention centres and police stations throughout Ethiopia. However, after an ICRC visit in July 1999 the Government refused to allow ICRC access to a Central Investigation Division detention facility in Addis Ababa, but in May 2000 the ICRC was allowed access to this facility. ICRC was also unable to gain access in 1999 to police stations in Addis Ababa holding ethnic Eritrean detainees, but in June 2000 ICRC was permitted access to all police stations in Addis Ababa. ICRC had access in 2000 to some but not all military detention facilities. In 2000 the Government allowed ICRC access to detention facilities holding Eritrean POW's, and in addition ICRC regularly visited civilian Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin detained on national security grounds. [3c][3b]

4.35 Prison food is inadequate and many prisoners have food delivered to them by their families or use their own funds to buy food. Prisoners are usually permitted daily access to a prison yard. Female prisoners are housed separately from males and rape does not appear to be a problem. Visitors are allowed. Prison letters are supposed to be written only in Amharic although this restriction is not strictly enforced. [3c][3b]

4.36 In June 1999 some 1,200 civilians of Eritrean origin and 172 Eritrean prisoners of war were moved from the Bilate detention camp south of Addis Ababa to the Dedesa camp in the western Oromo state. This newer new camp is in an area less prone to malaria. In July 1999 some 350 Eritrean POWs were moved to Dedesa from Tigray state. The ICRC and foreign diplomatic observers were allowed regular access to detainees. Following the signing of the peace treaty in December 2000 359 severely wounded or ill POW's were repatriated to Eritrea. [3c][3b]

RECENT EXPERIENCE

4.37 In 1999 and 2000 foreign diplomats were permitted to visit prominent detainees held by the SPO for alleged war crimes committed under the Dergue. These detainees included Olympic marathon winner Mamo Wolde and former President of Addis Ababa University Dr Alemayehu Tefera. Dr Taye Woldesemayat, Secretary-General of the ETA, is also permitted diplomatic visitors. However in 2000 a delegation from the international organisation Education International which had received visas to visit Dr Woldesemayat was turned back at Addis Ababa airport. A second delegation attempted to visit him later in the year and all but one of the delegates was refused visas. [3c][3b]

MEDICAL SERVICES

GENERAL SITUATION

4.38 It was estimated that in the early 1990s there were four doctors and eight nurses per 100,000 people. With foreign assistance health centres and clinics are steadily expanding into the rural areas. In late 1998 the World Bank announced that it would lend Ethiopia 100 million US dollars to finance the first five-year phase of an ambitious programme to improve health services. Problems with HIV/AIDS, meningitis, tuberculosis and diabetes are widespread in Ethiopia and TB is now one of the leading causes of

death in the country. All appropriate drugs for the treatment of Tuberculosis are available throughout the country. No treatment for Hepatitis B is available. Treatment for diabetes is now available in Addis Ababa. [2][17][29] [20c][41]

4.39 Medical training in Ethiopia is offered at three major centres. The country's oldest medical school is located in Addis Ababa, and the other two main centres are the Gondar Medical School and the Jimma Institute for Health Sciences. Currently it is estimated that there are 1,483 physicians and 4,114 nurses in the entire 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]

4.40 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. 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. 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%. [2][16a][16b][16c]

4.41 Treatment for the mentally sick is limited. There is only one hospital for the mentally sick the Amanuel Mental hospital. This institution has 356 beds, all of which are constantly occupied, and there are ten 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. [40]

4.42 In April 2001 the Ministry of Health announced that 86% of leprosy sufferers were now successfully completing courses of medical treatment this represented a recent rise in the numbers completing proper treatment. Improvements followed a leprosy awareness campaign, which resulted in nearly two and a half thousand lepers registering in a period of six months. [14v]

HIV/AIDS

4.43 The first case of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia was only reported in 1986. The Joint United Nations AIDS Program (UNAIDS) reports that Ethiopia is now one of the hardest-hit sub-Saharan African countries, with one in 13 adults infected with HIV. In urban areas more than one in six adults (18 percent of the population) are infected. In 2001 it was estimated that more than 2.6 million Ethiopians were living with HIV. One million with AIDS. The Ministry of Health predicts that the number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) will increase to 3.2 million by 2006, and to 4.7 million by 2014. Furthermore it is estimated that 350,000 died from HIV/AIDS in 1998 and 740,000 in 2000. This figure is expected to rise to a figure of six million by 2014 if not checked. [35]

4.44 The Ethiopian government has in many ways been very responsive to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia, forming the National Task Force on the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS in 1985, one year before the first AIDS case was diagnosed. In 1998 the government adopted a National Policy on HIV/AIDS and is currently working on a National Strategic Plan. Government bodies encourage NGO help and are attempting to secure more treatment drugs into the country. [35]

4.45 In May 2001 it was confirmed that no anti-retroviral drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS are available anywhere in the country although there are some limited supplies of drugs available to treat a few of the opportunistic infections associated with HIV/AIDS. In August 2001 the state's HIV/AIDS Secretariat said they were hoping to make cheap anti-retroviral drugs available within three months, problems have occurred relating to this but this remains a continuing goal of the government. [20c][41]

THE DISABLED

4.46 It is estimated that there are approximately six million persons with disabilities in Ethiopia. There has been a recent increase in this number following the conflict with Eritrea which resulted in many combatants being disabled as well as the effects of the extensive landmining of the border and other areas. Although the Ethiopian Constitution stipulates that the state shall provide rehabilitation and assistance to persons with physical and mental disabilities, the government has provided few resources for this and much of the care for the disabled is undertaken by approximately 70 NGO's in the area. [3b]

4.47 Despite the rhetoric of the Constitution, by the end of 2001 the government had yet to enforce equal rights laws for those with disabilities and had failed to mandate access to buildings or government services for persons with disabilities. There is no real evidence of central discrimination although people with disabilities complain of job discrimination. [3b]

4.48 Wheelchairs and prosthetic limbs are rare in Ethiopia although some are provided by the many NGO's that deal with disability in the area. Many schemes have been set up by the NGO's in Ethiopia to help with the standard of living of the disabled. The Amhara Development Association operates a project to provide vocational training to disabled war veterans in Bahir Dar (near Lake Tana). The Tigray Development Association operates a centre in Mekele that provides prostheses and seed money for business development, training and counselling for those with disabilities. Also the international NGO Landmine Survivors provides a number of services to victims of landmine explosions including counselling and referrals to rehabilitation services. An ICRC project called Patient Support Services (PSS) also was a major 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. In 12 months PSS have helped more than 2,000 war-disabled. [3b][13b]

EDUCATION

GENERAL SITUATION

4.49 By law primary education is compulsory, free and universal, however despite Government efforts to increase the number of schools, including the construction of 303 new schools in 1999, there are not enough schools to meet needs. Primary education begins at seven and lasts for eight years. Secondary education, which starts at 15, is divided into two cycles of two years each, the second of which provides preparation for entry to the tertiary system or vocational and technical education. In 2000 61% of male primary age children attended school and 41% of female primary age children. The enrolment figures for secondary education were much lower, 12% for males and 8% for females. The overall literacy rate is estimated to be between 20% and 30%. During 2000 over 46,000 males and 27,000 females obtained a school leaving certificate allowing them to go on to higher education; there were spaces in institutions of higher education for only a small percentage of these. There are 17 institutions of higher education, including 6 universities. [2][3c][3b]

