

EVIDENCES OF GENOCIDE CRIME IN OGA DEN & WORLD'S SILENCE!



The civilian population in Ogaden region is facing the worst famine crisis together with military repression and total subjugation, extrajudicial killing, rape, torture, disappearance, and mass detention from Ethiopian government. Ethiopia also refuses to accept human rights Organizations inspection into the Somali Ogaden Region and doesn't permit reporters there.

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EVIDENCES OF GENOCIDE CRIME IN OGADEN & WORLD'S SILENCE

Introduction

Addis Ababa regime's brutal military attacks against Ogaden civilians had increased and yet continue since 2006 to current. This atrocity had resulted death of thousands of civilians, and displacement of thousands of women and children. In 2007, the Ethiopian troops began what the regime called "counterinsurgency operations", risking commercial activities, burning villages and making it complicated to deliver food aid to starving population. The situation then turned to genocide, a genocidal crime against humanity that international community gives no heed.

The Ogaden people have been from time to time experiencing a partial suppression and misguided policies of Ethiopian successive regimes. In Ogaden, past and current conditions tragedies could be prevented if there could be a caring government for the plight in region. For instance, people are under cycle of crisis, such as flooding of rivers, food and trade blockade, and none early warning droughts that devastated all sorts of peoples' livelihood mainly crops and livestock. Livestock is the only means of resilience for the needy pastoralist society. However, the commercial ban by the regime and droughts made worse the situation.

In order to better grasp more about the Ogaden crisis often require a manifest understanding of its historical grounds and real nature. Therefore, the root causes for the Ogaden crises is a result of European colonialists' "scramble for Africa" legacy. Such consequence is indeed what eventually aided an unwelcome Abyssinian invasion to seize Ogaden in late 19th century. By the support of European powers, Ethiopia's attitude towards Ogaden people has been based on military brutality, occupation, and politically motivated marginalization throughout history in the region. Thus, human rights violations in Ogaden have been a distinct phenomenon from late 19th century to this 21st time.

Since Emperor Menelik era in 1890s and ever since the current regime led by Melez Senawi comes to power in 1991, nothing has changed for the long time bind and dehumanization in Ogaden. In Ogaden, there are no significant schools, hospitals, roads, and any infrastructure at all. The Tigrayan Liberation Front (TPLF) led regime employs incompetent criminals from the region. The regime's aims and objectives are to push and mask its misdeeds out to deceive the International aid donors and human rights organizations.

Ethiopia has never been admitted committing human rights violations against the Ogaden Somali people; however, satellite images taken from devastated villages and towns revealed crime committed by Ethiopia's troops. In this case, some Towns and villages in Ogaden that inhabitants established and thriving before had spotted by United States Commercial

Satellite on razed and destroyed to the ground. We must be grateful to a modern technological innovation in the space science which disclosed a tort for its perpetrators tried to hide it.

Mass Detention without due process is part of civilians' daily life in Ogaden

In considering the human rights impact for the Ogaden civilians mass detention by the Addis Ababa regime is an act plainly violates international human rights law, principally in regard to the right to liberty under article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR.)





These above photos are civilian mass detention in Ogaden. They commit no crime at all

Torture and Rape against Ogaden Civilians Committed by Ethiopian Troops
 Rape in war includes both individual, albeit widespread, acts of sexual violence and the systematic rape of women and children as an act of genocide, a strategy to terrorize and ethnically cleanse a population. Violence against women and girls violates several principles enshrined in international and regional human rights law, including the right to life, equality, and security, equal protection under the law, and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment.¹

International legal norms prohibiting torture and other forms of ill-treatment have developed, largely since 1945, as central components of the international law of human rights, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 includes freedom from torture as one of the fundamental rights belonging to all human beings. Article 5 of the declaration provides that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment." Subsequently, identical or similarly worded prohibitions were included in human rights treaties adopted at international and regional levels, and these set legal standards for individual governments to follow. These include Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966, Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950, Article 5 of the American Convention on Human Rights of 1969, and Article 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981.²

The international norms in this array of treaties and customary international law impose a range of obligations on states. For instance, states must not only refrain from using torture, they must also take strong positive measures to prevent and punish torture. Article 2.1 of the

¹ APA: Organizing for America | There Are A Thousand Hacking at the ... (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/post/sashashaikh/gGxvVQ>

² Torture: Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.enotes.com/genocide-encyclopedia/torture>

Torture Convention obliges states to "take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction."³



Torture of Ogaden women in Ethiopia by Meles Zenawi's troops
Kowsar Yusuf Gud'Ade (Age 23) — Kowsar was arbitrarily detained by security forces of Ethiopia's tyrant Meles Zenawi.

