

OSA Newsletter 9

April 2006

The Oromo Studies Association *Two Decades of Service and Scholarship*

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A message from OSA president:

The Attack on Oromo Students is an Attack on Oromo Scholarship

OSA has taken a firm stand on the arrest, torture, and killing of Oromo students in Ethiopia. On November 21, 2005 OSA released a press release expressing its concern on the political development in relative to Oromo students. Again on April 7 2006, OSA issued another press release strengthening its previous stand. OSA, as a scholarly organization has a mission deeply rooted inside Oromia, and the harm on Oromo students is harm on OSA's mission. Peaceful demonstration of Oromo students against violation of human rights and suppression of democratic principles that have swept the country is now approaching sixth month. We have repeatedly called upon the Government of the United States, other governments, and international human rights organizations to press the Ethiopian government to:

1. Stop killing students
2. Bring those who killed a number of students to justice
3. Release all detained students immediately and unconditionally
4. Reopen immediately all schools and colleges so that students will return to their education.

However, the atrocities perpetrated against Oromo students have increased despite this and similar appeals from concerned organizations such as Amnesty International. There is a growing massive violation of human rights in Oromia and other parts of Ethiopia. The TPLF's denial of basic human rights to other nationalities and ethnic groups, and years of popular dissatisfaction in the government's unwillingness to address the basic demands of the people have continued to contribute to a serious political turmoil.

The Ethiopian government's response to series of peaceful demonstrations has been marked by brutality and unwarranted cruelty.

OSA strongly condemns the killings of students and the detention of hundreds of others by the Ethiopian government while peacefully protesting against violation of human rights and suppression of democratic principles that have swept the country under TPLF's rule.

OSA hereby renews its call on the government of the United States, other governments, and international human rights organizations to press the Ethiopian government to submit to the rule of law and observe the above listed reasonable demands.

Through its press release of April 7, 2006, OSA has published a list of 254 Oromo students. That record was an incomplete list of students detained, tortured, and killed since the student unrest of 2005 started. Names of 39 Oromo students summarily executed by government police, militia, and security agents are given below. This list also is incomplete and includes names of students executed as of the beginning of February. Unfortunately the list has now grown much higher since many more have died from extensive bodily injuries or fresh executions.

On behalf of OSA and myself, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the families of these students. Their losses are losses of the Oromo people.

Nagaan,
Asfaw Beyene, Ph. D.
OSA President
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Incomplete list of executed Oromo students

	Name of student victim	Prison	Town/region	Remark
1	Abbabaa Jagama Wagi	Jalduu		Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
2	Adugna Abarraa	Horroo Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
3	Ahmad Abduljabar	Kombolcha	Hararghie	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
4	Ahmad Illu	Kofalee	Arsii	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
5	Alemayehu Garba	Finfinne	Finfinne	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
6	Annanee Adamuu	Gimbii	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
7	Belay Tadassa	Guduru	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
8	Belay Waqjirraa	Guduru	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
9	Birtukan Jaldu	Ambo		Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
10	Dabala Oliqa Guutta	Inango		Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
11	Dachassaa Gurmessa	Ambo	Shoa	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
12	Fayissa Duula	Kofalee	Arsii	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
13	Feqadu Jaldu	Jalduu	Shoa	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
14	Hamid Mohamed	Arsii-Nagalee	Arsii	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
15	Habtamu Bayata Biqilla	Jalduu	Shoa	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
16	Habib Ragassa	Qoree-Kofalee	Arsii	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
17	Haile Desta	Fincaa-Guduru	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
18	Jagama Badhane	Ambo	Ambo	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
19	Jamal Lencho	Qoree-Kofalee	Arsii	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
20	Jando Bodana	Guduaruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
21	Kabada Badhassa	Ambo	Shoa	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
22	Kabada Dhinssa	Ambo	Shoa	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
23	Kafalo Tadassa	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
24	Lachisa Dhabassa	Tigur Inchinni		Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
25	Malaku Tafarraa Fayissa	Innango	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
26	Marfattaa Gurmessaa	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
27	Misgana Begna	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
28	Misgana Taganye	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
29	Mohamed	Begii	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
30	Morkata Idossa	Fincaa	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
31	Motumma Tarfa	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
32	Mokonnon Gayeessa	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
33	Murtessa Lamuu	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
34	Nagassaa Sanbattaa	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
35	Nurasa Girma	Jalduu	Shoa	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
36	Tashoomaa Tadassa	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
37	Taso Wiirtu	Guduruu	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005
38	Waqjira Tafarra	Jalduu	Shoa	Summarily Executed on 9 November 2005
39	Zarihun Ayaanaa	Begii	Wollega	Summarily Executed on 5 February 2005

