

Waldaa Qormaata Oromoo



Oromo Studies Association
Oromo Studies Association

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**OPEN LETTER TO UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE LAND GRAB,
EVICTON OF THE OROMO PEOPLE, THE 21ST NEW COLONIZATION AND
MODERN SLAVERY IN OROMIA.**

To: His Excellency Mr. Ban K-Moon

Secretary-General, United Nations

Office of the Secretary General

885 Second Avenue

New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary-General Ban K-Moon:

I am writing this open letter on behalf of the Oromo Studies Association (OSA), a scholarly, multi-disciplinary, nonprofit international organization, established to promote studies on and relevant to the Oromo people residing in East Africa, mainly in Ethiopia. The Executive Committee of OSA is following the issue of land grab in Africa and the eviction of the Oromo people, the 21st century new colonization, and the practice of modern day slavery on the Oromos in particular with a great deal of interest.

In the Ethiopian Empire alone, Oromos constitute about 50 million of the 80 million. The Oromos developed their own cultural, social and political system known as the Gadaa system. Gadaa system is a uniquely democratic political and social institution that governed the life of every individual in the society from birth to death. The Oromos were colonized during the last quarter of the nineteenth century by a black African nation – Abyssinia. The fact that the Oromos were colonized by black African nation makes their case quite special.

Today Oromos are being evicted from their land by the Meles Zenawi Minority regime. Their land is being sold by the Meles Zenawi regime to the so called investors from Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, India, China, Egypt, the Sudan, Nigeria..etc. The Oromos are being displaced and forced into refugee camps all over the world and into modern day slavery, because of the new 21st Century colonization. The Saudis are enjoying from Oromo land rice harvest, while Oromos are dying from man made famine as we speak. On March 4, 2009, it was reported, "Saudi Arabia has announced the arrival of the first food crop harvested in Saudi-owned farms abroad, in a sign that the kingdom is moving faster than expected to outsource agricultural production. Rice, harvested in famine-hit Ethiopia by a group of Saudi investors, was presented to King Abdullah recently and comes as other countries are still in the early stages of investing in overseas farms."

So far, the following countries and individuals from foreign countries have made illegal deals with the illegitimate regime of Meles Zenawi in acquiring Oromo land:

1. Djibouti via its Prime Minister has acquired 25,000 acres of farm land and 13, 000 square meter of urban land.
2. Saudi Arabia has acquired 250,000 acres of farm land. 240 individuals from Saudi Arabia have been give license to invest 2.5 billion dollars in addition to the 1 billion dollars that Saudi Arabia government has planned to invest in land grabbing scheme.
3. India has acquired 741,000 acres for rose production (kanuturi rose farm) and 2 million acres of land for cereal production.
4. Nigeria via its former President Obasanjo has acquired 40,000 square meter of urban land for hotel and tourism development by evicting local Oromo residents.
5. Egypt has acquired 50, 000 acres of farm land.
6. Others countries, like China, Middle-East countries, the Sudan, South Korea ...etc. are in negotiation with Meles regime to acquire more farm land by evicting Oromo farmers.

NOTE: So far the Meles regime is leasing Oromo land for 99 years for 15 birr (\$1.18) per acre per year illegally.

Today, Ethiopian-Minority regime and illegitimate government with blood on its hands has been permitted the privilege of ruling over Ethiopia by the World powers.

At grass root level in Africa, African Union has the following articles in its Preamble:

The Organization of African Unity, now known as African Union was dedicated to eradicate all forms of [colonialism](#). When it was established, there were several states that had not yet won their independence or were minority-ruled. [South Africa](#) and [Angola](#) were two such countries recognized. The OAU proposed two ways of ridding the continent of colonialism. Firstly, it would defend the interests of independent countries and help to pursue those of still-colonized ones. Secondly, it would remain neutral in terms of world affairs, preventing its members from being controlled once more by outside powers. Years of colonialism had weakened Africa socially, politically and economically.

In [1948](#), after the Second World War, United Nations enshrined the following [declaration](#):

“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.” As members of the world society, the Oromo people have the full right to be protected by the above declaration.

