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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION REPORT

ETHIOPIA

6 NOVEMBER 2006

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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION SERVICE

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Preface

i This Country of Origin Information Report (COI Report) has been produced by Research Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. The Report provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. It includes information available up to 31 October 2006.

ii The Report is compiled wholly from material produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources and does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy. All information in the Report is attributed, throughout the text, to the original source material, which is made available to those working in the asylum/human rights determination process.

iii The Report aims to provide a brief summary of the source material identified, focusing on the main issues raised in asylum and human rights applications. It is not intended to be a detailed or comprehensive survey. For a more detailed account, the relevant source documents should be examined directly.

iv The structure and format of the COI Report reflects the way it is used by Home Office caseworkers and appeals presenting officers, who require quick electronic access to information on specific issues and use the contents page to go directly to the subject required. Key issues are usually covered in some depth within a dedicated section, but may also be referred to briefly in several other sections. Some repetition is therefore inherent in the structure of the Report.

v The information included in this COI Report is limited to that which can be identified from source documents. While every effort is made to cover all relevant aspects of a particular topic, it is not always possible to obtain the information concerned. For this reason, it is important to note that information included in the Report should not be taken to imply anything beyond what is actually stated. For example, if it is stated that a particular law has been passed, this should not be taken to imply that it has been effectively implemented unless stated.

vi As noted above, the Report is a collation of material produced by a number of reliable information sources. In compiling the Report, no attempt has been made to resolve discrepancies between information provided in different source documents. For example, different source documents often contain different versions of names and spellings of individuals, places and political parties etc. COI Reports do not aim to bring consistency of spelling, but to reflect faithfully the spellings used in the original source documents. Similarly, figures given in different source documents sometimes vary and these are simply quoted as per the original text. The term 'sic' has been used in this document only to denote incorrect spellings or typographical errors in quoted text; its use is not intended to imply any comment on the content of the material.

vii The Report is based substantially upon source documents issued during the previous two years. However, some older source documents may have been included because they contain relevant information not available in more

recent documents. All sources contain information considered relevant at the time this Report was issued.

viii This COI Report and the accompanying source material are public documents. All COI Reports are published on the RDS section of the Home Office website and the great majority of the source material for the Report is readily available in the public domain. Where the source documents identified in the Report are available in electronic form, the relevant web link has been included, together with the date that the link was accessed. Copies of less accessible source documents, such as those provided by government offices or subscription services, are available from the Home Office upon request.

ix COI Reports are published every six months on the top 20 asylum producing countries and on those countries for which there is deemed to be a specific operational need. Inevitably, information contained in COI Reports is sometimes overtaken by events that occur between publication dates. Home Office officials are informed of any significant changes in country conditions by means of Country of Origin Information Bulletins, which are also published on the RDS website. They also have constant access to an information request service for specific enquiries.

x In producing this COI Report, the Home Office has sought to provide an accurate, balanced summary of the available source material. Any comments regarding this Report or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

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Website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

xi The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the Home Office's country of origin information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the Home Office's COI Reports and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk.

xii It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any Home Office material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected individual Home Office COI Reports, but neither the fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the

Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

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Latest News

EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA, FROM 1 OCTOBER 2006 TO 31 OCTOBER 2006

2 October — The Somali region of Ethiopia, known as Ogaden by most people of Somali origin, is once again at the centre of international tension. It is at the heart of a dispute between the Ethiopian government and Islamic rulers.
BBC News World, Ethiopia: Ogaden draws tension once more
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/5383012.stm
Date accessed 16 October 2006

9 October — Ethiopian troops have been seen driving through the Somali town of Baidoa, where the fragile government is based, towards the Islamist-held capital.
BBC News World: Ethiopian troops take Somali town
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/603290
Date accessed 9 October 2006

12 October — It means 'family' in Amharic, Ethiopia's main language, but the 'Wegen' AIDS helpline's main strength is the anonymity it provides people seeking answers in a society uncomfortable with openly talking about the disease.
IRIN News.org: Ethiopia: Confidential hotline getting people talking
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=55935&SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=ETHIOPIA
Date accessed 9 October 2006

15 October — Five people have been killed in western Ethiopia in violence between Christians and Muslims. It is the latest in a series of religious clashes near the town of Jimma, around 450 km (280 miles) from the capital, Addis Ababa.
BBC News World, Ethiopia: Religious clash in Ethiopian town
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/world/africa/6053826.stm
Date accessed 16 October 2006

17 October — The United Nations has called on Eritrea to withdraw the troops and tanks that it has moved into the buffer zone on its border with Ethiopia. UN officials said that 1,500 troops and tanks entered the zone on Monday.
BBC News World, Ethiopia: UN criticises Eritrea 'incursion'
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6057352.stm
Date accessed 17 October 2006

18 October — Ethiopian police massacred 193 protesters in election violence last year, an independent report has claimed. It said the government used 'excessive force' to crack down on protesters who claimed the elections had been rigged.
BBC News World : Ethiopian protesters 'massacred'
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6064638.stm
Date accessed 18 October 2006

20 October — The European Union has condemned the expulsion of two EU diplomats from Ethiopia as 'totally unacceptable'. The two were deported after being caught allegedly trying to smuggle two fugitives into Kenya.

BBC News World: EU anger over Ethiopia expulsions
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6068854.stm
Date accessed 23 October 2006

27 October A European Commission lawyer has told the BBC that she has been charged with trying to leave Ethiopia illegally and attempting to incite violence. Human Rights activist Yalemzewd Bekele was released on bail after spending a week in custody after being caught trying to cross the border into Kenya. Two European diplomats were expelled over the incident – accused of helping to smuggle her out of the country.
BBC News World: Ethiopia releases detained lawyer
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6090970.stm
Date accessed 30 October 2006

31 October At least 67 people have been killed by floods in Ethiopia's eastern Ogaden region, the government says. Almost 300,000 have been affected after the Shabelle river burst its banks, an aid worker told the BBC.
BBC News World: Ethiopia hit by new deadly floods
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6102628.stm
Date accessed 31 October 2006

REPORTS ON ETHIOPIA PUBLISHED OR ACCESSED SINCE 1 OCTOBER 2006

Background information

GEOGRAPHY

1.01 The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a land-locked country in the Horn of Africa, covering an area of 1,133,380 sq km (437,600sq miles). Ethiopia's western neighbour is Sudan; to the south it has a common border with Kenya; and to the east and south-east lie the Republic of Djibouti and the Somali Democratic Republic. To the north and north-east lies the State of Eritrea. (Africa South of the Sahara 2005) **[1a] (p423)** The estimated population was 73,053,286 in 2005 taking into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS. (CIA World Factbook) **[2] (p2)** The largest city is the federal capital Addis Ababa. Other principal towns are Dire Dawa, Nazret, Harar, Mekele, Jimma, Dessie, Bahir Dahr and Debrezit. (Africa South of the Sahara) **[1a] (p436)**

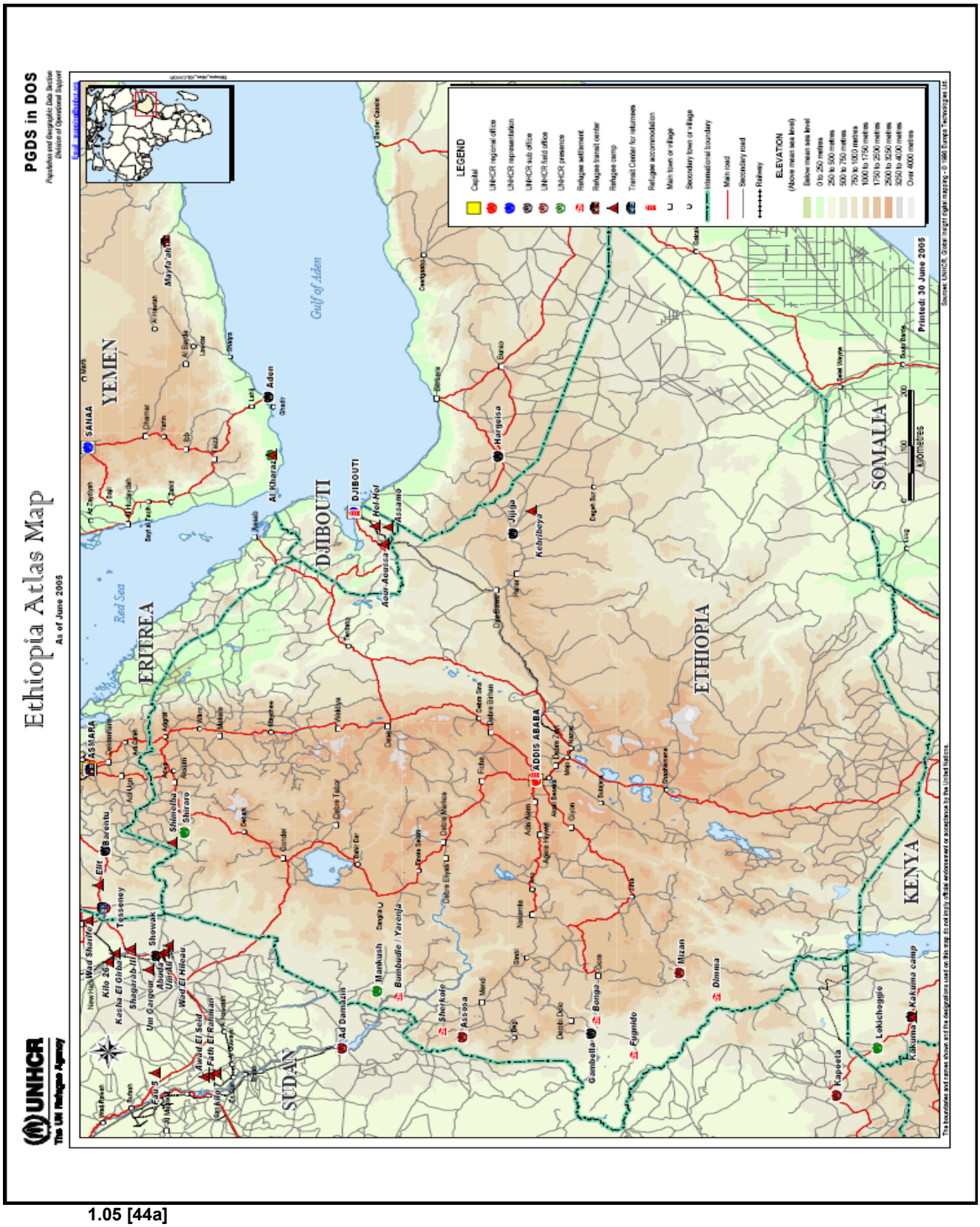
1.02 The nine autonomous national states established under the 1994 Constitution, broadly reflecting regional ethnic boundaries, are those of the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul/Gumuz, Gambela, Harari, Oromia, Somalia, Southern and Tigray (or Tigrai) peoples. **[4] (p18)** About 45% of the population are Muslims and about 40% belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox (Tewahido) Church. There are also significant Evangelical Protestant and Roman Catholic communities. The Pentecostal Church and the Society of International Missionaries carry out mission work in Ethiopia. There are also Hindu and Sikh religious institutions. Virtually all of Ethiopia's small Jewish population had been evacuated by the Israeli Government by mid-1999. It has been estimated that 5%-15% of the population follow animist rites and beliefs". (Africa South of the Sahara 2005 **[1a] (p446)**

1.03 There are two seasons in Ethiopia: in most of the country the dry season prevails from October until May with short rains in March; the wet season runs from June until the end of September. In the Omo and Mago parks, however, in southern Ethiopia, the seasons are different, with the main rains from March to June, and shorter rains in November. (Embassy of Ethiopia website) **[5a]**

1.04 Although Ethiopia lies within 15 degrees north of the equator, owing to the moderating influence of high altitude, the central highlands, where most Ethiopian people live, generally enjoy a temperate and pleasant climate. In the highlands above 2,000 metres the temperature rarely exceeds 25° C in most of the country. In the lowerlying areas (Awash, Omo and Mago parks), which experience sub-tropical and tropical climates, it can get considerably hotter. The temperature generally drops quite rapidly towards sunset. (Embassy of Ethiopia website) **[5a]**

For further information on geography, refer to Europa Yearbook, source [1].
For map of Ethiopia please refer to Annex B or the Reliefweb website: http://www.reliefweb.int

1.05 MAP



1.05 [44a]

ECONOMY

2.01 "Ethiopia's poverty-stricken economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for half of GDP, 60% of exports, and 80% of total employment. The agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices. Coffee is critical to the Ethiopian economy with exports of some $156 million in 2002, but historically low prices have seen many farmers switching to qat to supplement their income. The war with Eritrea in 1998-2000 and recurrent drought have buffeted the economy, in particular coffee production. In November 2001 Ethiopia qualified for debt relief from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Under Ethiopia's land tenure system, the government owns all land and provides long-term leases to the tenants; the system continues to hamper growth in the industrial sector as entrepreneurs are unable to use land as collateral for loans. Drought struck again late in 2002, leading to a 2% decline in GDP in 2003. Normal weather patterns late in 2003 helped agricultural and GDP growth recover in 2004." (CIA World Factbook 2005) **[2] (p6)**

2.02 In February 2006 the exchange rate was US$1 = 8.7289 birr.

2.03 Ethiopian public holidays for 2006 are:

7th January: 'Gena' Ethiopian Christmas
10th January: Id Al Adha (Arafa);
19th January: 'Timkat' – Ethiopian Epiphany
2nd March: Victory of Adowa Commemoration Day
10th April: 'Mawlid' – Birth of the Prophet Mohammed
21st April: Ethiopian Good Friday
23rd April: 'Fasika' – Ethiopian Easter
1st May: International Labour Day
5th May: Ethiopian Patriots' Victory Day
28th May: Overthrow of the Dergue Regime
11th September: 'Enkutatash' – Ethiopian New Year
27th September: 'Meskel' – Finding of the True Cross
24th October: 'Id Al-Fater' – (End of Ramadan)
(Embassy of Ethiopia Website) **[5b]**

For further information about the Ethiopian calendar or holidays please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy in the UK: www.ethioembassy.org.uk

DROUGHT AND FAMINE

2.04 Ethiopia has a chronic food security problem. "Acute, perennial food shortages remain the most immediate and protracted economic problem confronting the majority of Ethiopians…most rural communities remain highly vulnerable, owing to acute poverty and the vagaries of weather and pests." (Africa South of the Sahara 2005) **[1a] (p435)**

2.05 "According to the 2006 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia released in January, and information from the Food Security Coordination Bureau (FSCB), about 11 million people need humanitarian assistance in 2006. About 400,000 metric tons (MT) of emergency food aid are needed to feed 2.6 million people affected by unfavorable weather conditions, the cumulative effects of drought,

and livestock losses. As of February 2006, confirmed food aid donations and carry over stocks amounted to 238,000 MT, leaving a net requirement of about 100,000 MT for the year. Carry over stocks are sufficient to meet emergency food needs until May 2006. Government and partners have also requested donor assistance for recovery and rehabilitation in health and nutrition, water supply, agriculture, coordination and capacity strengthening with an estimated cost of US$ 111 million, including pastoral areas. Pledges for non-food sectors continued to be dismal meeting only 7 percent of the appeal requirements. The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which aims to address needs of chronically food insecure households through cash and food transfers, has been scaled up in 2006 to 8.3 million people from 4.8 million last year." (Fews Net – Food Security Update, 23 February 2006) **[43a]**

2.06 Resettlement: "In an effort to find a long-term solution to its food security problems, the Ethiopian government has launched a U.S. $3.2 billion plan aimed at ending the country's dependence on foreign aid. A key component is the planned resettlement of 2.2 million people from drought-prone areas to relatively fertile and underpopulated land. However, appalling logistical failures have left many of the 350,000 who have already moved without access to clean water, health care, shelter, education, or even food. Many resettled populations suffer from unacceptably high levels of morbidity, malnutrition, and child mortality. These problems may worsen as the pace of resettlement accelerates in the next 2–3 years. Many settlers have been induced to migrate to the new sites by false promises of schools, clinics, wells, food aid, and new houses." (Human Rights Watch 2005) **[11b] (p3)**

2.07 "Several international aid groups blamed the Ethiopian government and foreign government donors for exacerbating conditions by relying on emergency relief rather than investing in infrastructure and promoting family planning programs." **[11c]** (p4)

More information and maps of the suspected famine/malnutrition zones are available on the UN Reliefweb website: http://www.reliefweb.int **[44]**

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HISTORY

3.01 "Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa. It resisted colonisation by Italy and achieved international recognition in 1896 as a traditional monarchy, led by Emperor Menelik. For much of the 20th century Ethiopia was ruled by Haile Selassie. He became Regent in the 1920s and was crowned as Emperor in 1930. In 1936 Italy attacked Ethiopia from its colonies in neighbouring Somalia and Eritrea and went on to occupy the country until 1941. Haile Selassie spent his exile at Bath, in the UK and was restored to power with British military assistance. His long rule ended with the Ethiopian Revolution of 1974." (FCO) **[6a]**

3.02 "Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam emerged as the leader of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (known as the Derg) in 1977. He established a brutal Marxist dictatorship that evolved into an authoritarian communist system dominated by the Worker's Party of Ethiopia. Ethiopia was wracked by civil war for most of the Derg period, including a secessionist war in the northern

province of Eritrea and regional rebellions in Tigray and Oromia. The population experienced massive human rights abuse and intense economic hardship, including acute famine." (FCO) **[6a]**

3.03 "The Derg was overthrown in May 1991 when rebels of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) captured Addis Ababa. Meles Zenawi took the leadership. After elections for a Transitional Government in 1992, he presided over the establishment of Ethiopia's current political structures. In a decisive break with Ethiopia's tradition of centralised rule, the new institutions are based on the principle of ethnic federalism, designed to provide self-determination and autonomy to Ethiopia's different ethnic groups." (FCO) **[6a]**

Refer to Africa South of the Sahara (source **[1a]**) for a more detailed history of events prior to 1995, or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Country Profile on Ethiopia: www.fco.gov.uk

DERGUE TRIALS

3.04 Over 2,000 members of the former Dergue government have been detained since 1991 on charges including crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. The trials are not yet completed. Several death sentences have been imposed but no executions reported." (Amnesty International 2005) **[10a] (p1)** In December 2005 a former governor, Melaku Tefera, was sentenced to death for his role in killing more than 900 people during Ethiopia's "Red Terror" of the late 1970s. (CNN) **[50a]**. The trials are due to conclude in May 2006.

3.05 The Europa World Yearbook 2003, Report on Ethiopia, stated that:

"During late 1995 and early 1996 the Meles administration was criticized for its harsh treatment of opposition activists. In June 1996 Dr Taye Wolde Semayat, the Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, was arrested with several associates and accused of leading a clandestine political organization (the Ethiopian National Patriotic Front – ENPF), which had allegedly been responsible for several terrorist acts". **[1c] (p1567)** The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 noted that Dr Taye was "given a widely criticized 15-year prison sentence in July 1999; on appeal this was reduced to five years, and he was released in May 2002." **[1a] (p428)**

3.06 The Europa World Yearbook 2003, Report on Ethiopia, further stated that:

"The Somali-based al-Ittihad al-Islam (Islamic Union Party – which sought independence for Ethiopia's Ogaden province) claimed responsibility for bomb explosions at hotels in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa in early 1996, and for the attempted assassination in July of Dr Abdul-Mejid Hussen, the Minister of Transport and Communications. Government forces launched reprisal attacks on al-Ittihad bases in Somalia on numerous occasions during 1996-98, resulting in the deaths of several hundred al-Ittihad members." **[1c] (p1567)**

Refer to section on Death Penalty for recent Dergue trial sentences.

BORDER CONFLICT WITH ERITREA 1998-2006

3.07 In late 1997 relations with Eritrea deteriorated, following that country's adoption of a new currency (to replace the Ethiopian birr) and the subsequent disruption of cross-border trade. Fighting between Ethiopian and Eritrean troops erupted in early May 1998, with both countries accusing the other of having invaded their territory." Mediation failed and between 1998 and 2000 the two countries fought a bitter war with casualties estimated at 70–100,000. Eventually the Eritrean government announced that would withdraw its troops from all disputed areas and a cessation of hostilities agreement was signed in Algiers on 18 June **[2000]**. On 12 December 2000 Ethiopia and Eritrea signed an agreement in Algiers which formally brought an end to the conflict. The terms were largely favourable to Ethiopia and included a return to the pre-May 1998 border positions, a 25-km wide demilitarized security zone inside the Eritrean frontier, the deployment of a UN peace-keeping force and the future demarcation of the border (Europa 2003 and Africa South of the Sahara 2005). **[1c] (p1569)**, **[1a] (p431)** The Algiers agreement also established a Boundary Commission to rule on the delineation and carry out the demarcation of the disputed boundary.