While in detention, she was severely beaten and tortured. The soldiers used different methods of torture including electrocution. Kowsar's left arm was broken during one of the many beating sessions.

Kowsar begged for mercy and asked for medical attention, but the army denied her any treatment. She was eventually released. No explanation was given for the arrest or the subsequent release. Kowsar sought treatment for her injuries.

As shown in the picture, the injury was severe and the damage could not be reversed as the treatment facilities in the Ogaden are not equipped to deal with such severe injuries. She fled the region shortly after her release.



Torture of Ogaden women in Ethiopia by Meles Zenawi's troops
Farhia Mohamed Mahad (Age 20) — Civilians are arrested and jailed in Ogaden on mere suspicions of being part of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and Farhia was no exception.

³ *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. GA res. 39/46, Annex, December 10, 1984.

Farhia was only a child when she was arbitrarily detained and jailed at Garbo Jail in the Ogaden. No explanation was given for her arrest. Farhia remained in jail for five years. During her imprisonment, Farhia was subjected to torture, rape, and electrocution. Her body, especially her chest and breast, suffered severe burns as a result direct electric current. Farhia has permanent scar tissues all over her body. Farhia received no treatment for her injuries.



Torture of Ogaden civilians in Ethiopia by Meles Zenawi's troops: Person in this photo is Ismail Abdirahman (Age 8) — Ismail came to the refugee camp with his grandmother Hawa Hassan.

They fled from Gunagado, Dagahbur. According to Mrs. Hawa, the military came to her village, caught many villagers by surprise, and ordered everybody to come out of their houses. The soldiers started targeting and burning certain houses including Hassan's house. Ismail and his uncle Mahamud were in the house when the soldiers set the house ablaze. Mohamud was severely burned as he shielded Ismail from the flames. As a result, Ismail suffered burns on his thighs and knees and Mohamud died from severe burns and fumes.



Ridwan Hassan Zahid. A scar of strangulation on her neck did by Ethiopian Soldiers are well visible.

The conflict has been visible enough for Ridwan Hassan Zahid who miraculously survived her would-be executioners. Left for dead, she was found the next day by Somalis from a nearby village that came to bury the corpses. The other nine were not so lucky. Some had been hung from trees, others hung over holes in the ground like Zahid. Some of the men had been stripped naked and their tongues had been cut out. Zahid hid in the countryside for three days, but eventually she was told the army had learned she was still alive and was

searching for her. Then began a two-week odyssey on foot, camel, and finally by truck to safety in a neighboring country, which she asked NEWSWEEK not to disclose.⁴



Ardo Shugri Ahmed: pregnant and mother of five children was detained and tortured by Ethiopian Soldiers in Sagag, Nogob region in Ogaden on July 3 until 14th, 2009.

The soldier shoved her along beating her with a thick stick. She was asked to sit in front of the makeshift office of the commander. She stayed there until the evening without food or water. The guards even refused her to sit in the shade. Later in the evening, the soldiers took her to the local school, which they was used as prison during the night. In the daytime, the prisoners were kept at the camp languishing at the sun, being watched by the guards, and the whole community passing by. At night, the soldier torturers would force them her and 30 other prisoners, mostly women but with few men also, to strip and then march them to a place behind the camp. She would be beaten with wires, while naked. At one time the soldier asked the other male detainee to dig a shallow grave and put her inside asked her to say her prayers before the decapitated her. She fainted and later found herself in the school prison. She was disoriented for a while and though she was dead. The torturers included members of the local militia who took part in the beating and acted as translators. She added that to the shaming of the victims as they were from the local area and standing in front of them naked was the very humiliating Ardo said.