Despite of the above facts, the Oromo people are being evicted, displaced, tortured, rapped, imprisoned and murdered daily in thousand under the colonizing Minority regime of Meles Zenawi. Today, the Oromo issue is not hidden from the world leaders and stakeholders. However, it is being ignored. The Oromo people do not have a place to run to any more. They are being cornered from every direction. Therefore, this open letter is to bring to your attention, that the peace loving innocent people of Oromia will rise one day and diffusing the outrageous outburst might not be possible. The Meles regime is selling Oromo land on world market, although this government does not have the right to sell Oromo land. The prisons of Meles Zenawi are over crowded by Oromo prisoners. There is a report that Ethiopian prisons speak the Oromo language now days. We do not understand why the world has turned deaf ears on the Oromo sufferings. Oromos are human beings and should be treated as humans. Evicted and displaced Oromos are all over the world. They are ashamed of telling how much they suffered in the Ethiopian prisons, because the tortures they went through have been embracing to tell the world. To our surprise, the exact number of Oromo refugees has remained top secret.

Therefore, we call on the international society to look at the crazy act of the minority illegitimate regime of Meles Zenawi, and on the so called greedy investors to stop harassing the Oromo people and halt their colonizing process. If a devastating crisis starts in Oromia and beyond, the minority illegitimate regime of Meles Zenawi will be held

responsible and the so called investors will loose the money, they are giving to Meles Zenawi, because they are doing an illegal business with an illegitimate regime.

With a copy of this open letter we are advising the world political organizations, financial institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, church organizations, and the media not to blame the Oromo people, if unseen crises are manifested. Oromos are being colonized and modern day slavery is being imposed on them. The world leaders are being alerted, and they can not wash their hands off. We are telling them to take proactive steps and avoid a devastating crisis. We also ask all Oromo nationals and all peace loving people of the world community to stand up and let the world leaders know that the voiceless Oromo people deserve peaceful life on their land. Prosperity, human rights, equality and freedom are God given rights to the Oromo people.

Thank you,

Haile Hirpa, PhD
OSA President

CC:

1. President Barack Obama

The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20500

2. His Excellency Mr. Ban K-Moon

Secretary-General, United Nations

Office of the Secretary General

885 Second Avenue

New York, NY 10017

3. Madam Secretary, Hilary Clinton

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520

4. Honorable Prime Minister

Mr. Gordon Brown

10 Downing Street

London England

5. Amnesty International USA

Penn Plaza

New York, NY 10001

phone: (212) 807-8400

fax: (212) 627-1451

6. Human Rights Watch

350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor

New York, NY 10118-3299

USA, Tel: 1-(212) 290-4700

7. Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

3519 International Court, NW

Washington, DC 20008

Tel: (202) 986-8400; Fax: (202) 362-6541

USA

8. Nigeria Embassy , Ethiopia

P.O. Box 1019

Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone:+2511-1550644

Fax:+2511-1552307

Email: dmoffice@ethionet.et,

Olusegunakinsanya@yahoo.com

9. *Egypt Embassy , Ethiopia*

Sidist Kilo Woreda 11.K.17

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: +2511-550021 or +2511-553077

Fax:+2511-552722

10. Ambassador Ms Meera Shanker

Indian Embassy in USA

2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. USA - 20008

Phone: (202) 939-7000

Fax: (202) 265-4351

USA

11. Indian Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Indian Embassy in Ethiopia Kabena (Aware District)

Post Box No. 528. Addis Ababa

Phone: 251 1 552100

12. Embassy of the Republic of The Sudan In United States of America

2210 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

20008, Washington, D.C. USA

Phone:+1-202-338-8565

Faxes: +1-202-745-2615 or +1-202-667-2406

13. The Sudan Embassy , Ethiopia

P.O. Box 1110

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone:+251-1-515-241

Faxes:+251-1-517-030,+251-1-518-141

14. Yemen Embassy

www.yemenembassy.org

2319 Wyoming Avenue Northwest

Washington, DC 20008

(202) 965-4760

15. Saudi Arabia Embassy , Ethiopia

W24, K13, House No. 002

PO Box 1104

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Phone:+251-1-710303;Fax:+251-1-711799