3.08 Expulsions: During the war Ethiopia expelled 70,000 Eritreans living in the country, a move strongly criticised by Amnesty International and other human rights organisations. Eritrea subsequently encouraged a similar number of Ethiopians to leave Eritrea. (Africa South of the Sahara 2005). **[1a] (p431)**

3.09 POWs: "In late August 2002, Eritrea repatriated 279 Ethiopian prisoners of war (POWs), stating that it had thereby returned all POWs, but the Ethiopian government accused Eritrea of still holding prisoners in undisclosed locations." (HRW 2003) **[11d] (p4)** The BBC reported on 29 November 2002 that: "more than 1,200 Eritrean prisoners of war held by Ethiopia for more than two years had returned to their home territory….The International Committee of the Red Cross has said it wants to work with the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments on the cases of some individual PoWs still being held by either country. However, it said all registered prisoners from the conflict – which ended two years ago – had now been repatriated. The last group of registered Ethiopian prisoners was sent home three months ago." **[7a]**

3.10 An Amnesty International Report issued in January 1999 stated that:

"Ethiopia's policy of deporting people of Eritrean origin after war between the two countries broke out in May 1998 has now developed into a systematic, country-wide operation to arrest and deport anyone of full or part Eritrean descent." The report further noted that: "At least 22,000 Ethiopians have returned to Ethiopia from Eritrea since May, most after losing their jobs and being rendered destitute as a result of the hostilities, and some in fear of reprisals. No evidence was found to support Ethiopia's allegations that 40,000 of its citizens have been seriously ill-treated and forcibly deported from Eritrea since May 1998." **[10d]**

3.11 In September 2000 the UN Security Council approved the deployment of a 4,200-strong UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), to police the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ); The Boundary Commission announced its decision on the border on 13 April 2002. Demarcation was due to follow in 2003. However, when it became clear that the town of Badme (where the hostilities started) had been awarded to Eritrea, Ethiopia challenged the BC's conclusions. In November 2004 Ethiopia announced its acceptance "in

principle" of the Boundary Commission ruling but progress on demarcation remains stalled. (From the FCO Country Profile for Ethiopia) **[6a] (p3)**

3.12 Despite an announcement by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi that his country would accept 'in principle' a border ruling by an independent commission on Ethiopia's border with Eritrea, the year 2004 ended without a resolution of the dispute. Meles made the announcement in November. However he insisted that the April 2002 ruling on the 1,000-km frontier with Eritrea, which sparked a bloody two-year war in 1998, was still 'illegal and unjust'. His announcement was welcomed by the Africa Union and the European Union. However the reaction from Eritrea called for "full and unconditional respect for the Algiers agreement". A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Asmara accused Ethiopia of 'intransigence', adding that Eritrea would not 'accommodate Ethiopia's forcible occupation of our territory'. (IRIN 5 January 2005) **[9a]**

3.13 Tensions continued with large numbers of troops massed on the disputed boarder in early 2005. An UNIMEE spokesperson, urged both countries to remain calm and show restraint. (IRIN 15 March 2005) **[9b]**

3.14 Tensions mounted again at the end of October 2005 when Eritrea banned all UNMEE helicopter flights and vehicle movements on its side of the border. (IRIN 2 February 2006) **[9c]**. In December Eritrea ordered out Western UN troops serving in the UNMEE mission. However, most of UNMEE are from Asian and African countries and these remained. (BBC 16 Dec 2005) **[7b]**

3.15 In February 2006 the Witnesses to the Algiers Agreement met to discuss the impasse between Ethiopia and Eritrea. At their request, the Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission convened a meeting in London on 10–11 March, attended by legal representatives of the two countries, to prepare to resume demarcation of the boundary. A further meeting was planned for in April. **[44b]**, **[9ag]**

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3.16 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"At year's end **[2005]** there were approximately two million landmines in the country, many dating from the 1998–2000 war with Eritrea. United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) officials reported that new landmines were planted on both sides of the Ethiopian Eritrean border during the year. The government and UNMEE engaged in demining activities in selected areas along the border and disseminated information on the whereabouts of suspected mined areas to local residents." **[3a] (p3)**

Further information on the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea can be found on the UNMEE website: www.unmeeonline.org

NATIONAL ELECTIONS MAY 2005

3.17 In accordance with the 1995 Constitutions, elections are held every five years. Elections to the Federal Parliamentary Assembly (the House of People's Representatives) and to the Regional State Councils, which elect representatives to the upper house (the House of the Federation) were held in

May 1995, May 2000 and most recently in May 2005. The EPRDF and its allies won overwhelming majorities in the 1995 and 2000 elections, taking over 95% of the seats in both the federal and regional assemblies. On the conduct of these elections, Africa South of the Sahara 2005 commented that the results were seriously undermined by the decision of most opposition parties to boycott, claiming insufficient access to media, extensive arrest and harassment of their officials and closure of party offices. International observers generally agreed with the criticisms; there was a consensus that whilst the elections represented an advance on past experience, they were not entirely free or fair. (Africa South of the Sahara) **[1a] (p428)**

3.18 Ethiopia's third general election was held on 15 May 2005. Ethiopians voted for members of the House of Peoples' Representatives (the federal or national parliament), with 547 seats. They also voted for representatives to the nine Regional State Councils and two City Councils. **[14]**

3.19 Some 25 million registered voters (aged 18 and over) voted in about 30,000 polling stations. Some 36 political parties competed for the federal parliament or regional and city councils, with 1,845 candidates (including 273 women), for the federal parliament, and 3,662 candidates for the regional and city councils.. Many of the registered political parties were affiliated to the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition. There were also two major opposition coalitions comprising both national and regional opposition parties – the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) and the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). (Amnesty International) **[10e]**, (National Election Board of Ethiopia) **[14]**

3.20 Some problems over registration were reported in the run–up to election, including under–age voters and people with multiple ballots. (2 May 2005 IRIN News) **[9d]**

3.21 Opposition leaders accused the ruling party of killing and intimidating their supporters, claiming that two opposition supporters had been shot, hundreds rounded up and imprisoned and dozens had disappeared in the run up to election. Information Minister Bereket Simon rejected the allegations as 'propaganda' and absolutely false. (BBC and IRIN 27/8 April 2005) **[7c]**, **[9e]**

3.22 Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi accused opposition parties of fomenting ethnic hatred ahead of general elections on 15 May. AFP reported that in a national television address, he compared opposition tactics to those used in the Rwandan genocide. 'The Ethiopian opposition is following the same trend to create havoc and hatred', Mr Meles said,. Last week the prime minister's party denied accusations that it was killing and intimidating opposition supporters. (BBC 6 May 2005) **[7d]**

3.23 IRIN News reported on 16 May 2005 that: "Millions of Ethiopians went to the polls on Sunday in elections that were widely expected to hand Prime Minister Meles Zenawi a third five-year term. At dawn, huge queues of voters snaked around polling stations for the country's third-ever elections in what is seen as a key test of Meles's plan to introduce greater democracy in this country of 70 million." **[9f]** The EU Election Observer Mission judged that voting was conducted peacefully and was generally well administered. Turnout was high and procedures were generally well followed in 80 per cent of polling stations visited by EU observers. (EUEOM final Report 14 March 2006) **[12]**

3.24 Immediately after the elections the Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, announced a ban on demonstrations for a month. The EU election observer report noted various shortcomings and delays in the counting and publication of official results. This contributed to conflicting claims and disputed results. (IRIN News 19 May 2005) **[9g]**, (EUEOM final Report 14 March 2006) **[12]**

3.25 For example, IRIN reported on 19 May 2005 that "Ethiopia's main opposition parties claimed they were headed for victory in the country's national elections – two days after the government announced it had won. The Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) said they had won 203 seats in the 547-member parliament after results from 260 constituencies had been counted….The opposition gains appeared to centre primarily on urban areas. The CUD believed it had won at least 21 of the 23 seats in the capital, Addis Ababa, and claimed to have unseated a number of ministers." **[9g]**

3.26 Further to that report IRIN then noted on 24 May 2005 that: "Ethiopia's main opposition party on Monday threatened to boycott the next parliament unless its complaints of alleged vote rigging in last week's general elections were resolved. Hailu Shawel, leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), said his party would not join any government if it believed that the elections were unfair." **[9h]**

3.27 After provisional results indicated that the EPRDF had won a majority of the seats violence erupted in the capital, Addis Ababa. The BBC, in an article dated 6 June 2005, reported that: Hundreds of Ethiopian students had been arrested in the capital, Addis Ababa, after staging protests over last month's elections. Baton-wielding police stormed the two university campuses which the students had occupied. They had accused the ruling EPRDF party of fraud." **[7y]**

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3.28 Amnesty International reported on 7 June 2005 that:

"On 6 June, several hundred peaceful student demonstrators were beaten with batons and rifle butts by the police on the two main Addis Ababa University (AAU) campuses. The students had been shouting and chanting protests against the announcement of the provisional results of the 15 May parliamentary elections, which indicated a majority for Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition. Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience, who were peacefully exercising their opinions. The students were supporting opposition demands for an investigation into alleged voting irregularities, including reported arrests and beatings of opposition candidates, in about 300 of the 547 constituencies. The students defied the Prime Minister's ban on demonstrations for a month after the elections. The detained students are reportedly being held in police camps such as Sendafa police training college, 40 kms north of Addis Ababa." **[10f]**

3.29 After three days of mass arrests and shootings of demonstrators in Addis Ababa, leaving at least 26 dead and over 100 injured, Amnesty International

issued an appeal on behalf of over 1,500 students and other demonstrators who were at risk of torture….Amnesty International feared that several hundred Addis Ababa University students, who were arrested during demonstrations earlier this week, are being held incommunicado without charge, and are being beaten, forced to do harsh exercises, and denied adequate food and medical treatment." (Amnesty International 9 June 2005) **[10g]**

3.30 Wider demonstrations occurred in Addis Ababa on 8 June, following the student arrests. Security forces killed at least 36 people and arrested thousands of others, mostly linked to the opposition. (EUEOM Report) **[12]**

3.31 The BBC reported on 11 June 2005 that:

"Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has defended a security crackdown which saw 26 protestors shot dead in the country's capital, Addis Ababa. Speaking to the Reuters news agency, Mr Meles said he regretted the loss of life but added 'things were beginning to get out of control'. 'It was prudent to stop this with forceful action', he said. Mr Meles spoke as rival parties signed a deal backing a call for a probe into claims of fraud in recent elections….Mr Meles said he remained ready to take 'preventative action' to preserve calm. **[7e]**

3.32 The BBC further reported in an article dated 13 June 2005:

"More than 3,000 people have been arrested in Ethiopia, since disputed elections last month, human rights workers say. The arrests have intensified since protests were violently suppressed last week, said an official with the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO). The European Union has called together political leaders to defuse tensions. All parties signed an agreement on Friday to undertake a joint probe into complaints of voting irregularities. But the opposition alleged the government could not be trusted – though it later withdrew the comments.... Meanwhile, shops and cafes have reopened in the capital, Addis Ababa, after being closed following last week's violence." **[7f]**

3.33 The BBC reported in an article dated 14 June 2005: "Ethiopian political leaders have signed a declaration renewing a deal to try to end violence and launch an investigation into election complaints." **[7g]** The National Election Board selected 135 constituencies for investigation. The 26 investigation teams were formed including representatives from political parties, representatives from the National Electoral Board, and international observers. (EUEOM Report). **[12]**

3.34 A BBC report dated 24 June 2005, noted: "Authorities in Ethiopia say they have released nearly 2,700 people who were detained after election protests turned violent earlier this month. Federal police said those freed were found to be 'minor offenders' who did not deserve prosecution. They had been held at a military camp south of the capital, Addis Ababa. But hundreds more were still being detained, police said." **[7h]**

3.35 An Amnesty International report dated 28 July 2005, stated that:

"All 190 Addis Ababa University students detained illegally at Sendafa Police Training College since 6 June have now been released. As with other

detainees arrested for demonstrating against the government, the students were taken to court and released on bail, although not formally charged with any criminal offence….virtually all other detainees arrested in Addis Ababa and other places during the demonstrations in early June, had been taken to court and released on bail. Up to 200 people, mostly unemployed youths, arrested in Addis Ababa and still detained in Ziwai prison have not been able to raise bail and remain in detention." **[10h]**

3.36 The election complaints process resulted in the partial or complete re-run of elections in 31 constituencies on 21 August, 2005. The final results, as announced by the National Election Board, gave the EPRDF parties 327 seats, parties associated with the EPRDF 40 seats and the opposition 172 seats. Of the opposition seats, the CUD gained 109, the UEDF 52 and the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement 11. (NEBE) **[14]**. The opposition continued to dispute the results and planned demonstrations.

3.37 According to an Amnesty International report dated 30 September 2005 the Ethiopian authorities began arresting opposition members in mid-September. The report noted that:

"Hundreds of opposition party officials and members were being held incommunicado without charge in order to stop them attending nationwide demonstrations planned for 2 October….There has also been widespread intimidation and harassment of suspected opposition supporters, particularly youths. Amnesty International believed that those arrested may be prisoners of conscience, detained solely on account of their non-violent opinions. The authorities began arresting members of the two opposition coalitions, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Front (UEDF), in mid-September, following the announcement of the demonstrations planned for 2 October. The CUD said up to 12 of its regional party offices had been shut down and officials detained. The Oromo National Congress (ONC), part of the UEDF coalition, made similar charges. In total, the CUD and the UEDF claim that over 850 people have been detained, mainly in the central Amhara and Oromia regions, and in the south. The government has accused the opposition parties of 'a violent conspiracy aimed at subverting the constitutional order', and refused permission for the demonstrations, claiming that the opposition parties were planning violence leading up to the demonstrations planned for 2 October in the capital, Addis Ababa, and other towns." **[10i]**

3.38 Violence erupted again in the first week of November. According to an Amnesty International report of 11 November 2005: "At least 46 protesters were killed in Addis Ababa and other towns, and at least 4,000 were arrested." **[10j]** "Detained opposition leaders and editors seized after bloody clashes in Addis Ababa last week will face treason charges, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said. The Prime Minister declared that the worst of the violence was over, but his government had no intention of bowing to calls from the international community for the release of opposition leaders….'They are accused of engaging in insurrection'. He said. 'That is an act of treason under Ethiopian law. They will be charged and will have their day in court'." (IRIN 10 November 2005) **[9i]**

3.39 According to an Africa Confidential article dated 18 November 2005:

"The ruling party is on the defensive. Its brutal response to opposition protests at election irregularities and the criticism which that has aroused, may mark its transformation. At May's **[2005]** elections, the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) lost support markedly throughout the country and totally in the capital. Since then, some 76 civilians have died in disturbances, the last 40 of them on 1–2 November. The death-toll makes it seem that Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's government cannot regain its lost legitimacy, either with Ethiopians or with Western governments." **[15a]**

3.40 Human Rights Watch reported on 13 January 2006 that:

"The Ethiopian government is using intimidation, arbitrary detentions and excessive force in rural areas of Ethiopia to suppress post-election protests and all potential dissent, Human Rights Watch said today after a research trip to Addis Ababa and the Oromia and Amhara regions….federal police in the Oromia and Amhara regions have threatened, beaten and detained opposition supporters, students and people with no political affiliation, often in nighttime raids. Alongside local government officials and members of local government-backed militias, the federal police have taken the lead in intimidating and coercing opposition supporters." **[11f]**

3.41 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"In the period leading up to the May national elections, campaigning was open and debates were televised. The Carter Center described this period as credible and commendable. However, in the period following the elections, authorities arbitrarily detained, beat, and killed opposition members, ethnic minorities, NGO workers, and members of the press. Authorities also imposed additional restrictions on civil liberties, including freedom of the press and freedom of assembly." **[3a] (p1)**

3.42 In January 2006 Ethiopian authorities freed more than 11,200 people seized following the political unrest in November. IRIN reported on 16 January 2006 that:

"Over 2,000 prisoners were released without charge after prosecutors said they had played a minimal role in the violence. 'After presenting reports on it's investigation to the prosecutor and as per the directive given by the latter, police released 2,252 prisoners whose participation in the violence was minimal and who could follow their cases outside prison,' a police statement said. A further 734 prisoners detained after fighting erupted in the capital were freed on 6 January, according to an earlier report by the state–run Ethiopian News Agency. The exact number of those still held by Ethiopian authorities remained unclear." **[9j]**

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

APRIL 2006

4.01 IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: Gov't licenses first two private radio stations', dated 4 April 2006, that: "Resident's of Addis Ababa, Ethiopian capital, heard their first independent radio broadcast on Tuesday morning after authorities issued licences to the East African nation's first two privately owned radio stations. The two stations – Zami Public Connections and Tinsae Fine Arts – will broadcast to Addis Ababa FM. They were selected from a pool of 12 applicants in February. The licences were issued on the basis of the station's financial status and programme content, according to Sissay Melese, spokesman for the Ethiopian Broadcast Authority (EBA). Television broadcasting in Ethiopia still remains a state - run entity." **[9ar]**

IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: Speed up probe into poll-related deaths, UN official says', dated as 26 April 2006, that: "The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, has asked for the speedy conclusion of an investigation into the killing of at least 60 people in Ethiopia during violence related national elections in 2005. Arbour also expressed concern over the arrest of several of the country's opposition leaders. She particularly pointed to issues regarding the nature of the charges against them, questions of bail and the expected trial of more than 100 officials of the main opposition party and journalists. **[9as]**

MAY 2006

4.02 IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: Opposition walkout as Meles appoints city caretaker', dated 10 May 2006, that: "Members of the Ethiopia's main opposition party walked out of the parliament on Tuesday to protest the nomination of a caretaker authority to run the capital, Addis Ababa despite the opposition's victory in the city during the elections in May 2005. Sixty legislators from the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) walked out after Prime Minister Meles Zenawi named an interim mayor and nine-member, politically neutral panel to administer Addis Ababa for the next year." **[9at]**

IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: Suspended funding redirected to poverty alleviation', dated 29 May 2006, that: "Six months after suspending budgetary aid to Ethiopia over governance concerns, the World Bank and Great Britain decided on Friday to transfer US $390 million of the funds to programmes to improve health, water and education for the country's poor during the next two years." **[9au]**

IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: Blasts injure 42 in eastern town', dated 30 May 2006, that: "At least 42 people were injured when three blasts rocked the town of Jijiga in eastern Ethiopia at the weekend, the state-run Ethiopian news agency reported. The simultaneous explosions which occurred on Saturday night, hit a hotel and two restaurants in Jijiga, about 720km southest Addis Ababa." **[9av]**

IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: Trial of opposition politicians, journalists resumes', dated as 3 May 2006, that: "The trial of Ethiopian

opposition leaders and journalists accused of trying to overthrow the government after disputed elections in May 2005 resumed on Tuesday, with the prosecution making its submissions about how the accused planned to carry out their alleged plot against the state. The 111 defendants – which include at least 54 officials of the country's main opposition party, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and 15 journalists – face charges of attempting to 'overthrow the constitutional order through violence' and 'outrages against the constitution'. Other charges include high treason and attempted genocide, which are capital offences under Ethiopian law. Twenty-five individuals are being tried in absentia." **[9ax]**

JUNE 2006

4.03 IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: Thousands displaced in clashes over land in the south', dated 19 June 2006, that: "More than 23,000 people have fled their homes in southern Ethiopia following clashes triggered by disputes over land ownership between neighbouring ethnicity groups in the area last week according to Oxfam. The dispute started simmering on 23 May and turned violent a week later when the Guji started claiming that land was previously occupied by the Borena clan. **[9ay]**

JULY 2006

4.04 IRIN News reports in an article, 'Ethiopia: More people displaced amid continuing land rows', dated 3 July 2006, that: "Clashes caused by disputes over land ownership between neighbouring clans in southern Ethiopia have displaced large numbers of people in the region over the past three weeks, aid workers said. The fighting, which pits members of the Guji community against their Borena neighbours, has claimed up to 150 lives and forced tens of thousands of people to flee their villages around the towns of Shakiso, Arero and Yabello according to local officials and aid workers. The towns of Shakiso, Arero and Yabello all lie within about 100 km of each other and about 500 km south of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa." **[9az]**

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CONSTITUTION

5.01 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that: "In December [1994], the Constituent Assembly ratified the draft Constitution." **[1a] (p427)** The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that the Constitution became effective as of 22 August 1995. **[2] (p4)**

5.02 The Constitution establishes a federal and democratic state structure and all sovereign power resides in the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Human rights and freedoms, emanating from the nature of mankind, are inviolable and inalienable. State and religion are separate and there shall be no state religion. The state shall not interfere in religious matter and vice-versa. All Ethiopian languages shall enjoy equal state recognition; Amharic shall be the working language of the Federal Government. **[4] (pp3-5)**

5.03 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Ethiopia Report stated that:

"Every Ethiopian national, without discrimination based on colour, race, nation, nationality, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, or other status, has the following rights: on the attainment of 18 years of age, to vote in accordance with the law; to be elected to any office at any level of government; to freely express oneself without interference; to hold opinions without interference; to engage in economic activity and to pursue a livelihood anywhere within the national territory; to choose his or her means of livelihood, occupation and profession; and to own private property." **[1a] (p442)**

5.04 The report further noted that:

"Every nation, nationality and people in Ethiopia has the following rights: an unconditional right to self-determination, including the right to secession; the right to speak, to write and to develop its own language; the right to express, to develop and to promote its culture, and to preserve its history; the right to a full measure of self-government which includes the right to establish institutions of government in the territory that it inhabits. Women shall, in the enjoyment of rights and protections provided for by this Constitution, have equal right with men." **[1a] (p442)**

5.05 The 1994 Constitution requires the Government to establish a Human Rights Commission and Office of the Ombudsman. **[4] (p24)** The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report on Ethiopia stated that: "Legislation approving both bodies was finally passed in 2000, but no appointments had been made by mid-2004." **[1a] (p429)** The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2004 confirmed that: "In August **[2004]** the Government named Kassa Gebre Haiwot as Human Rights Commissioner and Abay Tekele as Ombudsman. Neither entity was fully operational by year's end **[2004]**." **[3b] (p15)**

For a full text of the Constitution please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy in the UK: www.ethioembassy.org.uk

POLITICAL SYSTEM

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

6.01 The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that Ethiopia is a federal republic with nine ethnically based states and two self-governing administrations. Nationally the Government is split into executive and legislative branches. **[2] (pp4-5)** Details of each regional state can be found on the Ethiopian Embassy official website – About Ethiopia – Regional States. http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

6.02 The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that:

"The Chief of State is President Girma Woldegiorgis since 8 October 2001. The Head of the Government is Prime Minister Meles Zenawi who took office in August 1995. The President is elected by the House of the People's Representatives for a six-year term, the Prime Minister is designated by the party in power following the legislative elections. The Ethiopian Cabinet is known as the Council of Ministers as provided for by the 1994 Constitution; Ministers are selected by the Prime Minister and then have to be approved by the House of People's Representatives." **[2] (p4)**

6.03 The BBC Country Profile on Ethiopia, updated on 2 November 2005, noted that:

"Prime Minister Meles Zenawi took part in the fight against the Mengistu regime, and was chosen as transitional head of state after the overthrow of the dictator in 1991. Once a Marxist-Leninist, by the 1990s he had become a champion of the free market and parliamentary democracy. He was one of the architects of the 1994 constitution, which provided for a federal republic with ethnically-based regions. In 1995 he became Prime Minister." **[7i]**

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

6.04 The CIA World Factbook, last updated on 1 November 2005, noted that Ethiopia has a:

"bicameral Parliament which consists of the House of Federation (Upper Chamber) which consists of 108 seats, and the House of People's Representatives (Lower Chamber) which consists of 548 seats. Members of the House of Federation are chosen by state assemblies to serve five-year terms. Members of the House of the People's Representatives are elected by popular vote from single-member districts to serve five-year terms." **[2] (p5)**

ETHIOPIAN POLITICS IN GENERAL

6.05 The Constitution provides for the right of peaceful assembly and free speech. **[4] (pp10-11)** The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "Organizers of large public meetings or demonstrations must notify the government 72 hours in advance and obtain a permit. There were several

reports during the year that authorities denied permits sought by opposition political parties. Opposition parties also reported long, unexplained delays by the regional authorities in issuing permits, and last minute revocation of permits. The independent Ethiopian Teacher's Association (ETA) continued to encounter government restrictions when attempting to hold meetings or demonstrations." **[3a] (p10)**

6.06 The Constitution provides for freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted peaceful political activity. **[4] (pp11-14)**

6.07 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2004 noted that:

"The Government required political parties to register with the National Election Board (NEB). Parties that did not participate in two consecutive national elections were subject to deregistration. There were approximately 69 organized political parties; 13 were national parties, and the remainder operated only in limited areas. There were no reports during the year **[2004]** that any political party had its registration revoked." **[3b] (p11)**

6.08 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"Registered political parties must receive permission from regional governments to open local offices. Opposition parties, such as the CUD, the UEDF, and the OFDM, claimed that the pattern of widespread intimidation and violence directed against members of opposition political parties by local government officials continued throughout the year. Opposition parties and the press reported hundreds of such cases, including killings, beatings, arrests, house burnings, and property confiscation." **[3a] (p14)**

ETHNICITY IN ETHIOPIAN POLITICS

(See also Human Rights – Ethnic Groups, and Annex E – Major Political organisations).