Ethiopia is Blocking Humanitarian Food-Aid and Commercial Activities in Ogaden

The Ethiopian military and its proxy militias have also been siphoning off millions of dollars in international food aid and using a UN Officials, former Ethiopian polio eradication program to funnel money to their fighters, according to relief officials, government administrators and a member of the Ethiopian Parliament who defected to Germany last month to protest the government's actions. The blockade takes aim at the heart of the Ogaden region, a vast desert on the Somali border where the government is struggling against a growing rebellion and where

⁴ Ethiopia's Dirty War By Jason McLure, Newsweek Web Exclusive Jan 22, 2008.

government soldiers have been accused by human rights groups of widespread brutality. Humanitarian the rebels and dry up their officials say the ban on aid convoys and commercial traffic, intended to squeeze bases of support, has sent food prices skyrocketing and disrupted trade routes, preventing the nomads who live there from selling their livestock. Hundreds of thousands of people are now sealed off in a desiccated, unforgiving landscape that is difficult to survive in even in the best of times. "Food cannot get in,"⁵

The Ethiopian troops had committed widespread atrocities, using tactics aimed at not only to defeat the rebel group, but to collectively punish communities suspected of helping the rebels. "The Ethiopian government is blockading emergency food aid and choking off trade to large parts of a remote region in the eastern part of the country that is home to a rebel force, putting hundreds of thousands."⁶

"In one particularly awful account, a man describes how Ethiopian soldiers would put ropes around the necks of men and pull from each side, strangling them," she said. "They also forcibly relocated many of the civilians in rural areas into larger towns and confined people in military barracks, where they were tortured and beaten on a daily basis. There was also widespread rape of women and other sexual violence carried out by Ethiopian soldiers."

"This brutal campaign of war crimes and crimes against humanity has contributed to a looming humanitarian crisis in the region that threatens the lives of thousands of Somalis in the area. And of course, this campaign is being carried out with complete impunity," she continued.

The Human Rights Watch report includes satellite imagery that the group says confirms accounts of Ethiopian troops destroying villages. Gagnon says Ethiopia is also waging an economic war against Ogaden's ethnic-Somali population, imposing a blockade on trade, confiscating livestock, and denying them access to humanitarian assistance."⁷



⁵ Ethiopia thwarting food aid by Mohammed Diab, the director of the UN World Food Program in Ethiopia, 2008.

⁶ Rebel region in east, from the NY Times, by Jeffrey Gettleman, July 22, 2007

⁷ Human Rights Report Says Ethiopia Committing War Crimes in Ogaden By Alisha Ryu Nairobi 12 June 2008.

Victim of starvation and food blockade

Burying victims of military brutality in daily basis



Children at a feeding centre



Victim of military torture



Victims of starvation and food blockade



Victims of starvation and food blockade



Internally displaced and starving families



Displaced and starving families in Ogaden by Ethiopian Troops



Ashes of Villages Razed to the Ground by Ethiopian Troops in Ogaden

Ethiopian troops have burnt 40 villages in the Ogaden region since 2006-2010, causing civilian deaths and leaving many families homeless. Tension in the affected districts remains high and local residents are enraged at the Ethiopian troop's 'inhumanity'. "The Ethiopian army's answer to the rebels has been to brutally attack civilians in the Ogaden," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "These widespread and systematic atrocities amount to crimes against humanity. Yet, Ethiopia's major donors,

Washington, London and Brussels, seem to be maintaining a conspiracy of silence around the crimes."⁸



Torched Village of Ado



Children were their home while setting on fire by Ethiopia's Army



Ashes of Lebigah village burned in February, 2008 by Ethiopian Troops



⁸ Ethiopia: Army Commits Executions, Torture, and Rape in Ogaden Human Rights Report, June 12, 2008



Qamuuda Village was burned to the ground by Ethiopian Troops on July 20,



2007.



The above scenes are destroyed and burned to the ground Village of Sasamane in Ogaden. Sasamane was demolished and razed to the ground by Ethiopian military on September 12, 2007.

In the face of decades of such unrelenting oppression, Ogaden people are calling upon people of conscience throughout the world to take a stand against human suffering and crimes against humanity in Ogaden.