RECENT EXPERIENCE

4.50 The authorities generally respect academic freedom, although political activity is not, in general, encouraged in universities. In addition the Government requires that it appoint all deans and the Presidents at all eight public universities. The Ministry of Education has approved the charter for the country's first private university, Unity College, which began offering a bachelors degree program in September 1999. In May 2000 Unity College began offering a two year diploma in journalism and communication. Despite Government assurances that the University would not be affected by the conflict with Eritrea, nine academics of Eritrean origin were dismissed soon after hostilities broke out. Also, at the end of 1998 some 30 out of 82 Eritrean exchange students from the

University who had been detained remained in detention at Bilate on the grounds that they had received military training and would be conscripted into the Eritrean armed forces if released. On a few occasions during 2000 the police killed and injured students during demonstrations. In particular in December 2000 police shot and killed a student in a demonstration over inadequate school services. [3c][3b]

4.51 On 12 April 2001 police entered the campus of Addis Ababa University to break up a student strike and protests about the banning of their newspaper, the outlawing of student council meetings and the presence on the campus of a police station. Reports indicate that the police were armed with batons and rifles and beat and fired at students about 50 of who were taken to hospital several with severe injuries. The education minister Genet Zewde met with students later and claimed that the Government was not responsible for the actions of the police. She agreed to some of the students' demands however the strike continued. On 17 and 18 April 2001 there were further demonstrations in support of the students, reportedly spreading to other areas of Addis Ababa and the university in Mekele. The demonstrators were mainly high school students and young unemployed men. Riot police reportedly dealt with the disturbances heavily-handedly beating and shooting people and there were reports of 39 deaths and more than 250 injuries. Addis Ababa University was closed indefinitely by the Government but reopened on 24 April 2001. A boycott of classes followed the reopening and by June most students were leaving the campus. At the end of August 2001 University authorities decided to readmit all students who had discontinued classes in the 2000/2001 academic year. [14c][4k][5c][4l][4m][21c][8b]

4.52 Following the riots a number of students were detained, between two and three thousand of whom were released from the Sendafe police training college on 26 April 2001, although an estimated 100 were still held in various police stations in Addis Ababa. In August 2001 it was announced that authorities were finalising the investigation into individuals accused of looting and property destruction and would be filing charges against suspects. [14s][14t][4n][38b]

4.53 Following the April 2001 riots, the Federal Police Commission announced that it was investigating AAPO, EDP and EHRCO having had evidence that these organisations had been "organising hooligans". The organisations rejected these accusations and suggested they were made in an attempt to suppress opposition parties and freedom of speech. The EDP announced that 67 party members had been imprisoned including Secretary-General Lidetu Ayalew. He was finally released on bail in July 2001 together with 3 other prominent members of the EDP following an earlier release and re-arrest. It was confirmed in June 2001 that over 100 EDP members remained in detention without trial and the police continued to look for others who had gone to ground. [31][34][20a][14k][8b]

4.54 In early May 2001 two prominent human rights activists Mesfin Wolde-Maryam (founder and current chair of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council) and Berhanu Nega were arrested after it was alleged they incited the riots. Opposition activists were also arrested, and the EHRC were temporarily suppressed. Amnesty International expressed concern over their continued detention on 21 May 2001 reporting that they had been denied bail and access to lawyers. They were released on bail in June 2001. In early July the government announced that it had released about 100 of those arrested in April, another 150 were released on bail. Of the AAPO detainees, 32 were released in July with six remaining in jail. No formal charges are known to have been made against these individuals. Of the one-hundred or so EDP members detained around ninety were released without charges, four were released on bail and seven remained in jail without charge. [4d][6b][6c][8b][45]

5. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

INTRODUCTION

5.1 The 1994 Constitution gives prominence to, and guarantees respect for, human rights. In practice the Government's human rights record continues to be poor. During 1998, 1999 and 2000 security forces at times beat and mistreated detainees and committed extra-judicial killings. Arbitrary arrest and detention and prolonged pre-trial detention are ongoing problems. The Federal Government has difficulty in protecting constitutional rights at a local level. Local administrative, police and judicial systems remain weak in many areas. [6][7][25][9]

5.2 The Constitution provides for freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary.

In practice the government restricts the rights of the press, continuing to detain and imprison members of the press, although in October 2001 only one journalist remained in jail. (See also sections 5.64-5.69) [9][14x][25]

5.3 Federal and regional authorities arrest and detain without charge or trial members of armed opposition groups in particular the ONF and ONLF, most detainees are accused of participating in armed actions on support of the ONF and ONLF. Typically those arrested are held without charge and released within a few days. At the end of 2000 7,500 people allegedly associated with armed opposition groups remained in detention. During the border war the Government detained and deported some Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin without due process. (See also sections 5.47-5.51). [6][7][25]

5.4 In addition to alleged abuses of human rights committed by the Ethiopian Government, various opposition groups, notably the OLF and ONLF, have also been responsible for human rights violations, committed during terrorist operations. (See also sections 5.32 and 5.46) [6][7][25]

ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

5.5 Domestic human rights organisations operating within Ethiopia include the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), Human Rights League (HRL), the Peace and Development Committee, the Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association, the Inter-Africa Group, the National Committee on Traditional Practices, the Society for the Advancement of Human Rights Education, Enway, the Centre for Local Capacity Building and Studies, African Initiatives for a Democratic World Order and Hundee. These and numerous other groups are primarily engaged in civic and human rights education, legal assistance, and trial monitoring. The EHRCO, a self-proclaimed human rights monitoring group, received legal status as an NGO in 1999 after a seven year campaign for recognition. In May 2001 the offices of EHRCO were closed down for ten days by armed police following the arrest of the former Secretary General. (See also para 3.53) [7][25][36a]

5.6 Prominent Oromo civic leaders founded the Human Rights League (HRL) in 1997. In April 1998, on the grounds that some board members wished to use the organisation as a front for the OLF, the authorities closed the offices of HRL and confiscated the contents of the office; by the end of 2000 these items had not been returned. The HRL had been operating without a Government licence for three years despite having fulfilled the requirements for licensing. Government investigations into the HRL's alleged links to the OLF continued throughout 1999 and 2000. (See also section 5.27) [7][25]

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

5.7 The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been operating in Ethiopia since 1997 and has a head office in Addis Ababa and 4 sub-offices elsewhere in the country. The Government allows the ICRC to visit detention centres and prisons throughout Ethiopia. In 1999 there were some problems visiting those detained by the police in Addis Ababa, however in 2000 visits resumed. The ICRC has not been permitted access to some military detention centres where OLF fighters are detained. During the border war involvement of the ICRC in the repatriation of POW's and civilian detainees varied. However in December 2000 following the signing of the peace agreement Ethiopia and Eritrea agreed that all POW repatriations would take place under the auspices of the ICRC. Other international human rights organisations have visited the country in the past three years. [6][7][25][13]