16. Saudi Embassy Offices in the United States

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

601 NewHampshire Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 200037

Info@saudiembassy.net

Telephone: (202) 342-3800 or 337-4076/4134

FAX: (202) 944-5983

17. Djibouti Embassy

www.theodora.com

1156 15th Street Northwest

Washington, DC 20005-1704

(202) 331-0270

18. *Djibouti Embassy , Ethiopia,*

Chancellerie Bole Road,1022

Addis Ababa,Ethiopia

Phone:+251-116-613200

Fax: +251-116-612786

Email: ibrahimkamil@hotmail.com

19. Kuwait Embassy to USA

Sheikh Salim Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al Sabah

Embassy: 2940 Tilden Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

Telephone: [1] (202) 966-0702; FAX: [1] (202) 966-0517

20. AMBASSADOR AL OTAIBA

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates

3522 International Court, NW

Suite 400

Washington, DC, 20008

21. Embassy of Ethiopia in USA

3506 International Drive, N.W

Washington, D.C. 20008

(202) 364-1200

22. Embassy of United States in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

14 Entoto Road

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: +251-11-517-4000

Fax: +251-11-517-4888

Website URL: addisababa.usembassy.gov

23. World Bank

www.worldbank.org

1 Dag Hammarskjold Plz # 26

New York, NY 10017-2201

(212) 355-5112

24. Headquarters 1 (HQ1):

International Monetary Fund, 700 19th Street, N.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20431

Headquarters 2 (HQ2):

International Monetary Fund, 1900 Pennsylvania Ave NW,

Washington, DC, 20431

**Telephone Operator: + 1 (202) 623-7000 · Fax: + 1 (202) 623-4661, Comments
or questions about the IMF's website: webmaster@imf.org**

25. Headquarters

United Nations Development Programme

One United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017 USA

Tel: +1 (212) 906-5000

Fax: +1 (212) 906-5001

26. African Union (AU), previously called Organization of African Unity

Postal Address: The African Union Commission PO Box 3243

www.mbendi.com > ... > Ethiopia > Adis Abeba > Addis Ababa

27. Chinese Embassy in USA

2133 Wisconsin Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC 20007-2232

Telephone:(202) 625-3380

28. Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia

Ambassador: Mr. Lin Lin

Address: Jimma Road, Wereda 24, Kebele 02, House No.792,

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia , P. O. Box 5643, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251-1-711960; Fax: +251-1-712457

Email: Chineseembassy@telecom.net.et; Chinaemb_et@mail.fmprc.gov.cn

Website: <http://et.china-embassy.org/eng/>

Visa Office: Tel: +251-1-711960

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29. Mr. Carlos Carners Gonzalez

European Parliament

Bat. At\ltiero Spinelli-11G 209

60 rue wiertz / wiertz strast 60

Postcode: B- 1047

City: Bruxelles/Brussel

Country: Belgium

30. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

P.O. Box 2500

CH-1211 Geneva 2

Switzerland

Tel.: (41-22) 739 8111

Website: <http://www.unhcr.ch>

31. Bill Clinton Foundation

1200 President Clinton Avenue

Little Rock, AR 72201;

501-374-4242

32. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Main Office

PO Box 23350

Seattle, WA 98102

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- 33. Oprah Winfrey**
Oprah Winfrey Harpo Studios, Inc.
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37. Johnnie Carson

African Affairs

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20520

202-647-4000

38. World Health Organization

Avenue Appia 20

1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland

Telephone: + 41 22 791 21 11

Facsimile (fax): + 41 22 791 31 11

39. FAO

www.fao.org

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Roma Rom, Italy

06 57 051

40. VOICE OF AMERICA

1050 17th St NW ·

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(202) 463-8602

41. South Korea Embassy , United State

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Washington DC, District of Columbia, USA

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Fax: + 1-202-7970595

Email: information_usa@mofat.go.kr

Website URL: www.koreaemb.org, www.koreaembassy.org

42, South Korea Embassy , Ethiopia

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43. IFAD Headquarters - General inquiries

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