6.09 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"There were more than 80 ethnic groups living in the country, of which the Oromo was the largest, at 40 percent of the population. Although many groups influenced the political and cultural life of the country, Amharas and Tigrayans from the northern highlands played a dominant role. The federal system drew boundaries roughly along major ethnic group lines, and regional states had much greater control over their affairs than previously. Most political parties remained primarily ethnically based." **[3a] (p19)**

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COALITIONS

6.10 Political Party Coalitions

Coalition Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)
Members Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)
Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO)
Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM)
Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (SEPDM)

Coalition Members United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF)
Oromo National Congress (ONC)
Ethiopian Social Democratic Federal Party (ESDFP)
Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC)
All Amhara People's Organization (AAPO)
Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP)

Coalition Members Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)
Ethiopian Democratic League (EDL)
All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP)
United Ethiopian Democratic Party + Medhin Party (UEDP-MEDHIN)
Rainbow Ethiopia: Movement for Democracy and Social Justice (REMDSJ) **[14]**

THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT

6.11 Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is Chairman of EPRDF, which was formed in 1989 and is an alliance of insurgent groups. The coalition is made up of the Tigrays People's Liberation Front (TPLF), Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO), Amarhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM) and Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement. **[1a] (p444)**, (NEBE website) **[14]**

6.12 The US Department of State in its 2006 online background note of Ethiopia stated:

"In July 1991, the EPRDF, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), and others established the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE) which was comprised of an 87-member Council of Representatives and guided by a national charter that functioned as a transitional constitution. In June 1992 the OLF withdrew from the government; in March 1993, members of the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition left the government." **[3e] (p3)**

6.13 The official results of the 15 May election were announced by the National election Board of Ethiopia in September. The EPRDF won 327 seats. Parties allied to it won a further 40 seats. The opposition won a total of 172 seats. Of these, the CUD won 109, UEDF won 52 and the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement won 11. (NEBE website) **[14]**

THE OPPOSITION

6.14 The opposition is made up of the two broad groupings – the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) and the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). The UEDF has taken up its seats in parliament. Some of the CUD have done so but others declined to do so. (BBC 28 November 2005) **[7j]**

6.15 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

As provided by law, the government required political parties to register with the NEB. The NEB's independence was called into question when it made a series of decisions limiting the political activity of opposition parties, including the rejection of the CUD merger, unwillingness to recognize the CUD coalition

after the elections, and the recognition of a disputed change in the ONC party leadership. **[3a] (pp11-12)**

6.16 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 also noted that:

"There were many reports from opposition party members that in small towns authorities detained persons in police stations for long periods without access to a judge, and that sometimes these persons' whereabouts were unknown for several months. Opposition parties registered many complaints during the year that government militias beat and detained their supporters without charge for participating in opposition political rallies." **[3a] (p5)**

6.17 The report further noted that: "Opposition groups alleged that some of the persons detained by the SPO (Special Prosecutors Office) were held for political reasons, an allegation that the government denied." **[3a] (p5)**

6.18 The report continued:

"Following the June 6 to 9 demonstrations protesting the announced outcome of the May 15 parliamentary elections, police detained thousands of opposition members and other residents of Addis Ababa. Government security forces took three to four thousand residents from their homes and detained them in Zway prison outside the capital. EHRCO [Ethiopian Human Rights Council] reported the illegal detention between June 10 and 16 of 74 opposition political party activists, businessmen, and students. Security forces beat and detained an estimated five thousand individuals in various prisons around the country. On June 29, the federal police reported that it had detained 4,455 'suspects;' most were released after several days of detention. In mid-September, however, 40 percent of the prisoners at Shoa Robit prison (742 of 1,866 prisoners), north of Addis Ababa, were young men arrested around the time of the June demonstrations on charges of dangerous vagrancy." **[3a] (pp5-6)**

6.19 The report also noted: "Opposition party representatives claimed that police sometimes used fraudulent warrants to enter homes and commit criminal acts, including extorting money. There were reports that members of the federal police robbed persons during the year, including through the use of false warrants…. Some opposition party members reported that authorities burned down their homes and looted their offices." **[3a] (pp6-7)**

6.20 Amnesty International reported on 11 November 2005 that: "On 7 November 2005 police brought to court 24 opposition leaders and others who were arrested in Addis Ababa on 1 November following street demonstrations which erupted into four days of violence when police started shooting. At least 46 protesters were killed in Addis Ababa and other towns, and at least 4,000 were arrested." **[10j]**

6.21 IRIN News reported on 20 February 2006 that:

"Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi will allow international observers to attend the trial of detained opposition leaders set to begin in Addis Ababa on Thursday, a senior European Commission official said….The jailed opposition leaders were arrested in a crackdown following the disputed 15 May [2005] elections that returned the prime minister's party to power. Some 131

opposition leaders, journalists and aid workers are currently being detained. They face charges of treason, planning to commit genocide and other crimes, some of which carry the maximum sentence of the death penalty." **[9k]**

UNITED ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC FORCES (UEDF)

6.22 Formed in 2003, the UEDF is a coalition consisting of the Oromo National Congress (ONC), Ethiopian Social Democratic Federal Party (ESDFP), Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) and Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP). **[1a] (p444)**, (According to some sources, AAPO is also a member)

6.23 Chaired by Dr Beyene Petros, and subsequently by Dr Merera Gudina, by June 2004 UEDF encompassed 15 opposition organizations, including the CAFPDE, the SEPDC, the All Ethiopia Unity Party (previously the All Amhara People's Organization – AAPO) the Oromo National Congress, and the Pan-Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP). Following a joint conference of all opposition parties in late 2003 in the USA it also encompassed a number of external groupings, including MEISON and the EPRP." **[1a] (p428)**

6.24 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report (UNHCR) Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states: "Three UEDF-member parties took nine seats in the 2000 elections, a significant achievement in the context of Ethiopian Democracy at that time. The UEDF is largely made up of a coalition of ethnically-based opposition groups with strong support in the ethnically diverse South. After the 2005 election the UEDF initially supported the protests against the results. UEDF leadership and supporters were harassed, and their newly elected ONC MP for Negale Arsi, Terfaye Adane Jara, was killed by police. However, the pressure to boycott parliament divided the UEDF member parties. Beyene Petros and Merera Gudina took their seats along with 42 other elected members. ONC offices were closed despite the ONC under the UEDF taking their seats in Parliament." **[107] (5.1)**

6.25 IRIN reported on12 August 2003 that:

"Fifteen Ethiopian opposition parties had formed a 'rainbow coalition'. Veteran politician Dr Beyene Petros told IRIN the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) was the largest coalition opposition force within the country. Its birth followed a seven-day conference in Washington DC where opposition leaders agreed on a 10-point action plan for the impoverished nation. Beyene, who will chair the UEDF for the first six months, said its primary focus would be to defeat the current Government in the 2005 elections….Beyene said the coalition group would have a 'minimal political agenda' until the organisation managed to achieve office. But the manifesto pledge would be the 're-negotiation' of the controversial boundary ruling that has placed contested territories in Eritrea…Beyene heads the Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy CAFPDE – one of the 15 groups that joined the conference. Among the other main parties were the All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP)(later to join CUD), the Oromo National Congress (ONC) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP) (later to join the CUD)." **[9l]**

6.26 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2003 noted that The OLF and the ONLF refused to join the **[UEDF]** coalition.**[3c] (p20)**

6.27 The same Report 2003 noted that at the end of 2003 the UEDF was trying to negotiate a pledge from the Government to allow many of the parties based abroad to return to the country and set up local offices; however, the Government claimed that the coalition had not yet officially informed it of its plans. Prime Minister Meles also publicly said he supported 'constructive engagement' with the opposition; however, Meles publicly criticized the opposition for disloyalty and 'politics of hate'." **[3c] (p19)**

6.28 The report also noted that:

"In September (2003), ruling party cadres threatened to take away land occupied by eight farmers, who were supporters of the United Ethiopia Democratic Party (UEDF), in Masha Woreda, Southern Region. Ruling party cadres told the farmers that opposition party members were not entitled to land and told them to refrain from participating in UEDF activities. When the farmers refused to comply with this demand, they were evicted from their land." **[3c] (pp10-11)**

6.29 In the May 2005 elections the UEDF won 52 seats in the House of Representatives. The decision of the leadership, headed by Dr Beyene Petros, that they should take up their seats in the House of Representatives lead to a rift in the organisation. The following UEDF press release was issued:

"The Executive Committee of the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces, in it's extraordinary session of October 24, 2005, has relieved Dr Beyene Petros and Dr. Merera Gudina, of their responsibilities as chairman and First Vice Chairman of UEDF, respectively. The Executive….of UEDF does not accept the validity of the election results as declared by the ruling party. Nor does it accept [sic] the legitimacy of the newly formed government….The Executive Committee has determined by a ten to three majority vote not to take seats in and be part of the illegal EPRDF controlled Parliament. The decision taken by the Chairman to participate in the illegally formed parliament, therefore, was clearly a breach of the UEDF By-laws, organizational rules and a flagrant violation UEDF National Council and the October 6, 2005 Executive Committee decisions." (United Ethiopian Democratic Forces press release, dated 24 October 2005) **[45a]**

6.30 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "The UEDF reported that it had to cancel a general assembly of its members planned for September 29 [2005] because the government directed hotel proprietors in Addis Ababa not to rent their assembly halls to the UEDF or other opposition parties." **[3a] (p11)**

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OROMO NATIONAL CONGRESS (MEMBER OF UEDF)

6.31 The ONC was founded in 1996 by Dr Merera Gudina. It exists to oppose the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO) through legitimate electoral channels (in contrast to the armed opposition of the Oromo Liberation Front and other resistance movements, which the ONC condemns). It won one seat in the federal House of People's Representatives in the elections of 2000 (Political Parties of the World 2002 **[16] (p169)** It joined the UEDF coalition to contest the May 2005 election and won seats in Oromiya region.

SOUTHERN ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC COALITION (MEMBER OF UEDF)

6.32 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, stated that:

"The SEPDC was founded in 1992 as a multi-party coalition under the leadership of Beyene Petros, president of the Hadiya National Democratic Organization. Having obtained a peak membership of 14 parties, it split in 1993. Strongly critical of the EPRDF government's record in office (and of the authorities' conduct of the elections), the SEPDC won three seats in the federal House of People's Representatives in 2000." **[16] (p170)** It joined the UEDF coalition to contest the May 2005 election. Dr Beyene headed the coalition which won seats in Southern and Oromiya regions.

COALITION FOR UNITY AND DEMOCRACY (CUD)

6.33 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "During the year the major opposition parties negotiated significant mergers. The AEUP, Rainbow Ethiopia, Ethiopians Democratic Party-Medhin, and the Ethiopian Democratic League formed the CUD, making it the strongest opposition political coalition in the country." **[3a] (p14)**

6.34 The CIA World Fact book Country Profile on Ethiopia – Updated 1 November 2005 notes that, Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) is a Political Party and HAILU shawel is the leader. **[2] (p5)** An Ethiopian Review article dated 20 June 2005 confirms that Hailu Shawel's Current position is "Newly elected Member of Parliament, leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and Chairman of the All Ethiopian Unity Organization (AEUO).... Place of residence: Addis Ababa." **[51a]**

6.35 In the May 2005 election the CUD won 109 seats in the House of Representative, including all 23 Addis Ababa seats and others in Amhara, southern and Oromiya regions. The CUD also won 136 out of 138 seats in the regional administration for Addis Ababa region and a substantial share of the seats in the Amhara regional council. Many of its leaders, including its Chairman, Hailu Shawl, Vice Chair, Ms Birtukan Mideksa, and Mayor-elect, Berhanu Nega, along with other elected CUD representatives, have been detained since November 2005. They face a number of serious charges, including trying to undermine the Constitution. Some other elected CUD representatives have refused to take up their seats in parliament or the regional assembly. (Amnesty International) **[10j]**, (National Electoral Board of Ethiopia) **[14a]**

6.36 "Ethiopia's main opposition party on Monday threatened to boycott the next parliament unless its complaints of alleged vote rigging in last week's general elections were resolved. Hailu Shawel, leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), said his party would not join any government if it believed that the elections were unfair. 'The probability is high that we will not be part of this government - any government', he told reporters at the CUD headquarters." (IRIN 24 May 2005) **[9h]**

6.37 The CUD has faced difficulties over registration. The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia released an article on its website stating:

"The new merger announced by the four member parties of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) has not yet been recognized by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)….The United Ethiopian Democratic Party-MEDHIN, the All Ethiopian Unity Party, Rainbow Ethiopia Movement for Democracy and Social Justice and the Ethiopian Democratic League had applied on 19 October 2004 to form a Coalition for the May 15 federal and regional parliamentary elections….As clearly indicated in Article 9 of the founding document of the CUD, the Coalition will be functional until the end of the May 15 elections while the legal personality of the individual member parties remains recognized. In view of these facts, the NEBE had issued a letter of recognition to the CUD on 30 November 2004….Now that the elections have been completed and federal and regional governments have been established, the validity period of the certificate of recognition issued to the CUD has expired…. Though the four parties have recently announced that they have merged, they have not yet applied for the recognition of the merger nor have they returned the letter of recognition that had been issued to the four individual parties….The NEBE, therefore, announces that it no longer recognizes the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and will communicate only with the four individual parties." **[14]**

6.38 News 24.com reported on 19 October 2005 that:

"Ethiopian police arrested 34 members and supporters of the CUD on weapons charges amid government claims the group was attempting to foment a coup. Citing police officials, the state-run Ethiopian News Agency reported the backers of the CUD had been detained in the southern Oromo region. The detentions come amid a CUD boycott of parliament over alleged massive fraud in the disputed May 15 elections and calling for the formation of a national unity government to hold new polls over vehement objections from the ruling party. Ethiopian officials have repeatedly accused the CUD of plotting to overthrow the government by force with its continued protests over the election results." **[17a]**

6.39 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"In November [2005] authorities re-arrested CUD member and mayor of Addis Ababa Dr. Berhanu Nega and Professor Mesfin Woldemariam, two prominent academics and human rights activists, for participating in planning antigovernment protests aimed at the removal of the government. At year's end they remained in confinement on charges of treason and genocide, along with several members of NGOs active in civic education, and independent journalists. Other prominent CUD leaders arrested included: CUD president Hailu Shawel; Dr. Yacob Hailemariam, a former prosecutor for the UN

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; and CUD vice-president Ms. Birtukan Mideksa, a former judge. Their prison conditions were reported to be adequate, especially those of the CUD leaders, who had separate cells. However, access to legal counsel was sporadic, and there were serious concerns about access to adequate medical care." **[3a] (p6)**

6.40 The BBC reported on 28 November 2005 that:

"Three opposition leaders and a human rights activist in Ethiopia say they will go on hunger strike from Monday in protest against their detention. The four were arrested at the beginning of this month during violent protests over May's disputed election results. They have not been formally charged but Prime Minister Meles Zenawi says they could be tried for treason. CUD leader Hailu Shawel and two top party officials say their detention is politically-motivated. 'We have decided to go on hunger strike indefinitely beginning Monday, 28 November 2005 – we will take only liquids', said top CUD (Coalition for Unity and Democracy) official and mayor-elect of Addis Ababa, Berhanu Nega, speaking to journalists at Ethiopia's central investigation centre. 'This is a political case, not a criminal one', said Mr Hailu. Prominent human rights activist Professor Mesfin Woldemariam and deputy CUD leader Birtukan Midek are also being held." **[7j]**

6.41 IRIN News stated in an article dated 8 December 2005 that:

"Ethiopia's main opposition party, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), called on Wednesday for dialogue with the government as its detained leaders entered the 10th day of their hunger strike. Dialogue, the CUD said in a statement, was the only option for resolving their bitter dispute with the ruling party. Lawyers who visited the CUD members in prison on Wednesday said the detainees had lost a considerable amount of weight but were in good spirits. The leaders said they were in good health. The call for dialogue came as more than 50 CUD members ended their boycott of parliament. The party had refused to assume the 109 seats it won in the 15 May parliamentary elections, claiming the vote was rigged in favour of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, the ruling party. The CUD leaders in prison face possible treason charges, although they have not been formally charged since their detention on 1 November." **[9n]**

6.42 The Sudan Tribune reported in an article on 16 January 2006 stated that:

"The administration of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, will not be handed to the elected team because elected council members of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) failed to register, the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) said in a statement. After repeated calls, the NEBE said the number of registered Councillors could not enable them to form the Addis Ababa City Administration Council. Only 54 of the 138 elected people's Councillors had registered since January 12–15, 2006. The refusal by CUD councillors to register means the opposition stronghold of Addis Ababa will continue to be run by an appointed transitional administration dominated by the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). The subject would be referred to the Federal Parliament for decision, Board Deputy Head Tesfaye Mengesha told the state-run ENA." **[18a]**

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ALL ETHIOPIAN UNITY PARTY (MEMBER OF CUD)

6.43 All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) emerged from a split in the All Amhara People's Organization." **[1a] (p444)**

6.44 AAPO had been established in 1991 to defend the rights of the Amhara people, which it believed were best served by a unitary Ethiopian state rather than the federation advocated by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] (and implemented in the 1995 constitution). The AAPO's then leader was jailed from 1994 to 1998, having been convicted of incitement to armed insurrection. The AAPO boycotted the 1995 federal elections but contested those of 2000 in order to retain its party registration (which would otherwise have been withdrawn). It fielded 17 candidates for the House of People's Representatives and won one seat in Addis Ababa." (Political Parties of the World, 2002) **[16] (p168)**

6.45 AEUP supporters reported attacks by government militia against them during 2004. Local officials often turned a blind eye to these attacks or were complicit in them. On May 5, government militia assaulted Habtamu Baye of Seha Tefases Farmers Association in Shebel Berenta District as he returned from an AEUP meeting. On May 6, government militiamen Habte Endale and Bimirew Adal beat AEUP supporter Endashaw Alemu in Enemay District in East Gojjam Zone, Amhara Region. On May 13, government militiamen beat AEUP party organizer Damtew Ayele in Rabel District, North Shoa Zone, Amhara Region, according to AEUP reports. No action was taken against those responsible. (US State Department Human Rights Report 2004) **[3b] (p3-4)**

The AEUP leader is Hailu Shawl who is also Chairman of CUD. The AEUP initially joined the UEDF coalition when it was formed in 2003. It later broke away to form the CUD and contested the May 2005 election as a member of the CUD coalition. It was particularly successful in Amhara region.

ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

6.46 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, stated that:

"The EDP was formed in 1998 following a split in the All Amhara People's Organization [AAPO]. It fielded 15 candidates for the federal House of People's Representatives in May 2000, winning two seats in Addis Ababa. Its policies included land reforms to benefit peasant farmers. EDP party members (including candidates in current local government elections) were among those targeted by the security forces in May 2001 in a campaign against 'political activists' following the violent suppression of student demonstrations in Addis Ababa." **[16] (p169)** Now part of the UEDP (see below).

UNITED ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (MEMBER OF CUD)

6.47 The Africa South of the Sahara its 2005 Report stated that the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP) was formed in 2003 "by the merger of the United Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party and the Ethiopian Democratic Party." **[1a] (p444)**

6.48 IRIN news observed in a report dated 14 July 2003 that: the EDP has since joined forces with the Ethiopian Democratic Union Party to form the United Ethiopian Democratic Party (UEDP). Its leader Dr Admasu Gebeyehu said it had some 20,000 members and described it as 'one of the largest' political parties in the country. **[9o]** The EUDP joined with another party, Medhin, and as EUDP-Medhin formed part of the CUD coalition contesting the May 2005 election.

THE RAINBOW PARTY OF BERHANU NEGA

6.49 The Rainbow Party is one of the parties that forms the CUD alliance. The Rainbow leader is Berhanu Nega who was one of many arrested in November following the demonstrations in protest against the May 2005 elections. **[7r]**, **[9ah]**

OROMO FEDERALIST DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (OFDM)

6.50 According to the OFDM website the party was formed in 2004 and recognises that the Constitution should be amended to include certain fundamental principles in which OFDM believes. They won 11 seats in the May 2005 elections, mainly in western Welega (Oromiya region). **[19]**, **[14]**

COUNCIL OF ALTERNATIVE FORCES FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN ETHIOPIA

6.51 The CAFPDE was formed in 1993 but was unable to contest the 1995 elections because it was not granted official registration until mid-1996. Chaired by Beyene Petros and included his Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition [SEPDC] among its constituent groupings. The CAFPDE split in December 1999 (Political Parties of the World, 2002), **[16] (p168)** The CAFPDE elements that were active in Ethiopia went on to form the UEDF to contest the 2005 elections.

HADIYA NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (MEMBER OF UEDF)

6.52 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, documented that: "The HNDO, founded in 1991, is a regionally-registered party associated with several wider alliances promoted by its leader Beyene Petros (see Prominent People). His outspoken criticisms of government encroachment on human rights and political freedoms make him one of the most prominent opposition figures in Ethiopian parliament." **[16] (p169)**

REBEL GROUPS/ILLEGAL OPPOSITION PARTIES

AI-ITTIHAD AL-ISLAM (AIAI)

6.53 The Europa World Yearbook 2003, Report on Ethiopia, stated that:

"The Somali-based al-Ittihad al-Islam (AIAI) which sought independence for Ethiopia's Ogaden province, claimed responsibility for bomb explosions at hotels in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa in early 1996, and for the attempted assassination in July of Dr Abdul-Mejid Hussen, the Minister of Transport and Communications. Government forces launched reprisal attacks on al-Ittihad bases in Somalia on numerous occasions during 1996-98, resulting in the deaths of several hundred al-Ittihad members." **[1c] (p1567)**

OROMO LIBERATION FRONT

6.54 On 3 March 2004, IRIN news reported that:

"Ethiopia's human rights group on Wednesday condemned the mass arrests and physical abuse in January [2004] of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) said federal officers had rounded up 349 students belonging to the Oromo ethnic group before transporting them to a detention centre….The students – members of the country's largest ethnic group – had then been forced to march barefoot or on their knees along a gravel path for several hours." **[9p]**

6.55 The article further added: "The mass arrests, which took place in late January, were sparked after a disturbance erupted on the university campus. It followed a dispute between the students and the university authorities over a cultural show supported by the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO), one of four political parties in the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front." **[9p]**

6.56 The OLF, as part of its mission as stated on its website is that:

"The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) is a political organization established in 1973 by Oromo nationalists to lead the national liberation struggle of the Oromo people against the Abyssinian colonial rule. The emergence of the OLF was a culmination of a century old yearn of the Oromo people to have a strong and unified national organization to lead the struggle….The fundamental objective of the Oromo liberation movement is to exercise the Oromo peoples' inalienable right to national self-determination to terminate a century of oppression and exploitation, and to form, where possible, a political union with other nations on the basis of equality, respect for mutual interests and the principle of voluntary associations". **[20a]** Whereas, Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, noted that: "Formed in 1975, the OLF operated through different branches with little central leadership, having a minor contribution to the military struggle against the Mengistu regime compared with the contributions of Eritrean forces or the TPLF. Mutual antipathy between the OLF and TPLF led to the creation, under the latter's auspices, of the rival OPDO in 1990. Initially committed to an independent Oromo state, the OLF said in June 1991 that it would support substantial regional autonomy within a federal Ethiopia, and in August 1991 it accepted four ministerial posts in the TGE headed by Meles Zenawi of what had then become the EPRDF." **[16] (p169)**

6.57 Political Parties of the World, updated in January 2002, stated that:

"Clashes between members of the OLF and members of OPDO (an EPRDF member party) during the run-up to elections led to a final break with the

EPRDF in 1992, after which the OLF went into armed opposition to the Government, carrying out low-level guerilla operations and advocating boycotts of all elections. The OLF also clashed with rival Oromo rebel groups (some of which had come into being through splits in the OLF)." **[16] (p169)**

6.58 The article further noted that: "In July 2000 the OLF held a meeting with three other groups (United Oromo Liberation Front, Oromo Liberation Council and Islamic Front for the Liberation) to discuss joint action against the Ethiopian Government, which had ignored a peace proposal put forward by the OLF in February 2000." **[16] (p169)**

6.59 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that: "In October 2000 a conference in Eritrea, where the OLF was by this time based, brought together six Oromo opposition parties, including the OLF and the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia, as the United Liberation Forces of Oromia." **[1a] (p427)**

6.60 Human Rights Watch in its 2003 Report stated that:

"Since the Government banned the OLF a decade before, thousands of alleged OLF members or sympathizers have been arrested, and this trend continued in 2002…As of March [2002], more than 1,700 such prisoners were reportedly held at the Ghimbi central prison, half of them arrested recently and the rest having been there for five to ten years, some without charge. Hundreds more were detained in prisons and police jails across Oromiya State. Prisoners who were released or escaped from incarceration reported severe torture while imprisoned. The Oromiya State Minister for Capacity Building, who fled the country in May [2002], denounced the state Government for indiscriminately accusing the Oromo people of supporting the OLF." **[11d] (p2)**

6.61 The Report further documented that: "Reliable sources reported that the Eritrean Government was giving logistical support, training, and weapons to OLF guerrillas attempting to infiltrate Ethiopia from Sudan, and to armed Tigrean groups opposed to the current Ethiopian government." **[11d] (p4)**

6.62 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "Armed elements of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) continued to operate within the country. Clashes with government forces on numerous occasions resulted in the death of an unknown number of civilians, government security forces, and OLF and ONLF troops and members." **[3a] (p2)**

6.63 Human Rights Watch, in its 2004 Report stated that:

"A businesswoman, Dinkinesh Deressa, arrested in June 2002 and charged with being a member of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), an armed opposition group, was released on bail in July 2002. Three days later she was rearrested on the same charge and denied bail. Although the presentation of evidence in her trial ended one year later, in July 2003, she remained incarcerated without judgment at the end of 2003." **[11c] (p2)**

OGADEN NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT

6.64 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that:

"The Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), a party based in Somali state, which split in 1995 allowing the pro-government Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL) to win the elections in 1995 and 2000. The OLF and the ONLF signed a military co-operation agreement in July 1996, but have made few inroads despite Eritrean support and training since 1998. They demand greater autonomy and firmer commitments to possible independence, claiming that the EPRDF had no intention of allowing succession, deliberately making the process lengthy and difficult…The ONLF also received support from another Somali organization, the Islamic Union Party (al-Ittihad al-Islam), which has been fighting for an Islamic state in Somalia." **[1a] (p427)**

6.65 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report 'Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment', a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 notes that: "Throughout 2005 there have been reports of renewed activity by the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). In December the Ethiopian opposition radio and website Radio Freedom reported 11 separate ONLF actions against Ethiopian government forces in several different areas of the Somali National Regional State. The report details only the casualties to the Ethiopian forces and not the ONLF or civilian casualties. A further four engagements were reported in January, again claiming casualties for the Ethiopian army. The ONLF has warned against companies hoping to exploit natural gas reserves in the eastern Somali areas." **[107] (5.2.2)**

ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

6.66 The political programme as described in the EPRP website reported that:

"The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (the EPRP), formed in April 1972 to respond to the need of people's struggle for a political organization, has fought for more than two decades for the right of the Ethiopian people to be masters of their own destiny. The EPRP is continuing with this lofty and historic struggle because, at present as in the past, the Ethiopian people are deprived of their basic and inalienable human and democratic rights." The EPRP did not take part in the elections of 2005 although it had some links with the UEDF coalition overseas. **[21a]**

ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC FRONT

6.67 The UNHCR report, May 2006 Ethiopia by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states that: "A rebel group, the Ethiopian People's Patriotic Front (EPPF), operates in Northern Ethiopia and there are increasing reports of its activities. The EPPF has been based in Eritrea as well as in Europe." **[107] (5.2.3)**

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Human Rights

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

7.01 Articles 14 to 28 of the 1994 Constitution give prominence to, and guarantee respect for, human rights. **[4] (p2)** However the US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "After the May [2005] elections, serious human rights abuses occurred, when the opposition parties refused to accept the announced results, and in November after the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) called for civil disobedience, which resulted in widespread riots and excessive use of force by the police and military. Although there were some improvements, the government's human rights record remained poor and worsened in some areas." **[3a] (p1)**

7.02 The Report also noted that: "During the year paramilitary groups committed unlawful killings, including political killings. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) reported that from January to March armed militia killed several members of the opposition All-Ethiopia Unity Party/Coalition for Unity and Democracy (AEUP/CUD) in the Amhara Region." **[3a] (p1)**

7.03 The Report continued: "A number of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated with limited government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. The government generally was distrustful and wary of domestic human rights groups and some international observers. After the November [2005] protests the government restricted human rights groups from visiting or investigating detention camps." **[3a] (p15)**

7.04 The Human Rights Watch Report dated 2006 stated:

"Ethiopia has only one large, nationwide human rights organization, the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO). Government officials routinely accuse the organization of working to advance an anti-government political agenda and its staff and ordinary members are often subjected to harassment and intimidation by local officials and members of the security forces. In June 2005, three EHRCO investigators were arrested and taken to military detention camps because of their efforts to document the human toll of the government's post-election crackdown. All three were subsequently released but were threatened with future criminal proceedings. Another human rights organization, the Human Rights League, reopened its offices in March 2005 after winning a protracted court battle against government efforts to ban its operations. It remains to be seen whether the organization will be allowed to operate free of government interference." **[11a]**

7.05 The Report also stated that: "The aftermath of Ethiopia's landmark May 2005 parliamentary elections has laid bare the deeply entrenched patterns of political repression, human rights abuse and impunity that characterize the day-to-day reality of governance in much of the country." **[11a]**

7.06 The Report goes on to say:

"In rural areas in Oromia, local officials often threaten to withhold vital agricultural inputs such as fertilizer from impoverished farmers if they speak out against them or their policies. In other cases, local officials selectively enforce harsh penalties for the non-repayment of debts to justify the imprisonment of their critics or the seizure of their property. In the months prior to the May 2005 elections, regional officials in Oromia created new quasi-governmental structures used to subject the rural population to intense levels of surveillance and to impose restrictions on farmers' freedoms of movement, association and speech." **[11a]**

7.07 The Report further adds: "The Ethiopian government has taken no meaningful action to address widespread atrocities committed by Ethiopian military forces in the remote southwestern region of Gambella. Federal authorities have refused even to investigate human rights abuses so severe that they may rise to the level of crimes against humanity and continue to allow the authors of those crimes the enjoyment of near-total impunity." **[11a]**

7.08 Amnesty International, in its 2005 Report, noted that: "Widespread arbitrary detentions, torture and excessive use of force by police and soldiers were reported….Several thousand people remained in long-term detention without charge or trial; most were accused of supporting armed opposition groups. Prison conditions were harsh and some prisoners 'disappeared'." **[10a]**

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SECURITY SITUATION

8.01 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2004 noted that:

"The security forces consist of the military, federal and local police, and local militias. The police have primary responsibility for internal security, but local militias outside police command also operated as local security forces. The army is responsible for external security but also has some domestic security responsibilities, particularly along borders with neighbouring countries…. Military forces continued to conduct a number of low level operations against the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), the Somalia based Al Ittihad Al Islami terrorist organization, and elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). While civilian authorities generally maintained effective control of the security forces, there were some instances in which elements of the security forces acted independently of government authority. Members of the security forces committed serious human rights abuses." **[3b] (p1)**

8.02 The Human Rights Watch Report dated 2006 stated that: "Government officials and security forces in much of Ethiopia make routine use of various forms of human rights abuse to deter and punish dissent. For more than a decade, authorities in the country's vast Oromia region have used exaggerated concerns about armed insurgency and 'terrorism to justify the torture, imprisonment and sustained harassment of their critics and even ordinary citizens." **[11a]**

8.03 IRIN News has reported that in an article Ethiopia – Eritrea: Anna recommends extending UNMEE mandate, report dated 27 September 2006 that: "The United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anna has recommended a six – month extension to the mandate of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), but warned that arrests and expulsion of mission by Eritrean authorities were "particularly troubling". In his latest report to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, Annan warned of the potential disaster if the "untenable stalemate between the two sides was not resolved".

The article continues: "UNMEE's mandate is due to end on 30 September, but Annan recommends an extension until 31 March 2007. Frustrated by the lack of progress in resolving its border dispute with Ethiopia, Eritrea banned UNMEE flights over its territory in October 2005 and expelled some of the mission staff. The move has hampered the peacekeepers ability to monitor the volatile border zone. **[9bc]**

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CRIME

9.01 The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report on Ethiopia: Country Profile, accessed 31 August 2006, that: "Ethiopia has no central body co-ordinating anti-drug activities. Faced with other competing demands, the government lacks sufficient resources to combat the narcotics trade. Although drug consumption is increasing, most drugs transiting Ethiopia are primarily destined to Europe and, to lesser extent, the USA. The various Ethiopian ministries and agencies involved in counter narcotics are dedicated and committed, but hampered by insufficient sources." **[104]**

9.02 The UNODC report continues: "Increased drug control action of the OAU secretariat also aims at promoting stronger action at national levels, including Ethiopia, and the physical presence of the drug control unit in Addis might be helpful in this regard. The work of this unit is well underway, including recruitment and training of local staff, and the provision of office infrastructure." **[104]**

9.03 The UNODC report further continues:"Ethiopia is currently not an important country in money laundering, precursor chemicals, or in the production of narcotic drugs. While little is known of the extent to the drug problem in Ethiopia, it is clear than the country's strategic geographic location in the horn of Africa, good road and rail transport connections with neighbouring Djibouti, airlines to West Africa, Asia and Europe and long, unpatrolled borders with all five of its neighbouring countries, make it a prime target for drug trafficking. The Ethiopian Counter Narcotics Unit (ECNU) maintains an interdiction team at Bole International Airport, which is where its sniffer dogs are primarily employed. The interdiction unit routinely screen passengers, luggage and cargo on flights arriving from "high risk" origins, i.e. Bangkok, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Islamabad. Many of the flights require up to a two-day layover in Addis Ababa and that permits the introduction of these drugs to the local populace. Overall, the ECNU needs more training, better facilities, and improved access to resources if it is to prove effective in meeting the growing challenge. The Ethiopian police have requested ROEA to assist and upgrade their dog sniffer programme." **[104]**

9.04 The UNODC report also notes that: "Regarding drug abuse, the Government of Ethiopia (Ministry of Health responsible for demand reduction), **[sic]** until recently had very little reliable information on its scope and nature in the country. Through a UNDCP rapid assessment study completed in 1995, this situation was improved. Young people are the main consumers of cannabis, although illegal, in herbal form for recreational purposes as well as in certain religious rites and for curative purposes. Khat has been used for centuries in the eastern part of the country. Today khat consumption is widespread throughout the country. There are no laws restricting its use, although government discourages it. Khat abuse begins at a young age and there seems to be no upper age limit for the average chewer." **[104]**

9.05 The UNODC report also states that: "Heroin abuse has been recorded for the past three years, albeit, to a limited extent in comparison to the drugs

mentioned above. Drug abuse and general crime rates are increasing, in particular among street children in Addis and local slum areas." **[104]**

9.06 The UNODC report also further states that: "Ethiopia is a party to all three international drug control conventions: 1961, 1971 and 1988. The Ministry of Health is leading efforts towards creating an operational inter-ministerial drug control committee and developing a national drug control policy. Nevertheless, no national drug control strategy has yet been formulated and national laws enabling Ethiopia to fully enforce provisions of the three UN drug control conventions still need to be adopted." **[104]**

9.07 The UNODC report concludes: "Drug control does not appear among the top national priorities. Individual drug law enforcement and demand reduction measures aim at limiting the increasing local supply of and demand for, mainly, khat and cannabis are still cultivated locally. Different from cannabis, cultivation and consumption are legal in Ethiopia. Currently, the maximum sentence for trafficking is two to three years, which does not serve as an effective deterrent to using Ethiopia as a transit country. In view of the current border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, there are drug control dimensions emerging from this war situation. Also, influx of refugees, child soldiers, and HIV/AIDS present a real challenge in drug control activities." **[104]**

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SECURITY FORCES

10.01 The US Department of State Report on Human Rights 2005 states that: "The Federal Police Commission reports to the Ministry of Federal Affairs, which in turn is subordinate to the parliament. Local government militias also operated as local security forces largely independent of the police and the military. Petty corruption remained a problem in the police force, particularly among traffic policemen who solicited bribes from motorists. Impunity also remained a serious problem. The government rarely publicly disclosed the results of investigations into such types of abuses. The federal police acknowledged that many members of its police force as well as regional police lack professionalism." **[3a]**

POLICE

10.02 *The Ethiopian Herald* state in a report: *Police report on casualties of the street violence*, dated 14 November 2005, that: "The Federal Police Commission was set up in accordance with the constitution and the Proclamation No 313/95 under the provision of Article 5 as per Statute 86/95 of the Council of Ministers as an executive body." **[91c]**

10.03 US Library of Congress — Federal Research Division on Ethiopia in the Ethiopia Country Profile 2005 notes that: "Reliable estimates on the size of the Ethiopian police force are not available. The budget for public order and security, which covers police, doubled between 1997 and 1999 and is believed to have remained at a high level since that time." **[99]**

10.04 The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Report of International Fact-Finding Mission Ethiopia: Human rights defenders under pressure, n 417/2 – April 2005 notes that: "The right to life in Ethiopia is guaranteed by Article 15 of the FDRE Constitution, which provides that "no one shall be deprived of this life except by a reason of his conviction in accordance with the law for a serious crime committed by him. " It is also protected by Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Ethiopia ratified on September 11, 1993. Likewise, Article 18 of the FDRD Constitutional and Article 7 of the ICCPR prohibit the use of torture, while Articles 17 of the Constitution and 9 of the ICCPR arbitrary arrest and detention.

The report continues: "In spite of these provisions, between 1991-2003, EHRCO recorded a total of 3,919 extra-judicial executions in Ethiopia, 693 torture and non-fatal shooting cases, 1,158 illegal detentions and 81,760 cases of miscarriage of justice in the country. Between 2003 and April 2004 only, the association reported 158 extra-judicial killings, 106 cases of bodily injuries, 396 cases of torture and over 220 cases of arbitrary detentions (the number of students' arrests not being included). Although "each State has prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms, police forces and State agents are responsible for a number of these cases, which sometimes affect human rights defenders, and play and undeniable role in curtailing fundamental freedoms in the country. According to diplomatic missions met by the

Observatory's delegation, these cases involve regional and local police forces rather than federal police." **[109](pp.16-17)**

Arbitrary arrest and detention

10.05 The US Department of State Report on Human Rights 2005 states that: "Authorities regularly detained persons without warrants and denied access to councelling and family members, particularly in outlying regions, and for those thousands of young persons detained during and after the November riots. According to law, detainees must be informed of the charges against them within 48 hours, but this generally was not respected in practice. While there was a functioning bail system, it was not available for some offences, including murder, treason, and corruption. In most cases authorities set bail between $115 and $1,150 (1 to 10 thousand birr), which was too costly for most citizens. In addition police officials did not always respect court orders to release suspects on bail. With court approval, persons suspected of serious offences can be detained for 14 days while police conduct an investigation, and for additional 14 — day periods while the investigation continues. The law prohibits detention in any facilities other than official detention center; however, there were dozens of crude, unofficial local detention centers used by local government militia. In the Oromiya region, a police training facility was used as a makeshift prison during and after the November riots." **[3a]**

ARMED FORCES

10.06 U.S Library of Congress — Federal Research Division, Ethiopia Country Profile 2005 notes that: "The Ethiopian armed forces are undergoing a period of transformation from a militia force to a national body. The Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) grew out of a coalition of former guerrilla armies, mainly the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. Officers connected with the TPLF have continued to dominate the military. Although the armed forces have significant battlefield experience, their militia orientation has complicated the transition to a structures, integrated military. Ranks and conventional units were only adopted in 1996. A United States-assisted effort to restructure the military was interrupted by mobilization for the war with Eritrea, when the armed forces grew in a period of months from 100,000 to 250,000, with another 100,000 serving in support. Demobilization following the cease-fire of 2000 reduced the armed forces to an estimated 180,000 in 2004. Under the planned reorganisation, the military eventually will have three military districts, each with its own headquarters and under the command of army headquarters in Addis Ababa. On paper, each district will have its own corps with two divisions and one mechanized brigade. A strategic reserve of six brigades will be located in Addis Ababa. According to sources, forces around Addis Ababa in 2004 (two divisional formations, each with three brigades) were thought to be well equipped with serviceable main battle tanks and other heavy, mechanized equipment. There are army bases throughout the country, including in Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Debre Zeyit, Dire Dawa, Gondar, Gore and Jijiga." **[99] (p20)**

The Country Profile continues: "The term of service in the Ethiopian National Defence Force is 16 months, of which 4 months are training. Service is voluntary." **[99] (p20)**

Torture

10.07 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that: "Although the law prohibits the use of torture and mistreatment, there were numerous credible reports that security officials often beat or mistreated detainees. Opposition political parties reported frequent and systematic abuse of their supporters by police and regional militias." **[3a] (p3)**

10.08 The Report also commented on the treatment of students who protested in the Oromo student protests in January 2004 noting: "In October 2004 an undisclosed number of the approximately 330 students expelled from Addis Ababa University following the January 2004 Oromo student protests, who had been ordered by police to kneel and run barefoot on sharp gravel for several hours, were readmitted to the university." **[3a] (p4)**

10.09 Amnesty International reported on 3 February 2006 that:

"Forty-two people have been arrested during Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrations in the capital, Addis Ababa. They are reportedly being held incommunicado and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment….On 19 January, thousands of members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the principal faith in Ethiopia, were singing and processing through central Addis Ababa as part of the Timket (Epiphany) church festival. At one point when police halted the procession, some of those in the procession began shouting for the release of opposition party leaders who have been charged with treason and other offences. Police reportedly opened fire with live ammunition on people suspected to be demonstrating support for the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) party." **[10k]**

10.10 The Human Rights Watch 'Suppressing Dissent' Report of 10 May 2005 stated:

"Many local authorities and security officials in Oromia routinely commit various human rights violations against people they believe to be critical or unsupportive of the government. These abuses range from arbitrary detention and torture to long-term patterns of surveillance and harassment that isolate targeted individuals from their communities and destroy their livelihoods. In much of Oromia, these abuses are so widespread and so arbitrarily inflicted that they have left many people afraid to engage in any kind of public discussion related to issues of concern to their communities." **[11g]**

10.11 The report further stated:

"Police officials in Oromia often subject individuals who are arrested on suspicion of OLF-related activities to torture and other forms of mistreatment. In some cases torture is applied in the course of interrogations, while in other cases it is used as a form of punishment. Human Rights Watch interviewed several former detainees who had been severely beaten in police custody in 2003 and 2004. One nineteen-year-old woman who had recently been

expelled from school after arguing with another student was arrested in Agaro in August 2004 and accused of working with other detainees to sabotage the May elections." **[11g]**

10.12 Adding to this the report further stated:

"In other cases, Ethiopian military personnel have taken people accused of OLF involvement into their custody and subjected them to torture during interrogation in their own facilities. Human Rights Watch interviewed one man who had been detained in a military camp near Mendi in West Wollega in 2001. He was interrogated about his alleged involvement with the OLF and beaten severely by soldiers who nearly killed him when they fractured his skull with a blow from one of their rifles." **[11g]**

10.13 The Human Rights Watch 2005 Report noted that:

"Police forces often use excessive force to quell peaceful demonstrations, with demonstrators subject to mass arrest and mistreatment. In January 2004, between 330 and 350 Addis Ababa University students peacefully protesting the arrest of eight other students two days earlier were themselves arrested by Federal Police. While in detention, the students were forced to run and crawl barefoot over sharp gravel for several hours at a time. Police have repeatedly employed similar methods of torture and yet are rarely held accountable for their excesses. Police also responded with force in the early months of 2004 to student demonstrations in secondary schools throughout Oromia. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) reported that dozens of students were detained, some of whom reported being mistreated while in custody. One student was reportedly shot and killed by police during a student demonstration in Tikur Inchini." **[11b] (p1)**

10.14 The Human Rights Watch Report of 2004 stated that In February 2003, at least 34 Lideta Church members were arrested while at a peaceful meeting. Security forces took them to a police training camp for two days where they were beaten and forced to run barefoot and to crawl on bare knees and elbows on gravel and sand for several hours each day. This form of abuse has been used repeatedly in mass arrests in past years." **[11c] (p2)**

10.15 It further noted: "More severe torture remains a problem. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) reported the death of Abera Hay while under police arrest. The police claimed that Abera hanged himself, but further examination of the body and photographs revealed a broken chin, missing teeth, swollen testicles, bruised ribs, and bleeding around the nose and mouth." **[11c] (p2)**

10.16 Amnesty International, in its 2003 Report, stated that: "Torture of political prisoners, particularly those accused of links with armed opposition groups, continued to be frequently reported. Several women accused of involvement with such groups were reportedly raped. Courts rarely investigated defendants' allegations of torture." **[10c] (p3)**

10.17 The International Capacity Building Project report on their website, accessed 16 August 2006, states that it has established a Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture in Ethiopia (RCVTE). The website reports that: "RCVT was established in 1993 by committed professionals, who sought to contribute to

the improvement of the lives for the victims of torture. It is the first and the only rehabilitation center for victims of torture in Ethiopia. The founders are direct and indirect victims of torture from the previous government." **[95]**

Extra-Judicial Killings

10.18 Human Rights Watch reports in an open letter to the Minister of Federal Affairs, Hon. Siraj Fegeta, dated 23 March 2006, that: "Human Rights Watch has received reports of the extrajudicial execution of four youth in Gondar on February 6 2006 (January 29, Ethiopian calendar) by members of the federal police. The victims are Berket Fantahu (or Fantahun), 17 and a student in the 11th grade; Abee Wondem-Agegn, 18 and in the 10th grade; Sentayhu Workneh, 18 and Dawid Tesfaye, 19 and in the 8th grade."

The letter to the Minister of Federal Affairs continues: "According to reliable sources, the four youths were playing near Sentayhu's house between 7 and 7:30 in the evening (1 to 1:30 Ethiopian time. Allegedly, a federal policeman named Alemu Dariba approached the youths and ordered them to raise their hands. He then marched them to a stream about thirty meters away, where they were forced to the ground. When on the ground, he shot them in the head, execution style. There are reports that he was not acting alone." **[11h]**

10.19 The Project on Extrajudicial Executions has reported in an article: 'Ethiopia: Killing of Demonstrators Following Elections' excerpted from the 2006 report to the UN Commission on Human Rights of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, that: "Students protesting in Kotebe Teacher's College, the AAU's Commercial College and Technical College in Addis Ababa, were also beaten and arrested on 6 and 7 June 2005. At Kotebe, it is reported that, in response to the students throwing stones to the vehicles, police opened fire, particularly on those who blocked police vehicles which were carrying arrested students. A female student, Shabray Delelagne, was killed; six others were wounded." **[92]**

The report continues: "It is reported that [during the demonstrations after the elections] approximately 2000 students, as well as journalists were arrested. Around 500 students have been released, but others remain incommunicado in police and military camps, including the Sendafa police training college, 40km north of Addis Ababa. It is reported that 26 persons have been killed as a result of security forces opening fire on the demonstrators."**[92]**

10.20 Amnesty International's report "Ethiopia: Prisoners of conscience on trial for treason: opposition party leaders, human rights defenders and journalists', accessed 25 July 2006 state, that: "On 25 April 2006 EPRDF - controlled parliament set up a commission of inquiry into the post-election violence of June and November 2005. It will reportedly seek to establish the number of people killed, property destroyed, and whether there were human and constitutional rights violations. To date [report accessed 25 July 2006], no details are available on its composition, full terms of reference or working methods. Previous parliamentary inquiries into incidents as this where the security forces have killed unarmed civilians were not independent or impartial." **[10m]**

AVENUES OF COMPLAINT

10.21 *The Ethiopian Herald* reports in an article, "Institution of Ombudsman to Open Branch Offices in All States, Administrations" [sic], dated 30 July 2006, that:

"The Institution of Ombudsman disclosed that it would open branch offices in all states, and Addis Ababa as well as Dawa administrations in the next five years. Deputy Chief Ombudsman Bisrat Gashawtena told WIC recently that the institution plans to open branch offices in various parts of the country with a view to ensuring good governance and rights of the citizens. She said the institute has also been looking into 262 complaints filed by more than 6,000 people, of which 52 cases were finalized. Most of the complaints submitted to the institution raised issues mainly related to loan, labour and land." **[91d]**

The report continues: "According to the Deputy Chief Ombudsman, citizens can forward their letter to the institution through various means, including telephone, letters, e-mail and even through representatives. The institutions have also been offering awareness raising education to familiarize and popularize the institution and encourage the public to freely come up with genuine complaints. It will then seek remedies to those complaints and rectify where maladministration has occurred, she explained. Complaints can be filed in Amharic or any other local language, Bisrat added. The Institution of Ombudsman was established in 2000 in a bid to guarantee the rights of citizens and ensure good governance in the country, it was pointed out. **[91d]**

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MILITARY SERVICE

11.01 War Resisters International (1998) stated that:

"There is no compulsory military service in Ethiopia…enlistment is on a voluntary basis." **[23]** The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that: "The size of the army increased sharply between 1998 and 2000 after hostilities broke out between Ethiopia and Eritrea in May 1998…However, following the signing of the peace accord between the two countries in December 2000, the Ethiopian Government commenced a major demobilization programme, and by early 2003 there remained only about 156,000 in the Ethiopian armed forces. Plans to replace militia with an unarmed but trained reservist force of up to 200,000 advanced during 2004 under a series of security reform measures addressing police, prison and military issues." **[1a] (p429)**

11.02 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2004 noted that: "The military remained an ethnically diverse organization; however, diversity was less common in the higher ranks among officer personnel, which was dominated by members of the Tigrayan ethnic group." **[3b] (p19)**

11.03 The USSD 2005 Report stated: "The military justice system lacked adequately trained staff to handle a growing caseload. Foreign assistance to train military justice officials resumed during the year **[2005]**." **[3a] (p7)**

11.04 BBC News has reported in an article: Ethiopian officers 'join rebels', dated 15 September 2006, that: "Two senior Ethiopian army officers have defected to join the Oromo Liberation Front, the rebel group says. The two are Brig Gen Hailu Gonfa and Col Gemechu Ayana, who commanded the Eight Mechanized Division. However, Ethiopian officials said they had no knowledge of the reports. Last month Brig Gen Kemal Geltu joined the Eritrea-backed OLF.