5.8 The Government continues to encourage international human rights organisations and foreign diplomats to observe the war crimes trials of officials of the Mengistu Government that commenced in 1994. [6][7][25]

5.9 The 1994 Constitution requires the Government to establish a human rights commission and office of the ombudsman. Progress on this has been slow; in July 2000 parliament completed legislative action to create both of these, although neither was operational by the end of 2000. The speaker of the Council of Peoples Representatives confirmed in July 2001 that the formation of a human rights commission and an office of the ombudsman would be major activities when the parliament reconvened in October after the summer recess. [25][9][33b]

5B. HUMAN RIGHTS: SPECIFIC GROUPS

WOMEN

5.31 The 1994 Constitution provides for the equality of women, however this provision is not always applied in practice. The provisions of the Constitution are often in conflict with the 1960 Civil Code and the 1957 Penal Code, which are still in force although under review by the Ministry of Justice. The 1960 Civil Code is based on a monarchical constitution that treated women as if they were children or disabled. Culturally based abuses including wife beating and marital rape are pervasive social problems. Although women have recourse to the police and the courts, societal pressures and limited court facilities reduce the availability of these remedies, particularly in rural areas. Discrimination is most acute in rural areas where 85% of the population live. In urban areas women have fewer employment opportunities than men. [3c][9][3b]

5.32 The traditional practice of abduction as a form of marriage is illegal under the penal code but is still believed to be practised widely in many rural areas particularly the Oromiya region and SNNPRS. Women are often abused physically during abduction and forced sexual relationships accompany many marriages by abduction. On 29 July 2000 the Government adopted a new family law which took effect from 4 July 2000. Amongst other provisions this raised the legal marriage age for girls to 18. Family arbitration councils which in the past had the power to dissolve marriages can now only engage in arbitration and reconciliation counselling, only the courts have the power to grant divorces. Domestic violence is not considered a serious justification under the law for divorce. [3c][3b][14b]

5.33 In 1997 the Government adopted a plan of action aimed at enhancing the status of women. In 1999 and 2000 since the adoption of this program few improvements were noted. According to a study produced by the National Committee on Traditional Practices in Ethiopia (NCTPE) in 1998 certain harmful practices such as early marriage and marriage by abduction appeared to be declining. [3c][3b]

5.34 The majority of girls undergo some form of female genital mutilation (FGM) which is widely condemned by international experts. The law does not prohibit FGM although the government discourages it officially, supporting the NCPTE and educational programmes in schools. The NCTPE survey in 1998 indicated that in excess of 72% of the female population had undergone FGM, which was a reduction from the estimated figure of 90% in 1990. [3c][3b]

5.35 Social practices obstruct investigations into rape and the prosecution of rapists. Many women are not aware of their legal rights under the law. It is estimated that there are more than 1,000 rapes a year in Addis Ababa however there were only 168 rape convictions nation-wide in the year ending September 2000. In August 2001 a demonstration was held in Addis Ababa during which protestors called upon the government to withdraw bail rights from those charged with committing rape, it was estimated that some 3,000 people attended. In September 2001 it was reported that over 500 charges were filed against rape cases in Addis Ababa in the preceding 12 months. The Ethiopian Women's Democratic Organisation estimated an average of about 84 rape cases per day in Addis Ababa which are never reported or brought to court due to social and cultural problems. The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association one of whose missions was to help women victims of violence was suspended in 2001 by the Ministry of Justice for operating outside its mandate. The banning order on the EWLA and Ethiopian Human Rights Council was quickly recinded by the new Justice minister following a government reshuffle however. [3c][3b][14r][21a][38a][45]

5.36 The status of women and their level of political participation is greater than it has ever been although they are still only represented in small numbers in government and as senior figures in political organisations. In 2000 one of the 15-member Council of Ministers was a woman; two other women held ministerial rank and a number of others senior positions. Following the May 2000 elections there were 42 women among the 545 members of the lower House of People's Representatives and 10 among the 113 members of the upper House of Federation, including the speaker and four members of the Council of Ministers. In 1999 six of the 23 judges in the Federal High Court were women. In 2000 there were three women on the Supreme Court. [3c][3b]

CHILDREN

5.37 The Government has encouraged efforts by domestic and international NGOs that focus on children's social, health and legal issues, as an example local officials provided free transport and facilities for NGO activities. During 2000 proclamations were passed that established the Human Rights Commission (HRC) this provides for a commissioner and ombudsman to be specifically responsible for the rights of women and children. [3c][3b]

5.38 Under the Labour Law the minimum age for paid employment is 14 years. Special provisions cover children aged between 14 and 18 years, including the prohibition of night work and hazardous work, and govern the number of hours children may work. The Government has made some efforts to enforce these regulations however social welfare activists, civic organisers, government officials and entrepreneurs agree that child labour is pervasive throughout the country. The Government maintains there is no child labour problem and that most economically active children are engaged in family-based, non-exploitative child work which is part of the socialisation process. Forced or compulsory labour by children is illegal but there are reports that it occurs. Child labourers are often abused; a survey published in 1999 indicated a figure of 70% of abuse among child urban labourers. [3c][3b]

5.39 There are approximately 200,000 street children in urban areas, 150,000 in Addis Ababa itself and it is believed this figure is growing. These children beg individually or as part of a gang or work in the informal sector. There were reports in 1998, 1999 and 2000 that "handlers" sometimes maim or blind children to increase their earnings. [3c][3b]

5.40 Child prostitution continues to be a problem and is believed to be increasing. There are no laws making prostitution or child prostitution criminal offences. There were reports in 1999 and 2000 that girls as young as 11 are recruited to work as prostitutes and kept ignorant of the risks of HIV/AIDS. In addition rural families sold teenage girls to hotel and bar owners on main truck routes although reports of this practice are difficult to confirm. Young girls are prized, as clients believe they are disease free. [3c][3b]

5.41 Despite a new family law setting the age of consent for marriage for males and females as 18, early childhood marriage particularly in rural areas is common. In the Afar region in the East the traditional practice of marrying young girls to older men continues but is coming under greater scrutiny and criticism. [3b][14a]

ETHNIC GROUPS

5.42 Ethiopia has over 80 ethnic groups, or 'nationalities'. Historically the Amharas and Tigrayans from the northern highlands have played major roles in the country's life. Some ethnic groups, including the Oromos, the largest single ethnic group, claim to have been subjugated during the nineteenth century by the dominant Amharas and Tigrayans. The present Government's policy of regionalisation attempts to address ethnic concerns. The new federal structure, with regional states based largely on major ethnic boundaries, has granted local populations much greater control over their own affairs, and due to this ethnicity and politics are almost synonymous with each other. The Constitution provides for equal recognition for all Ethiopian languages although Amharic is the working language of the Federal Government. [1][2][3d][3c][3b][9]

