

# *Afar forum*



## PRESS RELEASE

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The Afar Forum condemns with the strongest term the extrajudicial killings of Afars by the Ethiopian Federal Army in Afar regional state. The conflict between the Afars and the lawless and rough federal army with the blessing of the Afar regional government officials against innocent Afars is in high gear. The most recent indiscriminate killing occurred in Dubti area was related to land garb disputed between the local Afars and the federal army. The Afars in the area are resisting the illegal eviction from their ancestral land without due process. Any Afar who opposes the forceful eviction is either shoot dead or put in prison under hard conditions with no access to the legal system, food, and medical treatment. Even women are not spared from the killing machine of the federal army.

On July 4, 2012, 13 Afars were imprisoned by Afar regional police allegedly suspected to have killed an army officer. While the Afar regional police were investigating and assessing the case, the federal police unexpectedly rounded up the police station and took the prisoners by force to the military camp. One of the prisoners Mr. Mohamed Hate was immediately killed by the federal army. Unworthy of any explanation, his body was handed over to the regional head office in Samara. Furthermore, another prisoner Mr. Kabir Hassan was shot and suffering from a heavy injury. The destiny of other prisoners is unknown. During the current EPRDF regime, the Afars have been a target for several unacceptable barbaric killings, which undermined the very essence of trust between state and citizens.

The killings and maltreatment of Afars is not limited to Ethiopia. There are clear documented extrajudicial killings and discrimination of Afars in Eritrea and Djibouti. Reports reaching our desk indicate that the Afars in Eritrea are either imprisoned or killed for opposing harsh treatment and demanding self-determination. Equally the condition in the Northern part of Djibouti has become a killing field of Afars for demanding their democratic rights. Hence, Afar Forum is concerned about ever deteriorating human right conditions, the narrowing political space, and state sponsored marginalization and exclusive policies to discriminate Afars. In most occasions the tyrannical policies are implemented through by the barrel of gun. The latest cases in Dubti and Tadjoura port are good indicators of what is going on in Afar land.

- The Afar Forum calls upon the Afar diaspora to organize and be a voice to the voiceless Afar people
- Calls upon the regimes in Horn of Africa to stop discriminating the Afar people
- The Afar Forum appeals to the international community, Human Right Watch, Amnesty International to investigate the gross human right violation of the Afar people in the Horn of