The article continues: The two main said it was time for them to take sides in the fight between tyranny and liberty, the OLF says. Government critics say the defections are a sign of its unpopularity, but the government has portrayed the defectors as malcontents. Gen Kemal said he had crossed the border to Etritrea, along with 'hundreds' of men. The OLF, which was at first a secessionist movement, says it is fighting for more rights for the Oromo people in Ethiopia. **[7z]**

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JUDICIARY

OVERVIEW

12.01 The Ethiopian Constitution provides for an independent judiciary, **[4] (p32)** however the US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "While the law provides for an independent judiciary, the judiciary remained weak and overburdened. Most perceived the judiciary to be subject to significant political intervention." **[3a] (p6)**

12.02 The report continued:

"The government continued to decentralize and restructure the judiciary along federal lines with the establishment of courts at the district, zonal, and regional levels. The federal high court and the federal Supreme Court heard and adjudicated original and appeal cases involving federal law, transregional issues, and national security. The regional judiciary was increasingly autonomous and often heard regional cases….Regional offices of the federal Ministry of Justice monitored local judicial developments. Some regional courts had jurisdiction over both local and federal matters, as the federal courts in those jurisdictions had not begun operation; overall, the federal judicial presence in the regions was limited. Anecdotal evidence suggested that some local officials believed they were not accountable to a higher authority. Pending the passage of regional legislation, federal procedural and substantive codes guide all judges….To remedy the severe lack of experienced staff in the judicial system, the government continued to identify and train lower court judges and prosecutors, although officials acknowledged salaries did not attract the desired number of competent professionals." **[3a] (pp6-7)**

12.03 Europa World Online Report noted that:

"Judicial powers are vested in the courts, both at federal and state level. The supreme federal judicial authority is the Federal Supreme Court. This court has the highest and final power of jurisdiction over federal matters. The federal states of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia can establish Supreme, High and First-Instance Courts. The Supreme Courts of the federal States have the highest and the final power of jurisdiction over state matters. They also exercise the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court. According to the Constitution, courts of any level are free from any interference or influence from government bodies, government officials or any other source. In addition, judges exercise their duties independently and are directed solely by the law." **[1d]**

12.04 The Human Rights Watch 2006 World Report noted that:

"The courts in Ethiopia often step in to order the release of government critics jailed on trumped-up charges of treason or armed insurrection. However, judicial action often occurs only after unreasonably long delays, both because of the courts' enormous workload and because of excessive judicial deference to bad faith police requests for additional time to produce evidence. In addition, courts have shown themselves far less likely to contest prolonged

pre-trial detention in high-profile cases that have the attention of high-level federal officials." **[11a]**

12.05 The US Department of State's Human Right Report, 2005 noted: "Three federal judges sat on one bench to hear all cases involving juvenile offences. There was a large backlog of juvenile cases, and accused children often remained in detention with adults until officials heard their cases." **[3a] (p7)**

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE DERGUE/WORKERS PARTY OF ETHIOPIA

12.06 "Fourteen years after the overthrow of the former military government (the Derg), several thousand of its former officials remain jailed awaiting trial, charged with genocide, crimes against humanity, and major felonies. Former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, on trial in absentia, remains a guest of the Mugabe government in Zimbabwe, with little chance of being held accountable for his abuses so long as he remains there." (Human Rights Watch Report of 2006) **[11a]**

12.07 Two former members of the Dergue, Berhanu Bayeh and Addis Tedla have been sheltering in the Italian embassy for nearly 15 years. No-one from outside the embassy is allowed access to them. The Italians have always refused to surrender the men to the current Ethiopian government led by Mr Meles because Ethiopia still maintains the death penalty. According to the BBC, the two have become a diplomatic embarrassment. If they ever left the Italian embassy, they would almost certainly be arrested by the Ethiopian authorities and charged, like other members of the old regime." (BBC Report of 28 December 2005) **[7k]**

12.08 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2003 noted that:

"The SPO [Special Prosecutors Office] was established in 1992 to create an historical record of the abuses committed during the Mengistu Government (1975–91) – also known as the Dergue regime – and to bring to justice those criminally responsible for human rights violations. The SPO had authority to arrest and interrogate anyone suspected of involvement in the 1976 'Red Terror' Campaign under Mengistu and other crimes. **[3c] (p9)** approximately one thousand persons remained in detention charged with Derg-era offenses. Court appointed attorneys, sometimes with inadequate skills and experience, represented many of the defendants." (The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005) **[3a] (p7)**

12.09 IRIN news reported on 1 March 2004 that:

"Jailed colleagues of former leader, Mengistu Haile-Mariam, **[have asked]** to be allowed to apologise for the atrocities perpetrated during his rule…top officials being tried for genocide wrote to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi asking for 'forgiveness' for crimes committed 30 years ago…Copies of the letter were sent to US President George W. Bush, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former South African President Nelson Mandela. There has been no public response by Meles or his government to the letter, which was sent in August 2003." **[9q]**

Please also refer to section on Death Penalty for additional information on SPO trials.

ORGANISATION

12.10 Jurist Legal Intelligence note on their website, accessed on 23 August 2006, that: "Legislative authority in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is vested in bicameral Parliament. The House of People's Representatives has the power of legislation in all matters assigned by the constitution to Federal Jurisdiction. The term of duty is five years. The House of Federation has the power to interpret the constitution. The term of duty is five years. Both Houses have a speaker and deputy-speaker. The President of the F.D.R.E is the Head of State. The term of duty is six years and the President shall not be elected for more than two terms. The president is elected by a two-thirds majority vote of a joint session of the House of People's Representatives and the House of Federation." **[100]**

The article continues: "The highest executive powers of the Federal Government are vested in the Prime Minister and in the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister is elected from among members of the House of People's Representatives and power of government shall be assumed by a political party, or a coalition of parties, that constitutes a majority in the House of People's Representatives. The Prime Minister is the chief executive, the chairman of the Council of Ministers and the Commander- in - Chief of the National Armed Forces. This term of office is for five years." **[100]**

INDEPENDENCE

12.11 Jurist Legal Intelligence Website note in their website, accessed on 23 August 2006, that: "The Ethiopian federal High Court and federal Supreme Court hear and adjudicate original and appeal cases involving federal law, transregional issues and national security. The regional judiciary is increasingly autonomous, with district *(woreda)*, zonal, high, and supreme courts mirroring the structure of the federal judiciary. In 2000 the president of the federal High Court created two new three-judge benches at the High Court level to handle criminal cases. The Special Prosecutor's Office has delegated some of the war crimes trials to the supreme courts in the regions where the crimes allegedly were committed, which has increased the efficiency of the process."

The article continues: "The Constitution provides legal standing to some pre-existing religious and customary courts and gives federal and regional legislatures the authority to recognise the courts. By law all parties to a dispute must agree before a customary or religious court may hear a case. Shari'a (Islamic) courts may hear religious and family cases involving Muslims. In addition, other traditional courts still function. Although not sanctioned by law, these courts resolve disputes for the majority of citizens who live in rural areas and who generally have little access to formal judicial systems." **[100]**

12.xx The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Report of International Fact-Finding Mission Ethiopia: Human rights defenders under pressure, n 417/2 – April 2005 notes that: "Article 37 (1) of the FDRE Constitution stipulates: 'everyone shall have the right to submit his justifiable grievances to and obtain a decree or judgement from a court of law or any other tribunal given by law the power of adjudication'. The appointment process is theoretically fulfilled by the Judicial Administration Council (JAC). It is also to be noted that the independent Ethiopian Bar Association (EBA) has

not representatives within the JAC, which is composed of members of Parliament and senior judges, and that neither lawyers nor civil society representatives are consulted or involved in the appointment process, the criteria of which remain largely unknown. Moreover, the executive often discretionary dismisses judges. These dismissals which are 'never challenged or questioned', take the form of forced resignations or renewed political appointments. The latter method consists in appointing judges on ethnic grounds according to a quota system. "

The report continues: "There is a very high turnover rate among judges, who are often appointed very young by the executive: most of the them have just graduated from a civil service college where they have been trained along ethnic and political lines, with poor academic record to fulfil their function and no human rights training. The Minister of Information, Mr. Bereket Simon, explained that the federal government has no influence on universities' programmes, which come under regional State's responsibility, and acknowledged that many law schools were facing difficulties and inadequacy as some of the training programmes were drafted in 1950s – therefore no including international human rights conventions." **[109] (p.17)**

FAIR TRIAL

12.12 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 states: "According to the law, accused persons have the right to a fair public trial by a court of law within a 'reasonable time' the right to a presumption of innocence; the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choice; and the right to appeal. Despite these protections, closed proceedings occurred, at times authorities allowed detainees little or no contact with their legal counsel and detainees usually were not presumed innocent. The public defender's office provides legal counsel to indigent defendants, although its scope remained severely limited, particularly with respect to SPO trials. Although the law explicitly stipulates that persons charged with corruption are to be shown the body of evidence against them prior to their trials, authorities routinely denied defence counsel access to such evidence before trial." **[3a] (p7)**

12.13 The report continues: "The law provides legal standing to some pre existing religious and customary courts and allows federal and regional legislatures to recognize other courts. By law, all parties to a dispute must agree that a customary or religious court will be used before it may hear a case. Shari'a (Islamic) courts may hear religious and family cases involving Muslims. In addition, other traditional systems of justice, such as councils of elders, continued to function. Although not sanctioned by law, these traditional courts resolved disputes for the majority of citizens who lived in rural areas, and who generally had little access to formal judicial systems." **[3a] (p7)**

12.14 The report further continues: "The federal first instance court's seventh criminal branch handled cases of sexual abuse against women and children. By the end of the year the court had received 541 cases and had passed verdicts on 351 cases. Three federal judges sat on one bench to hear all cases involving juvenile offences. There was a large backlog of juvenile cases, and accused children often remained in detention with adults until officials heard their cases." **[3a] (p7)**

The report concludes: "The military justice system lacked adequately trained staff to handle a growing caseload. Foreign assistance to train military justice officials resumed during the year. There was no new information on the activities of the SPO, established in 1992 to create a historical record of the abuses committed during the Mengistu government (1975-91), also known as 'the Derg regime' and to bring to justice persons responsible for human rights violations. Approximately one thousand persons remained in detention charged with Derg-era offences. Court-appointed attorneys, sometimes with inadequate skills and experience, represented many of the defendants." **[3a] (p7)**

PENAL CODE AND CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

12.15 The United States State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 states that the new June 2004 penal code criminalised rape, but did not specifically address spousal rape. **[3a](p16)** The new Penal Code also criminalised circumcision of any female, infibulation of the genitals and sexual harassment. **[3a](p16)**

The report continues that on 28 March 2005, parliament also included some of the most punitive provisions of the draft press law in the new penal code. The articles include general provisions applicable to all offences, and specific ones applicable to particular crimes. Among them are articles taken verbatim from the draft press law referring to liability for offences committed by the press. **[3a](p10)**

12.16 The Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure can be found on the Mekelle (Ethiopia) University website: http://mail.mu.edu.et.

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ARREST AND DETENTION – LEGAL RIGHTS

13.01 "State media said 656 prisoners were still being held at Ziway detention camp, 150 km south of the capital. A second detention centre, Dedesa, located 400 km west of Addis Ababa, was closed in December amid allegations of prisoner abuse. Its 2,678 prisoners were transferred to Ziway. Opposition lawmakers maintain that more detainees are being held at other camps around the country….Among those detained are Hailu Shawel, chairman of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy party; Berhanu Nega, mayor of Addis Ababa; and Mesfin Wolde Mariam, a prominent human rights activist. They are part of a group of 129 opposition leaders, journalists and aid workers who face charges of treason, genocide and other charges relating to the violence." (IRIN reported on 16 January 2006) **[9j]**

13.02 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "According to the law, accused persons have the right to a fair public trial by a court of law within a 'reasonable time;' the right to a presumption of innocence; the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choice; and the right to appeal." **[3a] (p7)**

13.03 The Report further noted:

"Although the law prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention, the government frequently did not observe these provisions in practice.…Authorities regularly detained persons without warrants and denied access to counsel and family members, particularly in outlying regions, and for those thousands of young persons detained during and after the November **[2005]** riots. According to law, detainees must be informed of the charges against them within 48 hours, but this generally was not respected in practice. While there was a functioning bail system, it was not available for some offences, including murder, treason, and corruption. In most cases authorities set bail between $115 and $1,150 (1 to 10 thousand birr), which was too costly for most citizens. In addition police officials did not always respect court orders to release suspects on bail. With court approval, persons suspected of serious offences can be detained for 14 days while police conduct an investigation and for additional 14 day periods while the investigation continues. The law prohibits detention in any facilities other than an official detention centre; however, there were dozens of crude, unofficial local detention centres used by local government militia. In the Oromiya region, a police training facility was used as a makeshift prison during and after the November [2005] riots.…The government provided public defenders for detainees unable to afford private legal counsel, but only when their cases went to court. While in pre-trial detention, authorities allowed such detainees little or no contact with legal counsel." **[3a] (p5)**

13.04 The International Commission of Jurists, in a report dated 22 March 2006, has expressed its concern …"at the continuing detention of lawyer Behane Mogese and called for his immediate and unconditional release. Behane, a member of the Ethiopian Bar Association, is acting as a defence lawyer for senior opposition leaders from the Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party (CUD) who are charged with 'treason and genocide'."

The report further continued: 'The UN Basic Principles of the Role of Lawyers state very clearly that lawyers are not to be identified with their clients or the clients' causes as a result of discharging their defence duties', said Federico Andreu-Guzman, Deputy Secretary of the International Commission of Jurists."

The report also notes: 'It is essential that every person arrested be told the reason for arrest when it occurs. The person must then be informed promptly of any charges,' said Mr Andreu- Guzman. 'The arrest and ongoing detention of lawyer Behane for over a month without charge, with no specific reason given and merely at the request of the Government and police, constitutes a violation of Ethiopia's International Obligations to respect and ensure the right to liberty as contained in the International Covenant of Civil and Politician Rights'. (Article 9P and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Article 6)

The report further states: "In November 2005, 129 members of the CUD party were arrested and charged …among those arrested and charged are five lawyers:

Yacob Halemariam, former prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, former UN special envoy in 2003 on the Nigeria-Cameroon border dispute and Member of Parliament for the CUD

Birtukan Mideksa, former judge and vice-president of the CUD

Anteneh Muluget, former judge and CUD candidate elected to Addis Ababa City Council

Daniel Bekelle, Action Adi Ethiopia police director and coordinator of Global Call to Action on Prover (GCAP) in Ethiopia

Netsanet Demissie, former judge and chair of the Organisation for Social Justice in Ethiopia and Coordinator of Global Call for Action on Poverty (GCAP) in Ethiopia." **[54a]**

13.05 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"The law requires judicial search warrants to search private property; however, in practice, particularly outside of Addis Ababa, police often searched property without obtaining warrants. Opposition party representatives claimed that police sometimes used fraudulent warrants to enter homes and commit criminal acts, including money extortion. There were reports that members of the Federal Police robbed persons during the year, including through the use of false warrants." **[3a] (p7)**

13.06 The Report further noted that: "There continued to be reports that police forcibly entered the homes of civilians. There also were reports that security forces took persons from their homes in the middle of the night without warrants." **[3a] (p7)**

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PRISON CONDITIONS

14.01 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that:

"Prison and pre-trial detention centre conditions remained very poor, and overcrowding continued to be a serious problem. Prisoners often were allocated fewer than 21.5 square feet of sleeping space in a room that could contain up to 200 persons. The daily meal budget was approximately 25 cents (2 birr) per prisoner, and many prisoners had family members deliver food daily or used personal funds to purchase food from local vendors. Prison conditions were unsanitary, and access to medical care was unreliable. There was no budget for prison maintenance." **[3a] (p4)**

14.02 The report continued:

"In detention centres police often physically abused detainees. Diplomatic observers reported firsthand accounts of such beatings from Addis Ababa University student detainees in Oromiya. Authorities generally permitted visitors, but sometimes denied them access to detainees. While statistics were unavailable, there were some deaths in prison due to illness and poor health care. Prison officials were not forthcoming with reports of such deaths." **[3a] (p4)**

14.03 The report also noted:

"During the year [2005] the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) generally had access to federal and regional prisons, civilian detention facilities, and police stations throughout the country, and conducted hundreds of visits involving thousands of detainees. The government also granted diplomatic missions access, subject to advance notification, to prison officials. Authorities allowed the ICRC to meet regularly with prisoners without third parties being present. The ICRC received permission to visit military detention facilities where the government detained suspected OLF fighters. The ICRC also continued to visit civilian Eritrean nationals and local citizens of Eritrean origin detained on alleged national security grounds." **[3a] (p4)**

14.04 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report covering 2004 documented that:

"Female prisoners were held separately from men; however, juveniles sometimes were incarcerated with adults. There was only 1 juvenile remand home for children under age 15, with the capacity to hold 150 children. Juveniles who could not be accommodated at the juvenile remand home were incarcerated with adults. Pretrial detainees were usually detained separately from convicted prisoners at local police stations or in the limited Central Investigation Division (CID) detention facility in Addis Ababa until they were charged. The law requires that prisoners be transferred to federal prisons upon conviction; however, this requirement sometimes was not enforced in practice." **[3b] (p5)**

14.05 The report further added that: "There were many reports from opposition party members that in small towns, persons were detained in police stations for long periods without access to a judge and that sometimes these persons' whereabouts were unknown for several months." **[3b] (p5)**

14.06 Human Rights Watch, in its 2003 Report, stated that:

"Prison conditions were harsh in the provinces and in Addis Ababa. Medical care was rudimentary and rationed to a handful of prisoners per day. Prisoners with AIDS reportedly received no treatment, and former prisoners reported having witnessed deaths of prisoners with serious diseases such as tuberculosis. Prisoners were denied access to bathing facilities, mattresses, and blankets. Some released in 2002 told of being detained in such crowded confinement that they had had to take turns sleeping. Food was meagre but adequate. Prisoners who had family living nearby were normally allowed to receive food from family members. In May 2002 the International Committee of the Red Cross reported it had access to 4,800 security detainees in 150 places of detention." **[11d] (pp2-3)**

14.07 Amnesty International, in its 2003 Report, stated that: "Torture of political prisoners, particularly those accused of links with armed opposition groups, continued to be frequently reported. Several women accused of involvement with such groups were reportedly raped." **[10c] (p3)**

14.08 Following deep concern over the treatment of prisoners in Ethiopia, prison officials underwent training from the International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC) to improve the conditions for inmates in October 2003 as reported by IRIN. **[9r]**

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DEATH PENALTY

15.01 The Hands Off Cain website reported on 9 December 2005 that: "The Federal High Court sentenced to death Major Melaku Tefera, one of Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam's top soldiers, for genocide during the country's 1970s 'Red Terror' campaign." **[22a]**

15.02 The BBC reported in an article dated 11 August 2005 that: "Two senior members of Ethiopia's former military government have been sentenced to death after an 11-year trial. Former Security Minister Tesfaye Woldeselassie and ex-police chief Legesse Belayneh were found guilty of torturing thousands of dissidents. **[7l] [17b]**

15.03 Amnesty International, in its 2005 Annual Report, stated that: "Several death sentences were imposed, but no executions were reported. In October, three OLF fighters detained since 1992, including Asili Mohamed, were sentenced to death after being convicted of killing and torturing civilians in Bedeno town in 1992. They denied the charges and their appeal to the Supreme Court was pending at the end of the year **(2004)**." **[10a] (p3)**

15.04 The Hands Off Cain website reported on 20 April, 2005: "Ethiopia voted against the resolution on the death penalty at the 61st UN Commission on Human Rights." **[22b]**

15.05 The Hands Off Cain website also noted that on 1 March 2005 the Ethiopian News Agency had reported:

"The Federal High Court of Ethiopia sentenced to death Colonel Tiruneh Habteselassie for genocide committed during the Dergue regime in the former Kembata and Hadiya district. Habteselassie was found guilty on two charges, homicide and extrajudicial imprisonment of people. Prosecutors produced evidence against Col. Tiruneh that corroborated his involvement in the killing of 32 people whom he alleged were members of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party (EPRP) **[22c]**

15.06 Amnesty International in its 2004 Annual Report stated that: "Six defendants were sentenced to death in different Dergue trials during 2003. They were convicted of killings under former President Mengistu, including of the 'disappeared' Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Abune Tewoflos, in 1978. No appeals had been heard by the end of 2003. The only previous death sentences in these trials had been imposed in absentia. Almost all defendants faced a possible death penalty." **[10b] (p3)**

15.07 The BBC reported on 21 October 2004: "Three men have been sentenced to death in Ethiopia after being found guilty of mass murder of more than 200 people over a decade ago. The court said the men were all members of the rebel Oromo Liberation Front." **[7m]**

Further information on Death Penalty news can be located in the Dergue trials section.

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POLITICAL AFFILIATION

FREEDOM OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION

16.01 Article 29 of the Federal Constitution states that:

"1 Everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference.
2 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression without interference. This right shall include the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any media of his choice.
3 Freedom of press and other mass media and freedom of artistic creativity is guaranteed. Freedom of the press shall specifically include the following elements.
a Prohibition of any form of censorship
b Access to information of public interest.

4 In the interest of free flow of information, ideas and opinions which are essential to the functioning of a democratic order, the press shall, and an institution, enjoy legal protection to ensure its operational independence and its capacity to entertain diverse options.
5 Any media financed by or under the control of the state shall be operated in a manner ensuring its capacity to entertain diversity in the expression of opinions.
6 These rights can be limited only through laws which are guided by the principle that freedom of expression and information can not be limited on account of the content or effect of the point of view expressed. Legal limitations can be laid down in order to protect the well being of the youth, and honour and reputation of individuals. Any propaganda for war as well as the public expression of opinion intended to injure human dignity shall be prohibited by law.
7 Any citizen who violates any legal limitations on the exercise of these rights may he held liable under the law." **[4]**

16.02 The US State Department's 2005 Report on Human Rights noted that: "At year's end the draft press law proposed in 2003 by the Ministry of Information had not been formally presented to parliament. However, on March 28, parliament included some of the most punitive provisions of the draft press law in the new penal code, which took effect in May. The articles include general provisions applicable to all offences committed by the press." **[3a]**

16.03 African Press Network for the 21st Century report in their Newsletter No. 22/2003 that: "In January 2003, the Ethiopian Ministry of Information introduced a new draft press law that continues to criminalize press offences. Even if the government claims the new law is designed to 'encourage constructive and responsible journalism', there are concerns it may halt the small progress in press freedom that the country has only recently seen." **[101]**

The report continues: "Article 10 of the current Press Law regulates media content and explicitly prohibits publication of 'any defamation or false accusation against any individual, nation/nationality, people or organisations.' Article 19, an organisation that promotes global freedom of expression, has criticized the law on a number of fronts, ranging from the imposition of criminal sentences to excessively broad definitions of prohibited behaviour. The way in which the government has interpreted this language and implemented the law is equally disturbing. Journalists have been repeatedly jailed for publishing articles that are critical of government practices, or express unfavourable opinions of government officials. Without clearly defined provisions or a proportional sentencing scheme, the potential for abuse is enormous." **[101]**

16.04 The Commission on Human Rights, sixty second, session reported on 6 March 2006 that: "In January 2003, the Government issued a very restrictive draft law entitled 'Proclamation to Provide for the Freedom of the Press'. Following its rejection by civil society and recommendations by international experts, the Government presented a slightly modified version at the beginning of 2004, which motivated further protests. A third text was presented in July 2004, reportedly maintaining restrictive provisions included in the original draft, including heavy fines and prison sentences of up to 5 years for violating the law. The bill includes a list of conditions (including age, nationality, and legal background) to be met in order to obtain a licence and provides for the creation of a government-controlled Press Council in charge of drawing up a code of conduct for journalists, and gives the courts pre-censorship powers. Despite continuous protests, in March 2005, the Parliament passed into law a number of articles as additions to the new Criminal Code, among which appeared articles of the draft Proclamation referring to liability for press offences." **[103]**

16.05 An Article 19 report, "The Legal Framework for Freedom of Expression in Ethiopia", accessed on 29 August 2006, states that: "Articles 6 and 7 of the Press Law [current] set out the registration requirement and procedures for obtaining a print media licence. The Minister of Information or the regional Information Bureaus **[sic]** are vested with the power to issue licences within 30 days from the submission of an application. It is now generally recognised that licensing requirements for the print media are not legitimate". The report continues: "The registration requirement under Ethiopian law is onerous because it subjects any press activity to a registration requirement. This means that even a small-scale publication with a small print must register. The UN Human Rights Committee has held that such a requirement on small print runs is disproportionately onerous. Even a pamphlet with a print run of less than 50 copies is subject to the same registration requirements as large mass media and failure to do so entails imprisonment of up to two years or a fine up to 10,000 Ethiopian Birr (US$ 1250)."