5.43 Ethnic clashes during 2000 resulted in a number of deaths and injuries. In July 2000 clashes were reported between the Oromo Borena community and ethnic-Somali Garre pastoralists resulting in approximately 40 deaths and the theft of a large amount of livestock. In October 2000 clashes over water and grazing rights are believed to have resulted in a further 150 deaths. In 1998 and 1999 there were continuing reports of conflicts between the Nuer and the Anuak in Gambella national state in western Ethiopia, these reflect a long-standing history of tension between these two tribal groups. [3d][3c][3b]

OROMOS

5.44 The Oromo People account for 40% of the population, which makes them the majority group in Ethiopia. Despite this the Oromo claim to have been dominated by the more dominant Amharas and Tigrayans. This has led to much ill-feeling among the Oromo people and the formation of armed resistance groups. The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which has been in armed opposition to the Ethiopian Government since 1992, is one of a number of political organisations which is not permitted to participate in the political process as it will not renounce violence and will not recognise the elected government as a legitimate authority. The Government draws a distinction, however, between rank-and-file members of the OLF and the organisation's leadership. In 1996 the OLF signed a military co-operation agreement with another armed opposition group the ONLF. [1][3d][3c][3b]

5.45 Military forces conducted low-level operations against the OLF in parts of the Oromo national state in 1998 and an increased number in 2000. Military camps were used for the temporary detention and interrogation of OLF supporters and organisers. At the end of 2000 approximately 7,500 persons allegedly associated with armed opposition groups remained in detention. Most detainees were accused of participating in armed actions for the OLF or ONLF. The ICRC had restricted access to these military detention centres. The Government continued to detain persons suspected of sympathising or being involved with the OLF. In August 2000 Dr Moga Frissa vice president of an Oromic civic organisation was arrested on charges of involvement with the OLF. The judge in the case did not accept the charges of subversion and aligning with a terrorist organisation

and he was released on 24 September 2000. [3d][3c][3b]

5.46 In October 1997 three alleged OLF members were shot down by police in the street and there has been no investigation into this matter. In November 1997 police arrested 17 alleged OLF supporters. In December 1997 31 Oromos were charged in connection with various bomb attacks in April of that year. These included 7 members of the HRL. In 1998 Amnesty International reported a number of detentions which appeared to be frequent, allegations of armed offences were made against most of the detainees. [1] [3d] [6f][3c]

5.47 The UN Special Rapporteur, in his report of December 1997 to the 54th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, expressed his concern to the Ethiopian Government at the consistency of allegations of torture made by people detained, especially by the military, on suspicion of involvement with the OLF. The Ethiopian Government was urged to ensure that detention and interrogation practices of the military when engaged in counter-insurgency operations met minimum international standards. [7a][7b]

5.48 The UN Commission on Human Rights' Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in its report of December 1997 to the Commission, gave details of the cases of two Oromos, whose detention appeared to be arbitrary and politically motivated, based on their support for the OLF. The cases appeared to contravene articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Ethiopia is a signatory. [7c]

5.49 The UN Commission on Human Rights' Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, in its report of January 1998 to the Commission, gave details of five new cases of reported disappearances in 1997, and further details on two previously notified cases, mostly of ethnic Oromos, that it had transmitted to the Ethiopian Government. Information had been given to the Working Group by the Ethiopian Government on one of the cases. [7d]

5.50 The murder of an EPRDF official near the border between Oromo and Southern People's national states in July 1998 prompted inter-ethnic fighting between the Gudji Oromos and the Geddeo in villages around Hagare Mariam. 22 of the 88 kebeles (municipalities) in the area were badly damaged. In September 1998 the Government began repatriating some 160,000 displaced persons to the villages from which they had fled. All had returned by the end of 1998. [3d]

5.51 During 2000 there were various reports of landmines being laid by the OLF and the ONLF, which were estimated to have killed 2 to 5 persons per month during the year. In particular the OLF claimed responsibility for several landmine attacks along the Addis Ababa to Djibouti railway, which resulted in 5 to 15 deaths and several injuries. In June 2000 it was reported that 200 people had been arrested near the site of a landmine explosion which derailed a train. Those arrested were members or suspected supporters of OLF. [3b]

5.52 During 2000 some journalists who had written articles in favour or support of the OLF were found guilty under the Press Laws and imprisoned or fined. [3b]

5.53 The closed trial of 65 Oromos suspected of involvement in OLF terrorist activities in 1998 continued. Six defendants staged a hunger strike in 1999 to protest about their handcuffing for 24 hours a day. They are no longer kept handcuffed. [3b]

5.54 Oromos are represented by the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organisation (OPDO) which is affiliated to the ruling EPRDF. This party is opposed to the OLF. An OPDO member Dr Negasso Gidada was President of the Federal Republic from 1995. In October 2001 it was reported that he had been expelled from the OPDO central committee although he continued as President of the country until October 2001, when he was replaced by Lieutenant Girma Wolde Giorgis an ethnic Oromo. The OPDO won

178 seats in the House of Peoples Representatives in the May 2000 elections. [1][2][14o][14p][32][38c][4q]

AMHARAS

5.55 The Amhara and Tigray people account for 32% of the population between them, but have traditionally been the most influential and powerful of Ethiopia's people. Amharas are mainly represented in the Government by the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM) which won 134 seats in the May 2000 elections and is affiliated to the ruling EPRDF. The ANDM was originally the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement created by the TPLF in 1989 to fight outside Tigray. The other Amhara group of note is the All-Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO). The AAPO was founded in 1992 and is a legally registered party. Its members often complain that the Government restricts the party's ability to campaign for popular support. The party claims to oppose the Government through peaceful means only. The AAPO, which advocates Ethiopian unity, was opposed to Eritrea's independence and aims to defend and promote the interests of the Amhara people. [22][1][2][32]

5.56 The chairman of the AAPO Professor Asrat Woldeyes was convicted in 1994 of conspiracy and incitement to violence and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. In December 1998 he was released, further charges against him were dropped and he was permitted to travel to America for medical treatment. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council praised the Government's decision to release Woldeyes as a humane action. Professor Woldeyes died in the USA on 14 May 1999. He was buried in Addis Ababa and at his funeral in June 1999, a youth attending was shot and killed by an undercover security officer who was subsequently arrested and charged with the crime. No further action had been taken in the case by the end of 2000. [1][26][18][3d][23][3b]

5.57 The AAPO is registered as an opposition party with the NEB but has complained that the Government restricts its ability to campaign for popular support. The AAPO complained in 1999 that the Oromiya regional government has refused its application to open branch offices in the region. The party took part in the May 2000 election when an AAPO candidate won the seat previously held by the Minister of Defence. [1][3d][3b]

5.58 Thirty-one AAPO officials and supporters, most detained since 1994, were convicted on treason charges in March 1999. They were convicted of inciting an armed uprising and promoting civil war. An elderly defendant, two women, and a youth received sentences of four years and were released for time served. The remaining 27 received sentences ranging from five to 20 years. AAPO defendants convicted in 1998 on charges of treason completed their prison sentences in 1998 and 1999 but have not been permitted to leave the country. [3c][3b]