OSA 2006 Annual Conference - Update

OSA Panels (Tentative)

9:00 AM

Welcome: OSA President

Welcome: U of M

Keynote Speech: Dabbasa Guyyo

Feature presentation(s)

OSA Ceremony

Panel 1: Viability of the Economy of Oromia: findings of the mid-year conference

(Sisay Ibsa's Memorial Forum)

Panel 2: Nationalism: a Regional Perspective

Panel 3: Challenges of the Oromo National Liberation Struggle and a roadmap

Panel 4: Nationalism and Democracy in the Horn: an International Perspective

(Adam Jilo's memorial Forum)

Panel 5: Oromo Unity and Leadership: Presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on Unity

Panel 6: A Reassessment of Discourses in the Oromo National Quest for Political and Economic Power

Panel 7: Oromo Scholarship and Leadership
(Waaqo Guutu's memorial Forum)

Panel 8: Democracy and Nationalism under EPRDF

Panel 9: Health and Education

Panel 10: Language and Tradition

Panel 11: Sustainability and Political Progress

Panel 12: Imagining Oromia and Ethiopia: Reflections on Political and Scholarly Discourse on Oromo and Ethiopian Identities



Important: I am posting this formal notice because several of my good old friends are still sending me proposals for panel and also papers for OSA conference - almost three weeks past the due day. Sorry, absolutely no more panels. I will accept papers only tentatively, i.e., will be considered if those speakers who have already volunteered withdraw or fail to attend OSA conference. It hurts me to reject panels and papers, but then it pleases me to enforce a due day.

Also, this year, due to large number of speakers and to allow some time for discussions after each panel, no discussant will be added to panels with the exception of one panel that is being organized/sponsored by OSA as an outcome of OSA mid-year conference. Since the mid-year panel presents a report of several speakers who took part in the mid-year workshop which lasted the entire day, the audience will benefit from summary by a discussant.

Hotels, conference address, and tentative list of panels will be posted in the near future.

Please, refer to our web site <http://www.romostudies.org/> for further information on venues, logistics, and other related information



Ad-hoc Committee Updates

Fund-raising: Dr. Bahiru Dhuguma's fund-raising project is going well. We are now very close to achieving our goal. **Please send your contribution to OSA treasurer** listed below under **Donations and membership dues**.

Membership: Dr. Misgana's new members recruiting project is also going well. So far, his team has recruited about 22 new members – but seems to have an impasse at this level. This is a remarkable achievement any way. If you have new candidates, please contact Dr Misgana at mkmuleta@yahoo.com.

Unity Project: Dr. Asafa Jalata's unity project is finalizing its brainstorming and research. Summaries of the findings of the group will be presented at OSA 2006 annual conference under Panel 5: Oromo Unity and Leadership.

OSA in Oromia: This project has been completed. I will submit a plan on expanding OSA in Oromia at OSA 2006 business meeting.



Update from other committees:

2005 Proceeding: If you presented a paper at OSA 2005 and still have not submitted your manuscript to Dr. Gobana Huluqa, please send it immediately. Dr. Gobana's email address is hulukgo@auburn.edu.



Please email your views and opinions to OSA president:

abeyene@rohan.sdsu.edu

for inclusion in this section of the newsletter. Texts may be edited for space and format consistency.



Donations and membership dues: Those who want to pay OSA dues, join as new members, or want to donate to OSA, please send your pledge to:

OSA
P. O. Box 7508
Silver Spring, MD 20907

Please note that all contributions are tax deductible.



Please, visit our web site:

<http://www.oromostudies.org>
for further information on OSA 2006 conference venues, logistics, and other related information.