The Article 19 report adds: "The Press law has a section on penalties for contravention of the law or failure to comply with duties set out in the law. For a breach relating to content, the penalty shall be imprisonment for up to three years but not less than one year or fine of between 50,000 and 10,000 Ethiopian Birr or both imprisonment and fine. This penalty is without prejudice to the liabilities and penalties under the Penal Code. Where the breach is a violation relating to registration, the penalty shall be imprisonment for up to two years or a fine up to 10,000 Ethiopian Birr (US$ 1250). The Press Law

also imposes a penalty for up to one year, or a fine of 5,000 Ethiopian Birr (US$ 625), or both, for failure to comply with host of duties set out in the Press law. This includes even minor incidents such as forgetting to publish commercial advertisements in a classified section, forgetting to publish the name of the editor or proprietor, failing to submit a copy of the publication to the Ministry of Information or the Regional Information Bureau within 24 hours of dissemination, not indicating the use of a pen name in a prominent place, forgetting to acknowledge a news agency source for reproduced news and so on."

The Article 19 report further continues: "There is no form of collaborative relationship between the State media agencies and the government, on the one hand, and the private press, on the other. Indeed, in recent years, the government has failed to build a more collaborative relationship with a view to addressing the concerns of the sector and to securing a meaningful operational space for it. The government has also failed to make any effort to build the operational and institutional capacity for private media. Journalists in the private press have often been subjected to arbitrary arrest, intimidation, harassment, criminal prosecution and subsequent conviction. Many journalists have been forced to flee the country and seek refugee status in the neighbouring countries. Repression of the private press and attacks on journalists from the private sector escalated to a level at one point where government of Ethiopia was listed as one of the world's ten worst enemies of the press." **[102]**

16.06 The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported in an article 'Ethiopian political divide ensnared the press', dated 14 March 2006, that: "Deep political divisions in Ethiopia have fuelled the massive, months-long crackdown on the private press in that country, gutting the print media, promoting rampant self-censorship, and resulting in the imprisonment of more than a dozen journalists on charges that could bring the death penalty, the Committee to Protect Journalists found during a one-week visit to the country that ended on Monday."

The CPJ report continues: "In meetings with CPJ, government said the crackdown was necessary because of inflammatory reporting by journalists who they accused of being part of a conspiracy to overthrow the constitutional order. Government officials blamed much of the private press for being captives or agents of the opposition. Representatives of the private press told CPJ that journalists were being punished for critical reporting. The government itself, they said, has made balanced coverage impossible by refusing to talk to independent reporters. Local journalists complained of constant government harassment, as well as subtle forms of censorship, including pressure on printers not to print their newspaper." **[32e]**

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

16.07 The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, sixty second session on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Human Rights Defenders, Report submitted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights defenders, Hina Jilani has reported on 6 March 2006 that: "Article 30

(1) of the Constitution provides that … 'everyone shall have the freedom, in association with others, to peaceably assemble without arms, engage in public demonstration and the right to petition'. Appropriate procedures may be enacted to ensure that public meetings and demonstrations do not disrupt public order or that such meetings and demonstrations do not violate public morals, peace and democratic rights. Proclamation No. 3/1991 deals with the Peaceful Demonstration and Public Political Meeting Procedure. Its article 4.1 requires that the organisers of peaceful demonstrations or political meetings shall submit written notice to local authorities. The notice should specify: the objective of the demonstration or meeting; its place, date, and hour; estimates of the number of expected participants; the required assistance from authorities for maintaining law and order."

The United Nation's Commission on Human Rights report continues: "Article 5.1 requires the organisers to provide their full name, address, and signature. Article 6.1 empowers the concerned official to notify the organisers for the need of holding the event in a different place or time if this was deemed necessary for maintaining law and order. In accordance with the 1960 Civil Code's provisions on associations and the 1964 Associations, associations and NGOs are obliged to register with the Ministry of Justice. As a result of this restrictive framework, the registration process is said to be complicated and essentially controlled by the authorities. The licence to carry out activities needs to be periodically renewed by the Ministry of Justice, which is reportedly free to discretionally withdraw or modify it." **[103]**

16.08 The US State Department's 2005 Report on Human Rights noted that:

"The law provides for freedom of assembly. Prior to the May 15 [2005] national elections, there were numerous opposition rallies, including one that occurred in Addis Ababa attended by nearly one million persons the weekend prior to the elections. However, immediately following the elections, the government restricted this right in practice….Organizers of large public meetings or demonstrations must notify the government 72 hours in advance and obtain a permit. There were several reports during the year that authorities denied permits sought by opposition political parties. Opposition parties also reported long, unexplained delays by the regional authorities in issuing permits, and last minute revocation of permits." **[3a] (p10)**

16.09 It further noted that:

"On May 14, the eve of national elections, the prime minister announced a one-month ban on all demonstrations in Addis Ababa and the surrounding area. In a May 25 press statement, EHRCO condemned the ban as an infringement on the constitutional rights of citizens….Despite the ban (which was extended to August 13), demonstrators protested against the government from June 6 to 8, leading to the killing of at least 42 unarmed demonstrators by security forces in Addis Ababa…. Between November 1 and 7, military and police forces opened fire on rock-throwing demonstrators in Addis Ababa, killing at least 40 individuals. The government claimed that some demonstrators were armed with machetes and hand grenades." **[3a] (p10)**

16.10 The Report also stated that: "Although the law provides for freedom of association and the right to engage in unrestricted peaceful political activity, the government in practice limited this right." **[3a] (p11)**

16.11 The US State Department's 2004 Report on Human Rights noted that: The Government required political parties to register with the National Election Board (NEB). Parties that did not participate in two consecutive national elections were subject to deregistration. **[3b] (p11)**

16.12 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report "Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment", a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states: "Most workers have a right to form and join unions, but the 1993 Labour Proclamation excludes teachers, journalists and civil servants who are only allowed to belong to an association. The most pressing human rights problem related to trade unions or associations is the harassment of the Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA). A former ETA President, Taye Woldesmiate, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1996 and released in 2002. In a move similar to that attempted against EFJA, the government established its own ETA. There are now two ETAs, one close to the government and one maintaining its independence. The government-allied ETA gains mandatory contributions from teachers' salaries. The independent ETA reports harassment, intimidation, and jailing of its members; in 2004 its offices were closed by the government and its bank account frozen." **[107](5.3.3)**

OPPOSITION GROUPS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

16.13 The International Federation for Human Rights reported on 3 January 2006 that:

"The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) is deeply concerned about the charges held against 129 persons including 2 minors, opposition activists, human rights defenders and journalists. Since May 15, 2005 and the Ethiopian parliamentary elections, repression has come down in Ethiopia. In June and November 2005, two waves of repression of the elections protests led to the death of almost 100 people including unarmed protesters, students and children. Thousands of people have been arrested. On December 21, 2005, 131 people were denied bail and formally charged with crimes including, conspiracy and armed uprising, trying to subvert the Constitution, high treason and genocide. They were given until 28 December to enter their pleas. According to the Ethiopian penal code, maximum sentences for these crimes are ranging from 25 years imprisonment [sic] to the death penalty. The names and activities of most of the accused are unknown [sic] but according to the information received they include 2 teenage boys aged 14 and 15, 10 elected parliamentarian and leaders of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), at least 12 journalists, 2 anti-poverty activists, Messrs. Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demessie from Actionaid Ethiopia, an international NGO dedicated to the fight against poverty, and Mr. Mesfin Woldemariam, former president of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), FIDH member organisation in Ethiopia." **[46a]**

16.14 The BBC, in an article dated 17 December 2005, reported that:

"Prosecutors in Ethiopia have charged 131 jailed opposition leaders, reporters and aid workers with crimes ranging from treason to 'genocide'…. The charges relate to last month's protests over disputed May elections that saw at least 46 people killed. Under Ethiopian law, some of the crimes carry the death penalty. Ethiopia's Judge Adil Ahmed told a court in the capital on Friday that the charges against the 131 suspects included treason, genocide, conspiracy and causing an armed uprising. About 55 defendants were present in the packed courtroom, including Berhanu Nega, a top leader of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), and human rights activist Mesfin Woldemariam. Several of them have been on hunger strike for nearly three weeks to protest against their incarceration." **[7r]** The BBC then further reported on 28 December 2005 that: "More than 80 people facing treason and genocide charges in Ethiopia have complained that they have not been allowed access to their lawyers….The judge ordered their return to prison while he considered bail." **[7s]**

16.15 The BBC reported in an article on 10 June 2005 that: "Young Ethiopians were in the forefront of this week's protests against alleged electoral fraud – and many of those who were killed and arrested were young students….More than 500 students were arrested on Monday and Tuesday, before 26 people were shot dead on Wednesday. Africa's youth often bear the brunt of political violence, while many of the continent's leaders are in their 60s or 70s." **[7t]**

16.16 On 3 March 2004, IRIN news reported that:

"Ethiopia's human rights group on Wednesday condemned the mass arrests and physical abuse in January (2004) of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) said federal officers had rounded up 349 students belonging to the Oromo ethnic group before transporting them to a detention centre….The students – members of the country's largest ethnic group – had then been forced to march barefoot or on their knees along a gravel path for several hours." **[9p]**

16.17 The article further added: "The mass arrests, which took place in late January, were sparked after a disturbance erupted on the university campus. It followed a dispute between the students and the university authorities over a cultural show supported by the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO), one of four political parties in the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front." **[9p]**

Please refer to Opposition Political Parties in section 5 for further information on CUD.

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA

OVERVIEW OF THE ETHIOPIAN MEDIA

17.01 The Constitution and the 1992 Press Law provides for freedom of speech and of the press. **[4] (p10)** However, the US State Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that: "While the law provides for freedom of speech and press, the government restricted these rights in practice. The government continued to harass and prosecute journalists, publishers, and editors for publishing allegedly fabricated information and for other violations of the press law. The government controlled all broadcast media. Private and government journalists routinely practiced self censorship.…Prior to the May 15 national elections, government-controlled media provided unprecedented access to opposition views, but after the election they generally reflected only the views of the government and the ruling EPRDF coalition. Relations between the private press and the government were often strained." **[3a] (p8)**

17.02 The Report goes on to state that: "Foreign journalists continued to operate freely and often wrote articles critical of government policies. Government officials often granted foreign journalists or local stringers greater access to government than local independent journalists received. However, prior to the May 15 national elections, some international correspondents reported strong government pressure to self-censor their coverage; they refused to do so, but suffered no immediate consequences." **[3a] (p8)**

NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS

17.03 Human Rights Watch World Report 2006 for Ethiopia stated:

> "Many independent journalists, editors and publishers continue to endure harassment and intimidation, and criminal penalties for a range of speech-related penalties remain on the books. In June 2005, the Ministry of Information revoked the licenses of five Ethiopian journalists working for the Voice of America and Radio Deutsche-Welle because it disapproved of their coverage of the elections and the post-election controversy." **[11a]**

17.04 IRIN News reported on 12 July 2005:

> "Ethiopia has rejected accusations of cracking down on independent media after the disputed elections, insisting that it is upholding the law of the land. Authorities also criticized international media watchdogs, saying they were ill-informed about what was actually taking place in Ethiopia. 'There is no crackdown', government spokesman, Zemedkun Teckle, said on Tuesday. 'We are ensuring that the media abide by the rules and regulations of the land.…The comments were made in response to criticism by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), which accused the government of trying to stifle the press. 'CPJ is greatly alarmed by the government's use of repressive laws to harass and intimidate journalists trying to do their jobs,' said Ann Cooper, executive director of the organization. 'Ethiopian authorities must publicly recognise the rights of journalists to inform the public and report critically without fear of reprisal'." **[9u]**

17.05 The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) 2005 reported in a News Alert dated 4 November 2005 that the:

"Ethiopian authorities had jailed at least two journalists and increased censorship of media coverage of anti-government protests….Local sources told the Committee to Protect Journalists that police arrested two editors and a reporter from the independent Amharic-language weekly Hadar….Many other journalists went into hiding. Much of the independent press stopped publishing on orders from the police, according to local sources….The crackdown followed government threats to arrest leaders of the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association (EFJA) and journalists it accused of being mouthpieces for the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy party….Police prevented the government-owned printing press from printing private newspapers, most of which failed to appear on newsstands, according to local sources. Police ordered the private weekly Ethiop to stop printing and arrested the newspaper's technical assistant Zerihune Tsegaye. He was later released without charge." **[32a]**

17.06 A further News Alert released by CPJ on 21 December 2005 reported that:

"Twenty one Ethiopian journalists and the president of the EFJA were charged with involvement in an alleged attempt to overthrow the government, according to CPJ sources. Among those charged (in absentia) were five journalists of Ethiopian descent who work in Washington, D.C., for the Voice of America's Amharic-language service.…Fourteen of the journalists charged are in custody; they were detained in a vast crackdown launched after antigovernment protests in early November. Most of the journalists charged work for private, Amharic-language weekly newspapers. In its charge sheet, the government accused freelance journalist Iskinder Nega of being a leader of the opposition CUD party. Precise details about other charges were not immediately available." **[32b]**

17.07 The US Department of State's 2005 Report noted:

"On March 3, the federal high court lifted a 17-month ban on the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association (EFPJA) and its leadership, by upholding a December 2004 decision by the court of first instance that the EFPJA was a legally recognized association, and rejecting the appeal of the Ministry of Justice. **[3a] (p10)** An IRIN article on 7 March 2005 reported the president of the association, Kifle Mulat, as saying….'This is a new chapter for Ethiopian journalists and this brings us to the forefront of the fight for freedom of expression in this country'. IRIN reported that the EFPJA was set up in 1993 and granted a government licence in 2002. It aims are to defend the rights of the independent press in Ethiopia. **[9v]** According to the US Department of State report of 2005, at the end of 2005 the organization was inactive as its president, journalist Kifle Mulat, was among journalists sought for arrest by the government. Mulat avoided detention, however, by not returning to the country at the time of the November unrest. A rival association with the same name as the EFPJA, sponsored by the government, was inactive during the year and its operating status was unknown." **[3a] (p10)**

17.08 The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) had observed in its 2004 Report that:

"Ethiopia's private print media are mostly concentrated in the capital, Addis Ababa, where a number of local- and English-language publications present a variety of viewpoints. Under Press Proclamation No. 34 of 1992, criminal charges can be brought against journalists for such offenses as defamation, incitement to violence, and the publication of false news. Court cases can drag on for years, and journalists are regularly jailed for not being able to pay bail or for missing court hearings. Many journalists have multiple charges pending against them." **[32c]**

17.09 The BBC Country Profile of Ethiopia updated in November 2005, states that: "The number of privately-owned newspapers has grown; some are available online. The Walta website also hosts a few pro-government English-language newspapers." **[7i]**

17.10 Ethiopian Media Women's Association (EMWA) also operates in Addis Ababa. The association is a "non-profit professional association officially registered with the Ministry of Justice since May 1999 pursuant to the Ethiopian civil code 405. Witnessing the weak participation and poor professional expertise, a number of women journalists initiated a series of meetings and consultations. EMWA was founded on 16 November 1997." **[63]**

17.11 According to the BBC Ethiopia Country Profile (2005), the Ethiopian Press consists of the following:

Addis Zemen – state-owned daily
Ethiopian Herald – State-owned English-language daily
Menelik – private, weekly
Addis Admas – Private, weekly
Seifenebelbal – private, weekly
Tobya – private, weekly
Wonchif – private, weekly
Tomar – private, weekly
The Reporter – private, English-language web pages
The Sun – private, English-language weekly
Addis Tribune – privately-owned English-language weekly
Capital – English-language, business weekly **[7i]**

17.12 The US State Department Report for 2005 stated:

"At year's end the draft press law proposed in 2003 by the Ministry of Information had not been formally presented to parliament. However, on March 28, parliament included some of the most punitive provisions of the draft press law in the new penal code, which took effect in May. The articles include general provisions applicable to all offences, and specific ones applicable to particular crimes. Among them are articles taken verbatim from the draft press law referring to liability for offences committed by the press." **[3a] (p10)**

17.13 The US Department of State's Report 2005 noted that:

"The Ministry of Information required that newspapers have a bank balance of $1,150 (10 thousand birr) when annually registering for a publishing license. This sum effectively precluded some smaller publications from registering.

Authorities also required permanent residency for publishers to establish and operate a newspaper. The government did not require residency for other business owners, and some independent journalists maintained that the government used the residency requirement as a form of intimidation. The press law requires all publishers to provide free copies of their publications to the Ministry of Information on the day of publication." **[3a] (p9-10)**

17.14 The report continued:

"The majority of private newspapers as well as government newspapers printed their publications on government owned presses. Following the unrest in November, presses frequently refused to print some papers, citing Ministry of Justice statements indicating that presses would be held responsible for content they printed. Police had the authority to shut down any printing press without a court order, but during the year did not exercise that power." **[3a] (p10)**

TELEVISION AND RADIO

17.15 The US Department of State's Report 2005 noted that:

"Although the law allows for private radio stations, and the government said that it would license new stations, the government continued to control all radio and television broadcast media. The government operated the sole television station and tightly controlled news broadcasts. The broadcasting law prohibits political and religious organizations from owning broadcast stations. The law also prohibits foreign ownership….State-run Radio Ethiopia sold broadcasting time to private groups and individuals who wanted to buy spots for programs and commercials. On April 1, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region launched daily one-hour Amharic-language broadcasts on its regional FM radio station, Radio Voice of the South. On September 5, the Addis Ababa city administration started test transmissions for a daily five-hour FM broadcast." **[3a] (p8)**

17.16 The report continued:

"There were some restrictions on access to international news broadcasts. Broadcasts of BBC and Deutsche Welle were listened to throughout the country….At year's end, Voice of America broadcast signals remained subject to intentional jamming. The government permitted ownership of private satellite receiving dishes; however, high costs and the limited capacity of the sole telecommunications entity, the Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation, effectively restricted access to this technology." **[3a] (p9)**

17.17 According to the BBC Country Profile (updated on 2 November 2005) the known radio stations in Ethiopia are:

Radio Ethiopia – state-owned, operates National Service and External Service
Voice of Tigray Revolution – Tigray Regional State government radio
Radio Fana – founded in 1994 by ruling party **[7i]**

Television:
Ethiopian Television (ETV) – state-owned **[7i]**

News agencies:
Walta Information Centre (WIC) – privately-owned, pro-government
Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) – state-owned **[7i]**

THE INTERNET

17.18 CPJ released another News Alert on 30 January 2006 to report about an Internet reporter being held without charge, stating that:

"Ethiopian security forces have detained a correspondent for the U.S.-based Web site Ethiopian Review, its publisher Elias Kifle said today. Journalist Frezer Negash has been held without charge in Addis Ababa since Friday, Kifle told the Committee to Protect Journalists….Kifle and two other CPJ sources said that Ethiopian officials had recently threatened Negash over her work for the Web site, which is extremely critical of the government." **[32d]**

17.19 Reporters Without Borders reported in an article 'Pregnant journalist freed after one month in prison' on 13 March 2006, that: "Online journalist Frezer Negash was released from prison on the evening of 9 March and all charges against her were dropped. She was freed two days after her third appearance before a judge, at which her lawyer requested her provisional release." **[53a]**

17.20 The US Department of State's 2005 Report noted that: "The government did not restrict Internet access…. Opposition Web sites were also accessible by the Internet…. In the wake of the June 8 [2005] disturbances, however, the state telecommunications monopoly disabled mobile-phone text messaging, a block that remained largely in place at year's end, claiming that the CUD used text messaging to call for antigovernment actions." **[3a] (p9-10)**

17.21 The BBC reported in an article dated 6 April 2005 that:

"Ethiopia may be one of the world's poorest nations but it plans to become information-rich with a massive investment in internet access. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi believes information technology has the power to counteract poverty. He is planning to provide universal net connectivity for the country over the next few years. The government is working with US technology firm Cisco to make this a reality….It will invest around $40m (£21m) in developing its internet service, which will involve laying 2,500km of fibre optic cables….Currently there are around 30,000 internet lines serving a population of 71 million. Within six months that figure will be expanded to 500,000 lines." **[7n]**

17.22 Reporters Without Borders notes in an article, "Opposition websites and blogs go down but is it censorship or a technical glitch?", dated 23 May 2006, that:

"Several websites critical of the government have been inaccessible in the country since 17 May 2006. Ethiopians have also seen all publications hosted by blogspot disappear from the Internet." **[53b]**

"A non exhaustive list of websites and blogs inaccessible in Ethiopia:

cyberethiopia.com
ethiopianreview.com
tensae.net

quatero.net
ethioforum.org
ethiopianpolitics.blogspot.com
enset.blogspot.com
ethiopundit.blogspot.com
seminawork.blogspot.com
weichegud.blogspot.com" **[53b]**

17.23 Reporters Without Borders in an article, 'Three more sites unaccessible, government denies being involved', dated 29 May 2006, also state that: "Three more websites have become inaccessible in Ethiopia. Information Minister Hailu Berhan insisted that his government was not involved but he failed to explain why almost all of the opposition websites suddenly cannot be accessed." **[53c]**

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HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVISTS

CIVIL SOCIETY

18.01 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report "Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment", a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states that: "Like opposition parties, civil society and civil society organisations in Ethiopia do not enjoy complete freedom. Rather since 2004 legal restrictions on civil society associations and NGOs have increased. According to one source the current Ethiopian legislation stems from the old Civil Code and 1964 Associations Registration and Regulation Act, which requires associations to register with the Ministry of Justice. A further draft law was prepared and was due to be submitted to the Council of Ministers and Parliament in 2005. The existing laws and new draft law allows the government, through the Ministry of Justice, extensive powers over civil society associations and NGOs, and thus maintains the government's control over civil society." **[107](5.3)**

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

18.02 The US State Department's (USSD) 2005 Human Rights Report noted that:

"A number of policy issues regarding nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) remained unresolved, including the right of NGOs to enter into formal network arrangements that would enable them to pool funds. The Ministry of Justice registers and licenses NGOs, and there was some improvement in transparency of the NGO registration process. However, the government continued to deny registration to the Human Rights League." **[3a] (p11)**

18.03 The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Report of International Fact-Finding Mission Ethiopia: Human rights defenders under pressure, n 417/2 – April 2005 notes that: "Since 2001, the Ministry of Justice

has been studying a new draft law on NGOs. The first draft that was presented in 2001 had been severely criticised by various civil society associations that collectively had formed a working group. This group was institutionalised in 2003 in the form of NGO Legal Framework Consultative Taskforce, which participated in the formulation of the new draft law. A public debate was held in July 2004 on the newly proposed text, but many independent human rights associations were not invited to participate." **[109](p.19)**

The report continues: "Although this draft law authorises associations to organise themselves in networks, it allows the Minister of Justice extensive powers to interfere in the internal affairs of NGOs and thus contributes to maintaining a strict control over civil society. The Ministry of Justice, for instance, can decide on the administrative dissolution of an association, dismiss its members, (whether elected or not), and order confiscation of documents or a search of the premises without warrant. In late October 2004, the NGO Legal Framework Consultative Taskforce presented alternative draft legislation for public debate." **[109](p.19)**

18.04 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report "Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment", a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states that: "A number of indigenous NGOs that have the aspect of ethnic welfare organisations have fallen foul of the government and have been closed down. The Mecha-Tuluma Association was seen as a political wing of the OLF and closed down. The Ogaden Welfare Society (OWS) in the Somali regional state was banned in 2002 and a number of its members were arrested and detained. The OWS had been active since 1992. A the time of its closure it had 200 staff and was responsible for feeding 1,000 children weekly, as well as caring for 500,000 people in Somali Region and 12,000 IDPs in South-Eastern Ethiopia. Human rights NGO, the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) that was openly critical of the government, has had several of its leading members arrested and charged in the past, and again in the aftermath of the 2005 elections and protests. A representative of the international NGO Action Aid is also among those currently arrested and charged with treason. Leading members of the Sidama Development Group have been arrested in local protests over administrative zones." **[107](5.3.1)**

18.05 The USSD report stated:

"A number of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated with limited government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. The government generally was distrustful and wary of domestic human rights groups and some international observers. After the November [2005] protests the government restricted human rights groups from visiting or investigating detention camps. In April [2005] the government expelled representatives of several foreign-based NGOs conducting electoral work." **[3a] (p15)**

18.06 Actionaid reported on 4 January 2006 that:

"The international development agency ActionAid has expressed its deep disappointment after an Ethiopian court today refused bail to two anti-poverty activists who were arrested in early November….ActionAid Ethiopia's policy head Daniel Bekele, and close partner Netsanet Demessie of the Organisation for Social Justice in Ethiopia (OSJE), were held for more than a month before

they were charged with conspiring to overthrow the Ethiopian constitution. 125 other people, and four organisations, face this charge and up to six additional charges…. Daniel and Netsanet appear to have attracted the attention of the authorities by campaigning for civil society monitoring of the national elections in May, demanding amendments to a new Ethiopian law on non-governmental organisations, and helping to organise Ethiopia's part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty." **[40a]**

18.07 The International Rescue Committee website reports:

"The IRC currently works throughout Ethiopia in four refugee camps and with local populations affected by severe drought. In the camps, the IRC assists Sudanese refugees who fled the 21–year civil war in Sudan; Eritrean refugees who fled during the Ethiopia-Eritrea border war of 1998-2000; and Somali refugees, largely from the Mogadishu area, who are waiting for conditions to improve in the capital before returning home." **[41a]**

18.08 Human Rights Watch, in its 2003 Report, observed that:

"Two leading members of EHRCO who had been arrested and bailed in 2001, charged with inciting university students to riot, appeared in court periodically in 2002….The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, which like EHRCO had been temporarily shut down by the government in 2001, faced no overt government interference in 2002. The government continued to refuse to register the Human Rights League." **[11d] (p5)**

18.09 The US Department of State's 2005 Report further noted that: "The government continued to investigate the Human Rights League for alleged ties to the OLF. The league's offices remained closed, and the government had not responded to its 1997 registration request by year's end, despite a court order to do so." **[3a] (p15)** "The government generally cooperated with international organizations like the UN and ICRC. ICRC access to prison and other detention facilities was restricted in the wake of election-related violence during the year." **[3a] (p15)** "While the government is required by law to establish a human rights commission and an office of the ombudsman with the authority to receive and investigate complaints with respect to misadministration by executive branch offices, neither entity was fully operational by year's end. The institutions had only limited resources. Neither organization had issued a report by year's end **(2005)**." **[3a] (p15)**

18.10 The US Department of State's 2004 Report noted that:

"The Government permitted independent monitoring of prisons and police stations by the ICRC. Diplomatic missions were also granted access upon providing advance notification to prison officials. In June [2004], the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights paid one of its occasional visits to prisons in various parts of the country. The ICRC generally had access to federal and regional prisons, civilian detention facilities, and police stations throughout the country during the year [2004], and conducted hundreds of visits involving thousands of detainees. The ICRC was allowed to meet regularly with prisoners without third parties being present. The ICRC received government permission to visit military detention facilities where suspected OLF fighters were detained. The ICRC also continued to visit civilian Eritrean

nationals and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin detained on national security grounds." **[3b] (p5)**

18.11 IRIN News has reported in an article Ethiopia: ICRC workers released from captivity, dated 25 September 2006, stating: "The International Committee of Red Cross has welcomed the release of its staff that were kidnapped by armed rebels in southeastern Ethiopia's Somali regional state last week. The men, it added were freed unharmed. The kidnapping prompted the ICRC to suspend operations for the first time in 11 years in Ethiopia's Somali state.