5.59 The chairman of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, Dr Taye Woldesemayat, was arrested in mid-1996 on charges of involvement with an Amhara extremist group, the Ethiopian Patriotic National Front (ENPF). In June 1999 the trial concluded with a conviction for treason and alleged involvement in an underground terrorist organisation. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail. He is allowed visitors from the diplomatic community. [2][3c][3b]

SOMALIS

5.60 The Somali people account for around 6% of the population and are among the poorest in the region. Amnesty International noted many reports of alleged human rights abuses in 2000 in the Somali region by the security forces and armed ethnic groups. The Ogaden National Liberation Front is the largest of the Somali based armed opposition groups. Al-Ittihad al-Islam (Islamic Union Party) is a Somali based armed Islamic group, whose stated aim is to create a fundamentalist Islamic State in the region. This group claimed responsibility for bomb explosions at hotels in 1996 and for the attempted assassination of the Minister of Transport and Communications. [1][2][6a]

5.61 Security forces conducted military operations against armed elements of the ONLF and al-Ittihad al-Islam from 1996 with a series of cross-border attacks aimed at disrupting the organisation's bases in Somalia. These attacks resulted in the death of several hundred al-Ittihad members. Security forces continued to carry out low-level security operations against ONLF and al-Ittihad during 1998, and 1999. In 2000 there was an increase in these operations. [1][2][3d][3c][3b]

5.62 The Somali Democratic League merged with elements of the ONLF in June 1998 to form the Somali Democratic Party (SDP). Former Ethiopian President Negasso Gidada attended the four-day conference in Jijiga that established the new party. The Chairman of the SDP at the time was Dr Abd-al Majid Husayn, who was the Transport and Communications Minister in the Federal Government. The current chairman is Mohamoud Dirir Gheddi who is currently Minister of Mines. [10b][1]

5.63 The ONLF regularly use landmines resulting in numerous civilian deaths and injuries. It was estimated that in 2000 landmines laid by OLF and ONLF supporters killed two to five persons per month. By the end of 2000 approximately 7,500 persons allegedly associated with armed opposition groups remained in detention, most detainees were accused of participating in armed actions by the OLF or the ONLF. [3b]

ERITREANS IN ETHIOPIA

(also see Eritrean Assessment)

5.64 During the border war the Government detained and deported Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin without due process. There were no preliminary hearings to determine the merits of deportation, no right to counsel was provided to detainees and they had limited opportunity to register protests. Although these detentions and deportations were prompted by security considerations they raised concerns about arbitrary arrest and detention, forced exile, the forcible separation of families and nationality issues, in addition those who were detained or expelled suffered hardships and financial losses. Heads of household were taken without warning, detained and often deported within 48 hours. Remaining family members were subjected to arbitrary deadlines to sell property and sometimes taxed on estimates of annual income and unpaid balances on government loans. Deportation orders originated from the Security Immigration and Refugees Affairs Authority (SIRAA) in Addis Ababa. Since the commencement of the border war as many as 75,000 Ethiopians of Eritrean origin have left Ethiopia for Eritrea, the majority were deported although a number left voluntarily. [3c][3a] [28]

5.65 In August 1999 all Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin who had voted in the 1993 referendum on Eritrean independence were required to register with SIRAA and complete residence application forms. After registration they received identity cards and residence permits valid for 6 months. These residence permits did not give access to hospitals or other government services. A further renewal of residence permits took place in August and September 2001 when it was reported that Eritreans are required to renew their residence permits annually in common with all expatriates living in the country. [3c] [3b][21a]

5.66 It was reported that the Government stopped deporting Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin after signing the cessation of hostilities agreement in June 2000. The ICRC assisted in voluntary repatriation to Eritrea and in July 2001 reported that it had assisted in the voluntary repatriation of 911 Eritrean nationals from Ethiopia to Eritrea during the preceding year. However in June 2001 the ICRC refused to assist in the repatriation of a group of over seven hundred concerned that they had not expressed their consent. 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. At the end of 2001 approximately 200

civilian residents of Eritrean origin (plus 1,800 Eritrean POW's) remained detained in internment camps at Dedesa. [3a][3b][3c][14u][39]

5.67 In a report dated 5 September 2001 the United Nations Secretary-General expressed concerns about the treatment of Eritreans in Ethiopia in particular it was noted that those interviewed had reported long-term detention without due process, often in poor conditions. There were also allegations of ill treatment, discrimination in access to social services and harassment by civilians and officials. The Secretary-General called on Ethiopia and Eritrea to reconsider their positions with regard to the treatment of each other's nationals. He further urged them to comply strictly with international human rights and humanitarian law standards and their commitments under the peace agreement. [40]

5.68 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. In August, it announced suspension of prisoner-of-war exchanges with Eritrea until it received information about a missing fighter pilot. Exchanges resumed in October when Eritrea released twenty-four Ethiopians "for health reasons" and Ethiopia reciprocated with the release of twenty-three Eritrean POWs, also "for health reasons." With the October releases, 653 Ethiopian and 879 Eritrean POWs had been repatriated but about 350 Ethiopians and 1750 Eritreans still remained in POW detention camps as of early November 2001. Voluntary civilian repatriation between the two countries progressed more smoothly. During the war, about 345,000 civilians fled the fighting. Most escaped to internal exile but others were trapped behind enemy lines as the war front shifted. In November, the International Committee of the Red Cross reported it had repatriated almost 55,000 Ethiopian civilians from Eritrea since 1998. In July, it had reported the repatriation of 1,000 Eritrean civilians from Ethiopia. [8b]

HOMOSEXUALS

5.69 Ethiopian law prohibits homosexual acts for both men and women. Penalties range from 10 days imprisonment to 10 years where the offence involves violence, intimidation, coercion, transmission of disease, committing homosexual acts with a person under 15 or where shame or despair drives the victim to committing suicide. [15]

POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

(Also see Ethnic Group for the main ethnic based political movements)

5.70 The right of Ethiopian citizens to elect their government was exercised for the first time in 1995. Although observers reported that opposition participation in the elections was possible, most opposition groups chose to boycott the polls, claiming that the Government impeded their ability to compete freely. The elections were however judged to be generally free and fair by observers including the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Western donor states and domestic NGOs. [3d][3c]

5.71 Political participation is however closed to organisations that have not renounced violence and which do not recognise the elected government as a legitimate authority. Such organisations include the OLF, MEDHIN, Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic Forces (COEDF), the EPRP and several Somali-based groups, including some elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). Radical Amhara groups, the OLF and al-Itihad were responsible for a series of grenade attacks, bombings, shootings and ambushes that have resulted in a number of deaths and injuries since 1996. [3d][3c][3b]

REPATRIATED ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES

5.72 During the reign of the military dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam between 1974 and 1991, hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians are believed to have left the country. Since

he was deposed in 1991 many have returned. It is estimated that in the last decade around 800,000 Ethiopian refugees have been voluntarily repatriated from Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and other countries. This has lead to a strain on the already stretched resources available in Ethiopia and NGO's have largely been the main source of help for these people. 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 medical assistance needed. [28][13c]

