

# Waldaa Qorannoo Oromoo



## Oromo Studies Association

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March 2, 2011

Mr. Antonio Guterres  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
Case Postale 2500  
CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt  
Suisse.  
Email: [InfoDesk@ohchr.org](mailto:InfoDesk@ohchr.org)

Mr. Bekele Geleta  
International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies  
P.O. Box 372  
CH-1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland  
Email: [info@redcross.ch](mailto:info@redcross.ch)

Dear Mr. Guterres and Mr. Geleta,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Oromo Studies Association (OSA) to express my grave concern about the situation of Oromo refugees in Libya. Reliable sources from Tripoli tell the Voice of America (VOA) that at least two Oromo refugees have been killed and hundreds of them are stranded in several places. One of the persons killed was denied treatment in hospital in Tripoli.

OSA is a scholarly, multi-disciplinary, non-profit international organization, established to promote studies of issues relevant to the Oromo people. The Oromo people constitute the single largest national group in the Ethiopian Empire and the Greater Horn of Africa. Oromia stretches from Kenya in the south, Sudan in the West and Tigray region in the North. The number of Oromo people and the geographical location of Oromia make them the only force that can stabilize the Horn of Africa. To monopolize the political and economic power, the Tigray minority government in Ethiopia targeted the Oromo people with the purpose of incapacitating them. Political killings, imprisonments and torture against the Oromo people

have been going on for nearly two decades. To escape from such gross human rights violations, many Oromo refugees have been forced to flee from their homeland and are dispersed all over Africa and the world. Among them over 300 Oromo refugees are currently stranded in Libya. Many countries of the world are moving their citizens out of Libya and nearly 150,000 people left that country within a week. However, the lives of the stateless Oromo refugees are in great danger. These refugees need the help of International organizations like UNHCR and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. I appeal to you to move these Oromo refugees away from the conflict zones and settle them in safer areas as quickly as possible.

The Oromo refugees in Libya have nothing to do with the political conflict between the two Libyan factions. The Oromo refugees are there because they were persecuted in their homeland. I appeal to the Libyan government forces and the opposition groups to take appropriate care of these stateless Oromo refugees.

At the same time, I would also like to appeal to those countries such as Canada, the U.S.A, Australia, New Zealand, Norway and others who accept refugees to speed up the applications of these stranded refugees and help to re-settle them. I appeal for help for these stateless refugees so that they can help themselves and in return help the society in which they are going to settle.

Thank you,

Begna Dugassa., PhD

OSA President

CC:

U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism  
Canada

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Unrepresented Nation and People Organization

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