The article continues: "On Friday, the rebel United Western Somali Liberation Front (UWSLF) claimed to have abducted the two humanitarian workers and announced it would release the pair within 48 hours after realising they were aid workers and not employed by oil companies. The group, created in 1963, which claims to be fighting for the rights of ethnic Somalis in western Somalia and eastern Ethiopia, warned foreign energy firms against operating in the Somali region in a statement released in Mogadishu on Friday. **[9bb]**

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CORRUPTION

19.01 The Index of Economic Freedom 2006 reports that: "The government continues to promise economic freedom, but progress has been slow: Nearly 200 state-owned enterprises have yet to be privatized, corruption is widespread, bureaucracy is burdensome, and much economic activity occurs in the informal sector. In addition, taxation is unevenly enforced, the judiciary is overwhelmed, and key sectors of the economy remain closed to foreign investment." **[96]**

19.02 Xinhua General News Agency reports in an article dated 27 February 200 **[sic]** that: "Various draft laws and regulations aimed at enhancing the ongoing efforts to prevent corruption in Ethiopia were being dismissed by pertinent bodies, the country's anti-corruption watchdog said Sunday **[sic]**. Berhanu Assefa, public relations senior advisor with the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, told reporters that one of the draft regulations deals with providing physical and job security protection for people who expose and testify against incidents of corruption." **[97]**

The Xinhua General News Agency report continues: "The regulation has been discussed by pertinent bodies and referred to the Office of the Prime Minister after relevant amendments were made on it, he said. The Office of the Prime Minister has ordered for the preparation of a final in collaboration with Ministry of Justice, the official said. The commission, which wa set up in 2001, has also drafted a bill providing awarding for people who have made significant contributions in the fight against corruption and gathered information from different departments of the commissions, Berhanu said. He said necessary work was in progress to finalise the draft document based on the information gathered. Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world, is currently exerting all possible efforts to root out corruption practices so that it can undertake its development endeavours." **[97]**

19.03 The Ethiopian Herald reports in an article: FEAC Charges Official With Extortion dated 1 August 2006, that: "The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEAC) charged Manager of the Amhara State Inland Revenue Authority and his accomplice for allegedly receiving 750,000 birr through extortion from a private company. FEAC Public Relations Advisor, Berhanu Assefa told ENA yesterday that Mesfin Tekle Wolde-Mariam and Tizebt Wolde-Mariam were charged for allegedly taking the sum in order to slim the over 2.2 million birr sales tax, which was levied on DAS PLC, down to 2,085 birr. According to the prosecution of the commission, the government has lost over 2.2 million birr because of the tax evasion. Tizebt, Mesfin's sister, was implicated in the extortion by receiving the sum and documents from owners of DAS, PLC and passed them over to her brother and other accomplices."

The Ethiopian Herald continues: "The commission brought the charge of extortion against the suspects after owners of the company tipped off the commission about the case having realised that their action was fraudulent. Meanwhile, the Amhara State Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission said it filed charges against 50 suspects under 14 files. Information preparation expert with the Commission, Getu Belachew told EN that the commission filed the charges last year on tip offs from the public. Getu said **[sic]** 'about seven of the suspects, counted under the first file, got prison terms ranging from two to five years and cash fines. The commission has also offered anti-corruption education to 9,300 residents', Getu said. **[sic]** 'The commission received 204 tips offs from the public last year', Getu said."**[91b]**

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FREEDOM OF RELIGION

OVERVIEW

20.01 The Ethiopian Constitution provides for freedom of religion, including the right of conversion. **[4] (p9)** The US Department of State's International Religious Freedom Report 2006 noted that: "The constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respected this right in practice; however, on occasion local authorities infringed on this right.There was little change in the status of respect for religious freedom during the period covered by this report, although some Protestant and Muslim groups continued to complain that local officials discriminated against them when seeking land for churches, mosques, and cemeteries.The generally amicable relationship among religious groups in society continued to contribute to religious freedom. In general, there was a slight increase in interreligious conflict and clashes. Government criticism of some Muslim elements continued. There was reported tension between traditionalist Muslims and followers of the Wahhabi sect, an interpretation of Islam that reportedly receives support from Saudi Arabia." **[3k] (p1)**

20.02 The report note that: "The Constitution requires the separation of state and religion and prohibits a state religion, and the Government respects these rights in practice." **[3k] (p2-3)**

20.03 Moreover the report observed that: "An estimated 40 to 45 percent of the population belonged to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC). The EOC was predominant in the northern regions of Tigray and Amhara. Approximately 45 percent of the population was Sunni Muslim. Islam was most prevalent in the eastern Somali and Afar regions, as well as in all the major parts of Oromia in the east and south.Christian evangelical and Pentecostal groups continued to be the fastest growing faiths and constituted an estimated 10 percent of the population. Established Protestant churches such as Mekane Yesus and the Kale Hiwot were strongest in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Regional State (SNNPR), western and central Oromia, and in urban areas. In Gambella in the west, Mekane Yesus followers represented 60 percent of the population. The Evangelical Church Fellowship claimed 23 denominations under its religious umbrella."

The report continues: "Oriental Rite and Latin Rite Roman Catholics numbered more than 500,000. There were reportedly more than 7,500 Jehovah's Witnesses adherents and 105 Kingdom Halls in the country. Jews, animists, and other practitioners of traditional indigenous religions made up most of the remaining population. In Addis Ababa and north Gondar, in the Amhara region, some claimed that their ancestors were forced to convert from Judaism to Ethiopian Orthodoxy (Feles Mora) many centuries ago. There were very few atheists. Although precise data was not available, active participation in religious services was generally high throughout the country.A large number of foreign missionary groups operated in the country. Protestant organizations that sponsored or supported missionary work included the Baptist Bible Fellowship, the New Covenant Baptist Church, the Baptist Evangelical Association, Mekane Yesus Church (associated with the Lutheran Church), Kale Hiwot Church (associated with Service in Mission), Hiwot Berhan Church (associated with the Swedish Philadelphia Church), Genet Church (associated with the Finnish Mission), Lutheran-Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia, Emnet Christos, Muluwongel (Full Gospel) Church, and Messerete Kristos (associated with the Mennonite Mission). Pentecostals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) also had active missionary operations." **[3k] (p1)**

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

20.04 The US Department of State's International Religious Freedom Report 2006 noted that: "The Government requires that religious groups be registered. Religious institutions and churches, as with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), must renew their registration with the Ministry of Justice every three years. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) stated that this registration requirement reflects a lack of progress or improvement in the Government's treatment of 'newer religions,' specifically Protestant churches.The EOC never registered with the Government and has never faced repercussions. The EIASC, after registering nine years ago, never re-registered. Protests from other religious groups over these exceptions did not result in equal treatment from the Government. The Apostolic Nuncio in the country wrote repeatedly to the Prime Minister's Office seeking equal treatment before the law. Mekane Yesus, the Evangelical Fellowship, and Roman Catholic Church believed that churches should be placed in a 'different

status than NGOs.' However, there was no change in the government policy during the period covered by this report." **[3k](p.1)**

The report continues: "Under the law, any religious organization that undertakes development activities must register its development wing separately as an NGO with the Ministry of Justice. To register, each religious organization must complete an application form and submit a copy of its bylaws, curriculum vitae of the organization's leader, and a copy of the leader's identity card. A group's failure to register resulted in a denial of legal standing, which would prevent it from opening a bank account or fully participating in any court proceeding." **[3k] (p2)**

20.05 The US 2006 Report on Religious Freedom also note that: "The Government interpreted the constitutional provision for separation of religion and state to mean that religious instruction was not permitted in schools, whether public or private. Schools owned and operated by Catholic, Orthodox, evangelical, and Muslim groups were not allowed to teach religion as a course of study. The Government Education Bureau in Addis Ababa complained that the morals courses most private schools taught as part of their curriculum were not free of religious influence. Churches were permitted to have Sunday schools, the Qur'an was taught at mosques, and public schools permitted the formation of clubs, including those of a religious nature."**[3k] (p2)**

20.06 The Report state that: "The Government officially recognizes both Christian and Muslim holidays and continues to mandate a two-hour lunch break on Fridays to allow Muslims to go to a mosque to pray. Recognized government holidays include the Christian holy days of Christmas, Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter, and Meskel, as well as the Muslim holy days of Eid al-Adha (Arefa), the Birth of the Prophet Muhammad, and Eid al-Fitr (Ramadan). The Government also agreed to a request from Muslim students at Addis Ababa Commercial College to delay the start of afternoon classes until 1:30 p.m., to permit them to perform afternoon prayers at a nearby mosque." **[3k] (p2)**

20.07 According to the US 2004 Report on Religious Freedom The report goes on to note that: "In most sections of the country Orthodox Christians and Muslims participate in each other's religious observances, and there is tolerance for intermarriage and conversion in certain areas, most notably in Welo, in the Amhara region, as well as in urban areas throughout the country….In Addis Ababa, the capital, persons of different faiths often live side-by-side. Most urban areas reflect a mixture of all religious denominations. The Roman Catholic Church and evangelical Protestant denominations, particularly the Mekane Yesus Church and Kale Hiwot Churches, provided social services such as health care and education to non-members as well as to members." **[3f] (p6)**

RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

20.08 Department of State, in its 2006 Report on Religious Freedom noted that: "The Government bans the formation of political parties based on religion. There were no religious political parties in the country, and the ban was not tested in practice." **[3k](p2)**

20.09 The report also state that: "The Government did not issue work visas to foreign religious workers unless they are associated with the development wing of a religious organization licensed by the Government. However, this policy was not consistently enforced for Muslims or Orthodox Christians. The Government issued licenses for religious organizations' development activities in the period covered by this report but not for their religious activities. Licenses are required for all religious groups, domestic and foreign. The Ministry of Justice denied a license to at least one traditional Oromo religious organization, Wakafeta, for unspecified reasons. **[3k](pp1-2)**

The report continues: "Under the press law, it is a crime to incite one religion against another. The press law also allows defamation claims involving religious leaders to be prosecuted as criminal cases. There were no further developments nor were there likely to be any developments in the Government's defamation case against two journalists in 2001. The EHRCO reported that no journalists were detained or charged during the reporting period with inciting religious groups or with defamation of religious leaders." **[3k](p2)**

The report also note that: "Evangelical leaders complained that, in general, regulations on the importation of Bibles were too strict and that customs duty on Bibles and other religious articles were excessive; however, Bibles and religious articles were subject to the same customs duties as all imported books, donated or otherwise. Continuing discussions between the Government and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus yielded progress on this issue. In 2005, parliament passed a proclamation lifting taxation on imported books and printed materials, effectively addressing this issue. Minority religious groups complained of discrimination in the allocation of government land for religious sites. Protestant groups occasionally complained of discrimination by local officials when seeking land for churches and cemeteries. Evangelical leaders complained that because they are perceived as 'newcomers,' they remained disadvantaged in the allocation of land compared with the EOC and the EIASC." **[3k](p2)**

The report further note that: "The EIASC complained that it has more difficulty than the EOC obtaining land from the Government; others believed that the EIASC was favored for mosque locations. Local authorities in the northern town of Axum, a holy city for the EOC, continued to deny Muslim leaders' repeated requests to allocate land for the construction of a mosque, even though the constitution provides for freedom to establish institutions of religious education and administration. Tigray regional government officials chose not to interpret this provision liberally in the town of Axum, and the Federal Government did not overrule them. Muslims have had access to land since the country became a republic in 1995. In 2003, a group of Muslims attempted to build a mosque in Axum, but it was torn down by a local mob because it was built without permission from the regional government. Local officials ordered the Muslim community not to resume construction." **[3k](p2)**

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

20.10 The US Department of State's 2005 report on Human Rights noted that: "The Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) and Islam are the dominant religions; nearly 90 percent of the population adhered to one or the other faith." **[3a] (p12)**

20.11 Amnesty International reported on 3 February 2006 that:

"Forty-two people have been arrested during Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrations in the capital, Addis Ababa. They are reportedly being held incommunicado and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment….On 19 January, thousands of members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the principal faith in Ethiopia, were singing and processing through central Addis Ababa as part of the Timket (Epiphany) church festival. At one point when police halted the procession, some of those in the procession began shouting for the release of opposition party leaders who have been charged with treason and other offences. Police reportedly opened fire with live ammunition on people suspected to be demonstrating support for the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) party." **[10K]**

20.12 IRIN news reported on 23 January 2003 that there were reports of clashes between police and demonstrators at Addis Ababa's Lideta Mariam Orthodox Church on 26 December 2002. "These ashes were sparked by a dispute between the Church of Lideta Mariam and the Addis Ababa Diocese. The community has been resisting attempts by the office of the Patriarch to appoint a church administrator." **[9w]**

20.13 The report added: "The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) said that the demonstrators were forced to plunge fully clothed into a barrel of cold water….Deacons from the church who were arrested had their heads shaved and were forced to sleep in the open. Others were forced to sleep on gravel and run barefoot on stone grounds or walk along a road on their knees." **[9w]**

20.14 Furthermore the report noted that:

"The dispute between Lideta Mariam Church community and the Patriarch's office has been going on for more than two years, despite the secular court of the church ordering the Lideta community to accept the appointee." The report further mentions that: "The EHRCO called on both the Ethiopian Patriarch Abune Paulos – who heads the 25 million strong Ethiopian Orthodox Church – and the federal authorities to try to resolve the issue." **[9w]**

PROTESTANTS

20.15 US Department of State, in its 2006 Report on Religious Freedom noted that:

"Religious groups are not accorded duty-free status. Religious groups are given the free use of government land for churches, schools, hospitals, and cemeteries; however, schools and hospitals, regardless of how long they have been in operation, are subject to government closure and land forfeiture at any time. Religious groups, like private individuals or businesses, must apply to regional and local governments for land allocation…Minority religious groups have complained of discrimination in the allocation of government land for religious sites. Protestant groups occasionally complain that local officials discriminate against them when seeking land for churches and cemeteries." **[3k] (pp2-3)**

ISLAM

20.16 The US Department of State's 2006 report on Religious Freedom noted that: "Approximately 45 percent of the population was Sunni Muslim. Islam was most prevalent in the eastern Somali and Afar regions, as well as in all the major parts of Oromia in the east and south. In contrast to previous years, there were no reported incidents relating to wearing headscarves. However, the case of a Muslim nursing student who refused to change her hijab while attending patients required local religious leaders to successfully mediate the dispute, which resulted in the student wearing a headscarf instead." **[3k] (p1-2)**

20.17 The US Department of State's 2006 Report on Religious Freedom stated that: "Killing of a Muslim man by a Protestant, whom authorities have prosecuted for the murder, was reported as "martyrdom" on a few websites. In March 2006 an individual believed to be a Christian and mentally unstable drew demeaning cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in the town of Kemisse in the Amhara region. Local Muslims, allegedly considered to be Islamic extremists, organized a protest and caused a riot in Kemisse town, which injured several persons, destroyed four evangelical churches, and caused an estimated $160,000 (1.4 million Birr) in property damage. Perpetrators of the riot were detained and under investigation at the end of the reporting period." **[3k](p3)**

20.18 The report continues: "On April 15, 2006, unidentified groups of individuals suspected to be Muslims from the local community threw a hand grenade at Emanuel United Church of Ethiopia in Jijiga, injuring several worshippers. Police were searching for the perpetrators at the end of the reporting period. The desecration of the Qur'an by a Christian student at the Southern University on April 17, 2006, angered Muslims throughout the country. Police investigated the case and detained the alleged perpetrator. The case was pending at the end of the reporting period." **[3k](p.3)**

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

20.19 The US Department of State's 2006 Report on Religious Freedom noted that:

"There are more than 7,500 Jehovah's Witnesses in the country….Members of the Jehovah's Witnesses continued to lease their own plots of land in the capital and throughout the country, due to lack of suitable properties available from the Government. However, in Oromia some plots were provided free of charge to some religious groups to build places of worship. **[3k] (p3)**

ETHIOPIAN JEWS

20.20 The BBC, in a report dated 9 January 2004, stated that:

"The Israeli Government are to speed up the moving of the remaining 18,000 Ethiopian Jews to the Middle East. However, the emigration of the Falasha Mura community would not start next week as had earlier been reported, says Israel's foreign ministry….The Falasha Mura are the last remaining Jewish community in Ethiopia and have long been persecuted for their beliefs…. Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, speaking alongside Mr Shalom, said a mass migration was not needed as Ethiopians were free to travel wherever they wished." **[7o]**

20.21 The US Department of State's 2003 Report on Religious Freedom noted that: "In Addis Ababa and western Gondar, in the Amhara region, there are very small concentrations of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) and those who claim that their ancestors were forced to convert from Judaism to Ethiopian Orthodoxy (Feles Mora)." **[3h] (p1)**

20.22 The BBC, in a report dated 16 February 2003, stated that:

"The Israeli Government has announced that it will allow the immigration of another 20,000 Ethiopians of Jewish origin. Most of them are from the Falash Mura community, who were originally Jewish, but were forced to convert to Christianity in the 19th Century. The last mass immigration of Ethiopian Jews was in 1991, when Israel organised a dramatic airlift of 15,000 people who had fled fighting at the end of Ethiopia's civil war." **[7p]**

20.23 The BBC then returned to this story on 20 September 2005 to report that:

"Hundreds of Ethiopian Jews have gone on hunger strike to protest against a delay in their relocation to Israel. Frustrated by an eight-year-long wait, the community has resolved not to eat until the planned move gets under way. The Falasha Mura, or Beta-Israel as they prefer to be called, are an ancient and isolated group living in the Ethiopian highlands. Although some were forcibly converted to Christianity, they trace their roots to the biblical King Solomon….Members of the Falasha Mura community – many wearing Jewish skullcaps – began the hunger strike in their camp in the capital, Addis Ababa, on Tuesday morning. They are protesting against their 'long wait' to return to the Promised Land. Israeli officials say they will all be allowed to travel by the end of 2007." **[7q]**

PENTECOSTALS

20.24 US Department of State 2006 report on Religious Freedom state that:"Members of newer faiths, such as Pentecostals, requested police protection against overt public opposition. There were several reports of low-level physical and verbal harassment targeted at religious officials and church members that led victims to seek protection from the local authorities. Muslims reported that some Pentecostal preachers disparaged Islam in their services." **[3k](p.4)**

(See also Ethnic Groups in section 6.B)

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ETHNIC GROUPS

21.01 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that:

"There were more than 80 ethnic groups living in the country, of which the Oromo was the largest, at 40 percent of the population. Although many groups influenced the political and cultural life of the country, Amharas and Tigrayans

from the northern highlands played a dominant role. The federal system drew boundaries roughly along major ethnic group lines, and regional states had much greater control over their affairs than previously. Most political parties remained primarily ethnically based." **[3a] (p19)**

ETHNIC DIVISIONS

21.02 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 documented that:

"The government policy of ethnic federalism led to the creation of individual constituencies to ensure representation of all major ethnic groups in the House of Peoples' Representatives. Nevertheless, small ethnic groups lacked representation in the legislature. There were 23 nationality groups in 6 regional states that did not have a sufficient population to qualify for constituency seats; however, in the May [2005] elections, individuals from these nationality groups competed for 23 special seats in the 547 seat House of Peoples' Representatives." **[3a] (p13)**

21.03 The report goes on to state that: "The military remained an ethnically diverse organization; however, members of the Tigrayan ethnic group dominated the senior officer corps. During the May elections and subsequent demonstrations, there were many reports of Tigrayan or Gambellan troops being used in Addis Ababa and other urban centers where the opposition was strong, and where officials did not consider Amhara members of the armed forces sufficiently reliable." **[3a] (p19)**

21.04 The report also noted: "There were continued incidents of ethnic conflict during the year, particularly in the western, southern, and eastern areas. The OLF and the government engaged in many clashes. There were also clashes among ethnic groups in the Gambella, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples regions." **[3a] (p19)**

21.05 The report continued:

"Interethnic clashes resulted in hundreds of deaths during the year. EHRCO [The Ethiopian Human Rights Council] reported ethnic conflicts between Somalis and Oromos in East and West Hararghe Zones, and ethnic clashes between Gabras and Gujis in Borena Zone of the Oromiya Region. On February 22, armed ethnic Somali Ethiopian groups raided several Oromo villages and killed 18 persons, injured 31, burnt 103 huts, looted cattle, and destroyed property. Following the administrative transfer of several villages between the Oromiya and Somali regions after a December 2004 referendum, harassment and intimidation by Somalis of Oromos residing in Erer District caused the displacement of 760 persons." **[3a] (p19)**

21.06 And furthermore the report also noted:

"EHRCO reported that on April 2 [2005], armed Somali tribesmen raided an Oromo village in Kurkur Kebele, Golo Oda District, and killed 14 persons, injured 10, and displaced 1,358 Oromos. An April 3 clash between Gabras and Gujis in Yabelo District, Borana Zone, Oromo Region, killed 24 persons. Intervention by the army stopped the clash from escalating, but fighting resumed on April 29, killing 19 individuals and displacing 30 thousand persons; 1,378 huts were also burned. On June 27, clashes between ethnic