5.73 This return largely followed a statement in September 1999 from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He 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". This then took effect in March 2000. [28]

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE DERGUE/WORKERS PARTY OF ETHIOPIA

5.74 The Special Prosecutor's Office (SPO) was set up in 1992 to record the abuses committed during the Mengistu Government and bring to justice those criminally responsible for human rights violations. The SPO had the authority to arrest and interrogate anyone suspected of involvement in the Red Terror Campaign under Mengistu. Trials began before the Federal High Court in 1994 and are still continuing. Defendants have spent seven to eight years in detention awaiting trial while the SPO carried out its lengthy investigations, which began in December 1994. Charges have been brought against 5,198 people, 2,246 are held in detention while the remaining 2,952 are charged in absentia, including former dictator colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam. The defendants are variously accused of genocide, war crimes and aggravated homicide. The process is subject to frequent and lengthy adjournments, although cases were dealt with more quickly during 2000 most were still in progress by the end of the year. During 2000 five death sentences, one life imprisonment and at least 27 sentences of up to 15 years imprisonment were handed down. No SPO defendants have been released on bail; but by the end of 2000 at least 50 had been released for lack of evidence. In July 2000 the special prosecutor Girma Wakjira was jailed for contempt of court after accusing one of the judges of having participated in the abuses under Mengistu. He was released after two weeks. The judge was replaced and transferred to a different court. The special prosecutor announced in May 2001 that the courts had passed verdicts on 1,181 of the 6,180 genocide cases since the trials started in 1994. He announced that eleven of those found guilty of genocide had been sentenced to death and a further seven to life imprisonment. It is estimated that it will take a further three years to complete the trials. [3d][3c][3b][20b][8b]

5.75 Most of those accused of Dergue activities were arrested in 1991 and it is believed that after a decade around 2,200 defendants have yet to be brought to trial. In October 2001 the Amhara State court acquitted another 23 alleged Dergue, with two men being sentenced to sixteen years imprisonment. The trial continue of Mamo Wolde former Olympic marathon champion, charged with genocide for the state-sponsored killing of 14 teenagers under the Mengistu regime. The trail also continues of former University of Addis Ababa president Dr Alemayehu Teferra. [3b][8b]

NGO'S IN ETHIOPIA

5.76 Domestic human rights organisations operating within Ethiopia include the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), Human Rights League (HRL), the Peace and Development Committee, the Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association, the Inter-Africa Group, the National Committee on Traditional Practices, the Society for the Advancement of Human Rights Education, Enway, the Centre for Local Capacity Building and Studies, African Initiatives for a Democratic World Order and Hundee. These and numerous other groups are primarily engaged in civic and human rights education, legal assistance, and trial monitoring. The EHRCO, a self-proclaimed human rights monitoring group, received legal status as an NGO in 1999 after a seven year campaign for recognition. In May 2001 the offices of EHRCO were closed down for ten

days by armed police following the arrest of the former Secretary General. [3c][3a][6b]

5.77 Prominent Oromo civic leaders founded the Human Rights League (HRL) in 1997. In April 1998, on the grounds that some board members wished to use the organisation as a front for the OLF, the authorities closed the offices of HRL and confiscated the contents of the office; by the end of 2000 these items had not been returned. The HRL had been operating without a Government licence for three years despite having fulfilled the requirements for licensing. Government investigations into the HRL's alleged links to the OLF continued throughout 1999 and 2000. [3c][3b]

5.78 The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been operating in Ethiopia since 1997 and has a head office in Addis Ababa and 4 sub-offices elsewhere in the country. The Government allows the ICRC to visit detention centres and prisons throughout Ethiopia. In 1999 there were some problems visiting those detained by the police in Addis Ababa, however in 2000 visits resumed. The ICRC has not been permitted access to some military detention centres where OLF fighters are detained. During the border war involvement of the ICRC in the repatriation of POW's and civilian detainees varied. However in December 2000 following the signing of the peace agreement Ethiopia and Eritrea agreed that all POW repatriations would take place under the auspices of the ICRC. Other international human rights organisations have visited the country in the past three years. [3d][3c][3b][13a]

5.79 The Government continues to encourage international human rights organisations and foreign diplomats to observe the war crimes trials of officials of the Mengistu Government that commenced in 1994. [3d][3c][3a]

NATIONALITY LAW

5.80 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. It also affirms that the law shall determine particulars relating to nationality. [9]

ANNEX A

CHRONOLOGY

1890 Italy annexes Eritrea on Red Sea coast

1896 Emperor Menelik's forces defeat Italians but Italy retains control of Eritrea

1930s Emperor Haile Selassie wrests power from old aristocracy and establishes modern autocracy

1935 Italy invades Ethiopia

1941 Allied forces end Italian occupation

1952 Former Italian colony of Eritrea, which had become a UN mandated territory after World War II, federated with Ethiopia

1962 Eritrea formally annexed by Ethiopia

1970s Increased Eritrean resistance to Ethiopian control by ELF and EPLF

9/1974 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 Dergue takes control of Ethiopia and establishes Provisional Military Government (PMG) under Lt-Gen Aman Andom

11/1974 Gen Aman assassinated. 57 former civil and military officials, including two former Prime Ministers executed without trial. Brig-Gen Teferi Benti, Chairman of the Dergue, becomes Head of State. Major (later Lt-Col) Mengistu Haile Mariam one of two Vice-Chairman of the Dergue

12/1974 Dergue declares Ethiopia a socialist state. PMG replaced by Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC)

1975 Col Mengistu emerges as most influential member of the Dergue. 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 Dergue, 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

2/1977 Col Mengistu assumes control as Head of State and Chairman of PMAC. Gen Teferi Benti and five other Dergue members executed. "Red Terror" campaign launched against Mengistu's political and armed opponents, particularly the EPRP. Tens of thousands killed or tortured

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

1977-78 TPLF grows stronger with EPLF support, defeating EPRP opponents in Tigre

7/1977 Somalia invades Ethiopia's Ogaden region

2/1978 Ethiopia counter-attacks with large-scale Soviet and Cuban support; Somalia withdraws in 3/1978

6/1978 Large Ethiopian offensive launched in Eritrea; most towns recaptured and EPLF retreats to Nakfa

1979 Mengistu sets up Committee for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE); all other political groups abolished

1981 Civil war in Eritrea between ELF and EPLF

1982 EPLF, with TPLF allies from Tigre, force ELF into exile in Sudan

1984 Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) established along Soviet lines with Mengistu as Secretary-General

1985-6 Military successes against TPLF

6/1986 Draft Constitution for eventual return to civilian government published

2/1987 New Constitution endorsed by referendum

6/1987 Elections held for new National Shengo (Assembly). First meeting of Shengo abolishes PMAC and renames country the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (PDRE) under leadership of WPE; Mengistu elected President of PDRE

1988 Serious military setbacks for Government in Eritrea and Tigre

1989 Government abandons most of Tigre province to TPLF

9/1989 TPLF establishes EPRDF as united front with Amhara-based EPDM. Unsuccessful peace negotiations between Government and EPLF

1989-90 Unpopular 'villigisation' programme leads to fall in agricultural production, exacerbating drought

11/1989 EPRDF forces close in on Addis Ababa

2/1990 EPLF captures Masawa. Peace talks between Government and EPLF broken off

3/1990 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

1/1991 EPRDF announces moderate, non-Marxist programme, which wins United States support

4/1991 Further gains by EPRDF forces near Addis Ababa. EPLF close in on Assab

21.5.1991 Mengistu flees Ethiopia and goes into exile in Zimbabwe; Vice-President Lt-Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan assumes control of Government

28.5.1991 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

7/1991 National conference attended by 20 political and ethnically-based 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

8/1991 EPRDF and OLF supporters clash, although OLF remains in TGE

11/1991 14 new autonomous administrative regions established, broadly reflecting ethnic boundaries

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 4/1992

6/1992 OLF and other groups boycott regional elections. EPRDF and allies win 90% of votes cast. OLF withdraws from TGE and goes into armed opposition. OLF forces capture Asbe Teferi but Government forces retake the town

10/1992 Talks between TGE and OLF unsuccessful; hostilities continue

12/1992 By mid-12/1992 Government holding 20,000 prisoners of war in conflict with OLF

1/1993 Security forces suppress student demonstration in Addis Ababa; one student killed. Government Commission of enquiry, reporting in 1/1994, blames organisers for the disturbances

4/1993 Referendum in Eritrea approves independence from Ethiopia

24.5.1993 Eritrea achieves formal independence, with recognition from Ethiopia

7/1993 Differences emerge within elements of EPRDF over regionalisation and economic reform

6/1994 EPRDF wins large majority of seats in elections to new Constituent Assembly. Polls boycotted by OLF, AAPO and CAFPDE

10/1994 Constituent Assembly inaugurated

12/1994 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

12/1994 Trial of Dergue 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

5/1995 Elections to the CPR and national state assemblies, boycotted by most opposition parties, produce landslide win for EPRDF and allies. Largest participating opposition party, the ENDM, fails to win a single seat. Elections deemed to be largely free and fair by international observers

6/1995 Pro-EPRDF parties secure narrow victory in Afar and Somali national state elections

7/1995 Ethiopian forces make raids into Somalia to attack bases of al-Ittihad al-Islamia terrorists; further raids made 1996-1999

21.8.1995 Legislative power transferred to new FPA

22.8.1995 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

23.8.1995 Meles Zenawi, President under TGE, elected first Prime Minister of FDRE by CPR

9/1995 Government launches drive against corruption

10/1995 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Tamirat Layne removed from office on suspicion of corruption

9/1997 SPO trial of 5,198 accused of genocide and other war crimes committed under Mengistu administration commences at Federal High Court in Addis Ababa

6.5.1998 Border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea leads to armed clashes along the border, centred on the Badme area

5.6.1998 Eritrea aircraft bomb Mekele in northern Ethiopia, killing 44. Ethiopia launches air attacks on Asmara airport in Eritrea

15.6.1998 Ethiopia and Eritrea accept a US-brokered agreement to halt air-strikes against each other

12/1998 AAPO Chairman Professor Asrat Woldeyes released from prison and leaves Ethiopia for USA for medical treatment

2/1999 Resumption of heavy fighting in border dispute with Eritrea; Ethiopian aircraft and helicopters used in violation of moratorium on air strikes agreed in 6/1998

4/2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea agree to attend peace talks in Algiers

5/2000 Ethiopia launches all-out offensive against Eritrea to recapture land occupied by Eritrea since 5/1998; Ethiopia recaptures all occupied land by end 5/2000

5/2000 Ruling EPRDF coalition wins national elections but loses ground to opposition parties and independents in some regional elections

18.6.2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea sign cease-fire agreement; Eritrea agrees to UN border monitoring force within its territory

10/2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea agree to further talks in Algiers aimed at resolving border dispute and making 6/2000 cease-fire permanent

11/2000 Haile Selassie buried in Addis Ababa's Trinity Cathedral.

12.12.2000 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.

24/02/2001 Ethiopia announces it has completed its troop withdrawal from Eritrea in accordance with a United Nations-sponsored agreement to end the border war.

03/2001 Meles Zenawi says he has thwarted an attempt to cause political upheaval by a dissident group in the dominant Tigre People's Liberation Front.

04/2001 Thousands of demonstrators clash with police in Addis Ababa in protest against police brutality and in support of calls for political and academic freedom.

12/05/2001 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.

21/05/2001 Ethiopia and Eritrea agree on a UN-proposed mediator to try to demarcate the disputed border.

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	WGDPDO	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		
TOTAL	--	546

ANNEX C

MAIN POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

Abugda Ethiopian Democratic Congress - ethnic-based organisation seeking self-determination

Afar People's Democratic Organisation (APDO) - formerly the Afar Liberation Front, supports the EPRDF. Runs Afar military force set up in 1996 to combat attacks by ARDUF. Leader Ali Mirah

Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Front (ARDUF) - armed opposition group seeking self-determination for the Afar people, in on-going negotiations with Federal Government

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

All-Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO) - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination for the Amhara people. Former Chairman Professor Asrat Woldeyes, imprisoned 1994 to 12/1998, died in USA 5/1999

All-Ethiopia Socialist Movement (MEISON) - see COEDF

Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM) - formed as the EPDM by the TPLF to campaign in Amhara-populated areas, re-named the ANDM in 1/1994. Formed the EPRDF with the TPLF in 9/1989. Secretary-General Deputy Prime Minister Tefera Walwa

Burji People's Democratic Organisation - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Coalition of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia (CAFPDE) - formed 1993, broadly-based coalition of groups opposed to the EPRDF. Granted official registration 7/1996. EPRDF pressure and influence over the media, as well as CAFPDE's own divisions, have limited the group's impact. Chairman Dr Beyene Petros (also Chairman of SEPDU)

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. Chairman Mersha Yoseph

Committee for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) - set up by Mengistu in 1979, precursor of the WPE

Daworo People's Democratic Movement - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Democratic Unity Party - Party opposed to EPRDF. Chairman Ahmad Abd al-Karim

Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) - fought in alliance with TPLF/EPRDF against Mengistu Government, formed provisional administration of Eritrea 5/1991 and Government of independent Eritrea 5/1993

Ethiopian Democratic Action Group - Chairman Ephrem Zemikael

Ethiopian Democratic Organisation - see ENDP

Ethiopian Democratic Organisation Coalition - see ENDP

Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP) - formed in early 2000 Secretary General Lidetu Ayalew legally registered party took part in May 2000 elections.

Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU) - see COEDF

Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP) - replaced the WPE in 3/1990 and abandoned the WPE's reliance on Marxist-Leninist doctrine, the sole legal party until 5/1991. Secretary-General Lt-Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan

Ethiopian Medhin Democratic Party (MEDHIN) - group that does not recognise EPRDF-led Government as a legitimate authority and therefore cannot participate in the normal political process. Leader Colonel Goshu Wolde

Ethiopian National Democratic Movement (ENDM) - largest opposition group to participate in the 5/1995 Council of People's Representatives (CPR) & National State elections, failing to win a single seat.

Ethiopian National Democratic Organisation (ENDO) - One of many opposition groups opposed to EPRDF.

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. Chairman Fekadu Gedamu

Ethiopian National Patriotic Front (ENPF) - Amhara-based opposition group accused by the Government of involvement in terrorist acts.

Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM) - see ANDM

Ethiopian People's Democratic Unity Organisation - opposed to EPRDF. Leader Tadesse Tilahun

Eritrean People's Liberation Front-Democratic Party - New party set up on the internet in January 2002. Party is run and funded from abroad..

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) - formed 9/1989 by the TPLF as an alliance of anti-Mengistu/WPE groups. Ousted Mengistu Government 5/1991 in alliance with EPLF. Dominant party in the TGE from 7/1991 onwards. Present governing party of the FDRE. Leader Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The EPRDF comprises the TPLF, the ANDM and the OPDO

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) - see COEDF

Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL) - formed 1994 by the merger of 11 Ethiopian Somali organisations. Merged with other Somali groups 6/1998 to form the Somali Democratic Party (SDP) - see SDP

Gedeo People's Democratic Organisation - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination. Leader Alesa Mengesha

Gurage People's Democratic Front - see ENDP

Hadia People's Democratic Organisation - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Harer National League - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia - see UOLF

Islamic Unity Party - see al-Ittihad al-Islamia

Jarso Democratic Movement - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Kaffa People's Democratic Union - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Kefa People's Democratic Movement - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Kembata People's Congress - see ENDP

MEDHIN - see Ethiopian Medhin Democratic Party

MEISON - see All-Ethiopia Socialist Movement

Moa Ambessa Party - opposed to EPRDF, monarchist party

National Democratic Union - opposed to EPRDF

Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) - Somali organisation, elements of which are in armed opposition to the Government and, from 7/1996, in alliance with the OLF; other elements merged with the ESDL to form the SDP

Oromo Abo Liberation Front (OALF) - Oromo organisation operating in coalition with OPDO and UOLF. Chairman Mohammed Sirage

Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) - became active in the 1980s, participated in the TGE until 6/1992, since when it has been in armed opposition to the TGE and the EPRDF-led Government of the FDRE. In alliance with armed wing of the ONLF from 7/1996. They advocate self-determination for the Oromo People and the use of Oromo language and culture. Secretary-General Gelassa Dilbo, Vice Secretary-General Lencho Letta

Oromo National Congress - (see section on Ethnic Groups)

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. Operates in coalition with OALF and UOLF. Deputy Secretary-General Kuma Demeksa. The OPDO's Dr Negasso Gidada has been President of the FDRE since 8/1995

Oromo People's Liberation Front - see UOLF

Sidama Liberation Movement - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

Somali Abo 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

Somali Democratic Party (SDP) - formed 6/1998 by merger of the ESDL and elements of the ONLF. Leader Dr Abd-al Majid Husayn, Federal Transport and Communications Minister

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 4/1993. Chairman Dr Beyene Petros (also Chairman of CAFPDE)

Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) - formed 1975 to fight for independence of Tigray province. Dominant group within the EPRDF, formed in 1989. Leader Prime Minister Meles Zenawi

United Oromo Liberation Front (UOLF) - formed 1995 by merger of Oromo People's Liberation Front and Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia. Operates in coalition with OALF and OPDO. Chairman Ahmad Muhammad Saro

Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) - invaded Ogaden district with Somalian Government backing in 1977, defeated in 1978. Maintains guerrilla force in Ogaden. Secretary-General Issa Shaykh Abdi Nasir Adan

Wolaita People's Democratic Front - see ENDP

Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) - formed 1984 by Mengistu, renamed the EDUP in 3/1990, the sole legal party until 5/1991

Yem Nationality Movement - ethnic-based group seeking self-determination

[1][2][10b][26][31][34]

ANNEX D

PROMINENT PEOPLE PAST & PRESENT

Lt-Col Atnafu **Abate** - Vice-Chairman of the Dergue, along with Col Mengistu, 1974

Muhammad Ma'lim **Ali** - Vice-Chairman of the Somali Democratic Party (SDP) and President of the Somali National State 1998

Lt-Gen Aman Andom (General **Aman**) - Head of State and Chairman of the Dergue 9/1974, assassinated 11/1974

Professor **Asrat Woldeyes**, Chairman of the AAPO, held in prison from 1994 to 12/1998 when he left Ethiopia for the USA for medical treatment, died in USA 5/1999, buried in Addis Ababa 6/1999

Brig-Gen Teferi **Benti** - replaced General Aman as Chairman of the Dergue and Head of State 11/1974, executed by Mengistu 2/1977

Dr **Beyene Petros** - Chairman of CAFPDE

Ambassador Muhammad **Dirir** - Secretary of the SDP 1998

Fekadu Gedamu - Chairman of the ENDP

Gelassa Dilbo - Secretary-General of the OLF

Dr Abd-al Majid **Husayn** - Chairman of the SDP and Federal Transport and Communications Minister 1998

Tamirat **Layne** - Vice-Chairman of the EPRDF, Chairman of the ANDM, Prime Minister of Ethiopia 7/1991, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia 8-10/1995. Removed from office 10/1995; tried on corruption charges found guilty in February 2000 and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

Lencho Letta - Vice Secretary-General of the OLF

Meles Zenawi - TPLF leader and Chairman of the EPRDF, President of Ethiopia 7/1991-8/1995, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 8/1995 to the present

Emperor **Menelik** - modernising and unifying ruler in late nineteenth century, died 1911. Founded Addis Ababa in the late 1880s, defeated the Italians in 1896

Lt-Col Mengistu Haile Mariam (Col **Mengistu**) - doctrinaire Marxist who assumed power 2/1977, Secretary-General of the WPE from 1984, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1987 until he fled in 5/1991; lives in exile in Zimbabwe

Mersha Yoseph - Chairman of COEDF

Ali Mirah - leader of the APDO

Dr **Negasso** Gidada - President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1995 until May 2000, ethnic Oromo, member of the EPRDF-allied OPDO

Emperor Haile **Selassie** - Regent 1916, King 1928, Emperor from 1930 until deposed in 1974, died in military custody 1975

Dr **Taye** Woldesemayat - Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, arrested 8/1996 and held in detention since, charged with involvement in terrorist acts allegedly committed by the ENPF

Tefera Walwa - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the FDRE since 10/1995, Secretary-General of the EPRDF-allied ANDM

Lt-Gen **Tesfaye** Gebre Kidan - Vice-President under Mengistu who briefly assumed control of the PDRE after Mengistu fled Ethiopia in 5/1991; Secretary-General of the EDUP

Girma **Wolde** Giorgis - Current Ethiopian President; Born 1917 in Addis Ababa; ethnic Oromo.

[1][2][10b][26]

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