Somali and Oromo in Mieso and Doba districts of West Hararghe Zone resulted in 16 Oromos killed, 25 Oromos injured, and an unknown number of persons displaced." **[3a] (p19)**

21.07 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2004 states that:

"Security forces were involved in ethnic clashes during the year [2004], most prominently in the Gambella disturbances that began in December 2003 and continued until May [2004]. In December 2003, unknown assailants, presumed to be Anuaks, ambushed a vehicle near the village of Itang, Gambella Region and killed eight government officials of ethnic groups not indigenous to Gambella Region. For 3 days, civilian mobs, with police and military present, killed more than 100 members of the Anuak tribe in retaliation. Parliament appointed a commission to investigate the killings and the possible involvement of the military in killing civilians. The parliamentary commission found that 65 persons had died, and that government soldiers killed 13 of them. Other accounts, including from a Parliament member from Gambella who witnessed the incident, indicated the number killed by the military was considerably higher." **[3b] (pp19-20)** The USSD 2005 Report stated that: "The government reported that prosecutions had begun against several individuals suspected of the December 2003 to May 2004 extrajudicial killings of 13 Anuak civilians in the Gambella Region. In March Amnesty International reported that government soldiers had killed, raped, and tortured hundreds of Anuaks in the Gambella Region during that period." **[3a] (p2)**

21.08 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2003 noted that:

"In May [2003], the Government reportedly completed its investigation into the March 2002 ethnic violence between the Sheko-Mejjangar and Manja and the Sheka and Bench-Maji in Yeki District, Southern Region, that resulted in the deaths of approximately 600 to 800 persons and displacement of 5,800 persons because of the violence. There was no further information at year's end [2003] on the 41 policemen, 39 militia members, and 11 administrative officials reportedly arrested for their involvement in the clashes." **[3c] (p24)**

LANGUAGES IN ETHIOPIA

21.09 The Constitution provides for equal recognition for all Ethiopian languages although Amharic is the working language of the Federal Government. **[4] (p3)**

21.10 Kenneth Katzner, in his book Languages of the World, notes that the Cushitic languages are spoken mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, though they also extend into Eritrea, Sudan, and Kenya. The Cushitic languages of Ethiopia include Oromo, Sidamo, and Hadiyya, as well as Somali, and are spoken by about half the population of Ethiopia. **[33] (p29)**

21.11 Katzner, in his book, stated that: "Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. It is the mother tongue of about 20 million people (one third of the country's population), living mostly in the vicinity of the capital, Addis Ababa, and in the area to the north. About 30 million others speak it as a second language." **[33] (p304)** The book also stated that: "Oromo, formerly known as Galla, is one of the two major languages of Ethiopia. It is spoken mainly in the southern part of the country, and in small numbers across the border in Kenya." **[33] (p306)** Katzner further mentions that: "Tigrinya is spoken in Ethiopia and in

neighboring Eritrea. In the former it is spoken by [sic] about 4 million people, most of them in the northernmost province of Tigray….Like Amharic, Tigrinya belongs to the Ethiopic branch of the Semitic languages. It is most closely related to Tigre, the other principle language of Eritrea. All three are written in the Ethiopic alphabet." **[33] (p307)**

OROMOS

21.12 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated on 1 November 2005) stated that the Oromo People account for 40 per cent of the population, which makes them the majority group in Ethiopia. **[2] (p3)** The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that: "Oromo are the largest ethnic minority group in Ethiopia, and are speakers of Oromo languages (Oromigna, Oromiffa, 'Galla'). They are predominant in southern, south-eastern and south-western Ethiopia but also live in the highland areas." **[34] (p413)**

21.13 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) also notes that: "They are diverse in terms of their culture, social organization and religion, although most retain some features of their unique and complex generation-grading system, 'gada'. In some areas they are too assimilated with the Amhara to be easily organised into a disciplined national opposition." **[34] (p413)**

21.14 It further added:

"There are four main groups: western Oromo, mainly in 'Wollegha', many of whom have been Christianised by missionary churches; northern Oromo, of Mecha-Tulam, modern Shoa and the area to the south, who are more integrated into Amhara culture than other Oromo groups, are mostly Christians of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and speak Amharic; southern Oromo, who often have semi-nomadic lifestyles and are not incorporated into any larger regional or religious unit. And Borana, believed by some to be the seminal branch of the Oromo because of their rigid observance of the 'gada' social system, and who live in an arid area of Ethiopia along the border with Kenya. Eastern Oromo of Haraghe include the Muslim population of Harar and Dire Dawa, among others. This group has strong links to the Arab world and its local leaders have a strong Muslim orientation. The term Oromia, signifying an independent Oromo state, is important to the Oromo and the OLF [Oromo Liberation Front], allowing them to consolidate their various regional and related groups into one Oromo nation." **[34] (pp413-414)**

21.15 The OLF website describes the Oromo people – as:

"The Oromo are one of the Cushitic speaking groups of people with variations in colour and physical characteristics ranging from Hamitic to Nilotic….The Cushtics have inhabited the north-eastern and eastern Africa for as long as recorded history. The land of Cush, Nubia or the ancient Ethiopia in middle and lower Nile is the home of the Cushitic speakers….The Oromo are also known by another name, Galla. The people neither call themselves or like to be called by this name. They always called themselves Oromoo or Oromoota (plural). It is not known for certain when the name Galla was given to them." **[20b] (pp4-7)**

21.16 Human Rights Watch notes:

"Oromia is the largest and most populous of Ethiopia's nine regional states. It sprawls over 32 percent of the country's total land area and is home to at least 23 million people. Oromia surrounds the nation's capital, Addis Ababa, and divides Ethiopia's southwestern states from the rest of the country. While Oromia's population is ethnically diverse, the overwhelming majority of people who reside there are ethnic Oromo. The Oromo population is quite diverse in terms of history, religion and other factors, but the group shares a common language, Afan Oromo and a strong and distinct sense of ethnic and national identity. Oromo nationalism has evolved in response to the Oromo people's long, difficult and often antagonistic relationship with the Ethiopian state. Much of what is now Oromia was conquered and forcibly incorporated into the Amhara-dominated Ethiopian empire towards the end of the nineteenth century. During the old imperial era, the Oromo people were subjected to widespread repression." (Human Rights Watch –10 May 2005) **[11g] (p7)**

21.17 IRIN news reported on 3 March 2004:

"Ethiopia's human rights group on Wednesday condemned the mass arrests and physical abuse in January [2004] of hundreds of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa." **[9x]** Amnesty International, on 23 January 2004, stated that: "The first eight Oromo students…were arrested on the Addis Ababa University campus on 18 January [2004], and are reportedly currently held at Maikelawi police central investigation centre in Addis Ababa. Over 300 students who called for their release were later arrested…22 students are still detained but others have mostly been released. Those still held are at risk of ill-treatment in custody." **[10l]**

21.18 Amnesty further notes that:

"The first eight were arrested after protests at a cultural performance at the university, staged by the Oromia Region ruling party. The performance broke up when several Oromo students protested to Oromia regional state officials about the recent federal government decision to transfer the regional state capital from Addis Ababa to Adama (also known as Nazareth), a town 100 kilometres south-east of Addis Ababa. Police arrested the eight students that evening, and accused them of causing damage to university property, including broken windows." **[10l]**

For further information about the Oromiya region where most of the Oromo people live please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy website (Regional States): www.ethioembassy.org.uk

AMHARAS

21.19 AFRICAGUIDE.COM, on their website, describe the Amaras as a:

"Politically and culturally dominant ethnic group of Ethiopia. They are located primarily in the central highland plateau of Ethiopia and comprise the major population element in the provinces of Begemder and Gojjam and in parts of Shoa and Wallo. In terms of the total Ethiopian population, however, the Amhara are a numerical minority. The national population has usually been placed at between 14 and 22 million….It is generally estimated that the

Amhara, together with the closely related Tigre, constitute about one-third of this total population." **[13a]**

21.20 The article goes on to state:

"Their national clothes are basically white, whether the shawls and light blankets worn over the shoulders by the men or the white dresses and wraps worn by the ladies….Life in the Amhara farming society is hard. Many Amhara live in the harsh and stark mountains, easy to defend, but making it difficult to travel and gain provisions. The men in the fields, the women around the house and the children at home and watching the sheep all work very hard. The fields are ploughed [sic] with oxen, seeds are sown and harvested by hand, and the harvest is threshed by the feet of animals. In the home, the primary cooking fuel is the dried dung of the farm animals. Nothing is wasted." **[13a]**

21.21 The article continues:

"Though their life is hard, the Amhara are proud people, proud of their ethnicity, their religion, their special place in the world. Their culture is strong, developed over many centuries, and it has withstood the incursions of outside governments and religions….Settlements are typically built on or near hilltops, as protection against flooding. Farms are terraced on the hillsides to prevent erosion and hold water for crops. The 'hamlet' is usually patrilineal, with sons building their homes in the father's location. Girls normally marry at age 14, and the groom is three to five years older….Children receive little discipline until about age five to seven, but thereafter are socialized with authoritarian discipline. Boys herd cows and sheep and girls assist their mothers in watching babies and gathering wood." **[13a]**

21.22 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report noted that Amharas are represented in the Government by the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM), which won 134 seats in the 2000 elections and is affiliated to the ruling EPRDF. **[1a] (p443-444)**

For further information about the Amhara region, where most of the Amhara people live please refer to the Ethiopian Embassy website (Regional States): www.ethioembassy.org.uk

SIDAMA/SIDAMO

21.23 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"There are eight distinct groups of Sidama people living in parts of Shoa and Sidamo-Borana provinces. They speak Cushitic and have an 'ensete' (false banana) planting culture. Before Oromo migration, the Sidama inhabited almost the whole of southern Ethiopia. Oromo used the term, 'sidama' meaning 'foreigner', and one of the eight groups still retains that name. An interchange of Sidama and Oromo institutions took place during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Consequently some are animist, others Christian or Muslim. By 1891 the Sidama people had been incorporated into the Ethiopian Empire." **[34] (p414)**

SOMALIS

21.24 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated 30 June 2005) stated that: "The Somali people account for around 6% of the population." **[2] (pp3-4)** The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that Somalis "populate the Ogaden area…Disintegration of the state in Somalia in the late 1980's and early 1990's led to the few remaining Somali organizations in Ogaden rejecting irredentism and reorientating themselves towards Ethiopian political life." **[34] (414)**

21.25 An Addis Tribune article dated 5 August 2005 stated:

"In the late 1970s, Somalia and Ethiopia went to war over Ogaden. Somalia claimed Ogaden belonged to it and that the colonial boundaries ignored centuries-old migration patterns of Somalis into what is now part of Ethiopia….Somalia lost the war, but that didn't restore calm in Ogaden. There are several Ethiopian opposition groups operating in the area, including the Ogaden National Liberation Front, or ONLF. Another group, al-Ittihad, an Islamist organization linked to al-Qaida, according to experts, has petered out over the last decade." **[35a]**

21.26 The article also states: "Terrorist attacks in eastern Ethiopia this week have drawn attention to the plight of ethnic Somalis living in Ethiopia's Ogaden region, where opposition groups have accused Ethiopia's government of massive human rights abuses over the last decade, including hundreds of killings and disappearances. **[35a]**

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BERTA ('SHANKELLA', BENI, SHANGUI)

21.27 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"The Berta regard themselves as descended from a single family whom they trace back to 1720. Islam was established among them by 1855. They were conquered 1897-8 by imperial forces while their leader, Shaikh Khojali, preserved their autonomy by regular tribute of alluvial gold…They and other Nilotic peoples have been labelled pejoratively as 'Shankella', although this was officially discharged by Haile Selassie. Many Berta were brought to the capital as slaves. Slave trading was a business which the Shaikh Khojali family conducted with Sudan-based traders as well as Ethiopians. Berta were much desired as slaves by raiders on both sides of the Sudan-Ethiopian border." **[34] (p414)**

AFAR

21.28 The CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated 1 November 2005) noted that:

"The Afar make up only around 4% of the total Ethiopian population." **[2] (p4)** The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that: "Afar have been most effected by the creation of an independent Eritrea. At the time of its inception, the Afar Liberation Front (ALF) leader, Ali Mirah Anfere, declared that the ALF's goal would be to establish an independent Islamic State for the Afars. Its boundaries were to be decided by Afar ethnic habitation, including the Awash River Basin and neighbouring territories in the southern part of Eritrea. Mengistu's creation of an autonomous province of Assab did nothing to settle

the Afar issue, since the most fertile land in the Awash Valley remained in Amhara control." **[34] (p414)**

21.29 AFRICAGUIDE.COM, on their website, describe the Afar people as people who:

"live primarily in Ethiopia and the areas of Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somaliacan in the Horn of Africa. Their land is mainly rocky and desert terrain. The Afar people also live in the Awash Valley and the forests located in northern Djibouti. There are approximately 3 million people that make up the Afar culture…. The Afar nomads have a very unique culture. Their daily life consists of tending to livestock including goats, camels, and a few cattle located in this region. The Afar people are very dependent on the livestock for the economy. Religion is also a part of the Afar way of life. The majority studies the Muslim religion. There is although a small percentage that practices Orthodoxy" **[13b]**

GURAGE

21.30 According to the CIA factbook on Ethiopia (updated on 1 November 2005):

"The Gurage people make up around 2% of the Ethiopian population." **[2] (p4)** The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that "There are 14 to 16 groups in the Gurage cluster. The western group formed a political federation in the mid-nineteenth century consisting of seven clans inhabiting an area around Lake Zway in Shoa. They are 'ensete' cultivators like their neighbours in Sidamo. Some claim descent from a Tigrayan noble who came to conquer them in the fourteenth century. Eastern Gurage (Soddo) trace their origins to the Harar area from which they fled during the sixteenth century invasion of Ahmad ibn Ibrahim. An attempt at unifying the western Gurage under one leader was allegedly made by a Christian commander who came to relieve them of Oromo raids. Emperor Menelik II incorporated both eastern and western Gurage into the empire by 1889. Gurage men weave and market cloth. Certain sub-castes tan hides or smelt iron. Pottery is a woman's craft. Gurage women continue to be excluded from land ownership. The Soddo Gurage reportedly follow the custom of circumcising both boys and girls at infancy, while the western group are said to circumcise both boys and girls (clitoridectomy) at the age of eight and ten respectively. Christian, Muslim and traditional Gurage belief in the god Waq, co-exist to varying degrees depending on the area. In the country and in cities Gurage are adept at forming self-help societies and are active traders." **[34] (p415)**

ANUAK

21.31 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"Associated with Sudanese penetration of a vaguely defined 'Ethiopia', these people date from the first millennium BCE [Before Common Era] with a culture preoccupied with cattle raiding and millet growing. The Anuak are hunters, agriculturalists and fishers living in the fertile Gambela forest region of south-western Ethiopia. At the end of 1979, their land was seized by the government and there were attempts to draft them into the army and into forced labour on collective farms. Many Anuak fled to the bush in an attempt to reach Sudan and were shot or imprisoned. Their numbers have halved from a generation

ago and they have been displaced from their traditional lands as northerners resettled in the area." **[34] (p415)**

21.32 Amnesty International, in a report covering events from January–December 2004, stated that:

"A Commission of Inquiry headed by the President of the Supreme Court was set up by parliament in April following numerous killings of members of the Anuak ethnic group in Gambela town in December 2003. In July the Commission reported that 65 people were killed – 61 Anuak people and four members of highland ethnic groups – and 75 wounded, and that nearly 500 houses had been burned down and plundered. The Commission noted a background of ethnic conflict in the region. Three days of killings starting on 13 December 2003 were sparked off by the public display of the bodies of eight people allegedly killed by an Anuak armed group. The Commission criticized the regional authorities for not taking steps to prevent violence and acknowledged that federal soldiers were involved in the killings alongside highlanders. The Commission made no recommendations regarding prosecution of those responsible, whether police, military or civilians. To AI's knowledge, no one had been brought to justice by the end of 2004 for the killings of Anuak people." **[10a] (pp2-3)**

21.33 The recent violence in the Gambella region has its roots in history. The BBC news report, dated 12 February 2004 notes that:

"Aid agencies say the Anyuak (sic) people feel they have been gradually displaced from their traditional lands. The problem began in the 1980s – when the previous government used forced resettlement to bring about 50,000 people from Ethiopia's exhausted central highlands to the fertile, but swampy, malaria- infested Gambella. Pressure increased as thousands of ethnic Nuer sought shelter in the region to escape from the Sudanese civil war…Last year the authorities sacked a number of Anyuak (sic), including some policemen. They are reported to have taken their weapons and gone into the bush, carrying out sporadic attacks." **[7u]**

A Human Rights Watch report, called 'Targetting the Anuak' published on 24 March 2005 and available on their website, provides useful information on the Anuk: www.hrw.org

ADARE/GEFU (HARAR)

21.34 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"The Oromo and Amhara residents of greater Harar call the inner-city residents Adare. There are about 30,000 in the old city, with a distinct language and culture. The Adare are distinguished for being the only people in Ethiopia to have developed a tradition centring on a large urban centre. In their own language the term for Adare is Gefu, literally, person of the city. Adare is also the language spoken in Harar and is written in Arabic characters. Harar is the premier Muslim city of Ethiopia. An overlapping social network is divided into kinship networks, groups and neighbours. The latter concerns itself with the expenses of weddings and funerals in a cooperative way. A school was established in 1972 to counter the central government effort to spread the Amharic language and restrict Islamic religious instruction. In 1975

the Dergue (sic) imposed a 'kebelle' system of local government, as the neighbourhood groups refused to be politicized." **[34] (p415)**

BETA ISRAEL

21.35 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) noted that:

"Also known as the Ethiopian Jews, and until recently by the derogatory name Falasha (meaning stranger or exile in Ge'ez), at their peak in the seventeenth century there were over 1 million Beta Israel in Ethiopia. Before mass migration to Israel in the 1980's they numbered approximately 30,000 and lived in Gondar province and the Simien Mountains in northern Ethiopia. The Beta Israel perceive themselves to be Jewish, living a traditional form of life evolving from at least the fourteenth century, although some suggest that their origins are more ancient. Their ancestors were deprived of the right to hold land as a result of the north-west expansion of the core Abyssinian State. Beta Israel consider contact with Christians to be ritually impure, and this reinforced the self-identity of Beta Israel and allowed them to continue their religious and social life in the face of pressure to convert, while being excluded from positions of authority within the state. Their basic tenets are those of Judaism." **[34] (p415)**

21.36 The report further adds:

"Most Ethiopian Jews lived in small rural communities in Gondar and Tigre provinces, where they suffered from prejudice at the hands of neighbouring peoples. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church opposed the development of Jewish schools. After World War Two, they continued to face discrimination and suffer evictions, extortionate taxes and rents, and attacks on cemeteries. After the revolution of 1974, in theory the position of Beta Israel was improving because of the land reform. But Jews were often given inferior land and their freedom to travel was restricted. Beta Israel had much to gain from the land reforms and were made the target of the counter-revolutionary Ethiopian Democratic Union, composed of the old nobility and landowners in Gondar. During 1977-79 they were forced to flee remote villages and move to areas of greater concentration." **[34] (pp415-416)**

21.37 The World Directory of Minorities (1997) further noted that:

"They were also attacked by the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party for alleged Zionist tendencies. Substantial numbers of Jews were among the thousands tortured, imprisoned, and massacred in the 1978 'Red Terror' campaigns waged by the Dergue (sic). In March 1984, at the height of the famine in northern Ethiopia, thousands of Beta Israel began to move to Sudan by foot. Several thousands lost their lives in transit, children were orphaned and separated from their parents, and disease and malnutrition were rife in the refugee camps. At the end of 1984 Operation Moses brought many more to Israel, and others left in 1991 in Operation Solomon." **[34] (p416)**

ERITREANS IN ETHIOPIA

(also see Eritrean Report)

21.38 During the border war, the Government detained and deported Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin without due process. The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2001 noted that:

"The Government's actions raised serious issues of due process since there were no preliminary hearings to determine the merits of the deportations, no right to counsel was provided to detainees, and detainees only had a very circumscribed opportunity to register protests. In addition the issue of the nationality of Eritrean-origin Ethiopians has not been settled yet. Heads of households were taken without warning, detained, and often deported via overland routes within 48 hours. Remaining family members were given arbitrary deadlines to sell property and sometimes were subjected to departure taxes based on estimated annual income and unpaid balances on government bank loans." **[3i] (p9)**

21.39 The deportations of Eritreans from Ethiopia were the subject of thorough investigation by the Ethiopia-Eritrea Claims Commission, which was set up under the December 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement. Its detailed findings were published in 2005 and can be consulted on the website of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague. (The Permanent Court of Arbitration, www.pca-cpa.org) **[47a]**

21.40 The US Report of 2001 noted that: "In August 1999, all Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin over 18 years of age who had taken part in the 1993 referendum on Eritrean independence were required to register with the SIRAA [Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority] and complete residence application forms. After registration applicants received identity cards and residence permits valid for 6 months." **[3i] (p9)**

21.41 The US State Department's Human Rights Report for 2005 stated that: "Most Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were registered with the Government and held identity cards and 6-month residence permits to gain access to hospitals and other public services. However, there were anecdotal reports that indigent Eritreans were denied the right to seek free medical services by government officials at the local level." **[3a] (p12)**

21.42 More recently, the ruling party-owned Walta Information Centre announced on 20 January 2004 that:

"Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority said it has issued a directive outlining duties Eritreans residing in Ethiopia are required to fulfill for eligibility. The Authority said in a statement yesterday said (sic) anyone bearing an Eritrean passport or possessing any document proving his/her Eritrean citizenship or who served for the Eritrean government in a job reserved for citizens only is considered an Eritrean." **[36a]**

21.43 "The directive states that those who did not opt for Eritrean citizenship will be considered as choosing their Ethiopian nationality, and thus shall maintain an Ethiopian citizenship. An Eritrean who registers in compliance of the directive and who wants to regain Ethiopian nationality shall be granted Ethiopian citizenship…Resident Eritreans will be granted permanent resident permits in line with the Immigration law, and those who could not own travel documents from their country, shall be granted foreigner passports, the authority said." **[36a]**

21.44 In a further article dated 23 January 2004, Walta Information Centre noted that:

"The Security Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority said that the newly issued directive with regard to Eritreans residing in Ethiopia emanate from the country's commitment to abide by national and international laws as well as conventions it signed and the strong ties the peoples of the two countries enjoy. Briefing local journalists on the premises of the authority yesterday, immigration and Nationality Affairs Director Girma Balcha said that the objective of the directive is to enable Eritreans residing in Ethiopia to maintain their citizenship in a legal manner for the constitution of this country doesn't allow one to have double citizenship. Ato Girma further said that any one with Eritrean passport and possessing other documents and is also served in offices only allowed for nationals maintains Eritrean citizenship. Eritreans who have voted for independence and lived in Ethiopia uninterrupted would also remain Eritrean nationals unless otherwise they appeal for change of citizenship, he said. However, Ato Girma said that those who had not voted and lived here uninterrupted would be granted permanent Ethiopian Citizenship. 'This would be terminated if individuals attempt to produce fake documents or they stay outside Ethiopia for more than a year and also found undesirable to the nation', Ato Girma stated. Those granted permanent Ethiopian citizenship are not allowed to serve at government offices, he added. Eligible Eritreans are allowed to run their own business and work in non-governmental institutions and have the right to possess property including farmlands if they are living in rural areas, according to Ato Girma." **[36b]**

21.45 On 22 January 2004, the Ethiopian News Agency noted that:

"The recently issued directive with regard to Eritreans residing in Ethiopia could benefit only those Eritreans who lived in Ethiopia prior to Eritrean independence and afterwards permanently, security, immigration and refuges affairs authority said. Director of immigration and nationalities affairs main department with the authority Girma Balcha told journalists on Thursday that the directive doesn't include those Eritreans deported from Ethiopia posing threat to the national security of the country. Those Eritreans coming from any country to Ethiopia either (sic) couldn't benefit from the directive, he said." **[8a]**

21.46 The US State Department's Report on Human Rights, 2004, notes that: "The law requiring citizens and residents to obtain an exit visa before departing the country was eliminated in July [2004]. Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin had their status regularized by the Government." **[3b] (p12)**

DEPORTATIONS AND REPATRIATIONS

21.47 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report stated that:

"During the year **[2005]** the ICRC repatriated 427 Ethiopians from Eritrea to Ethiopia and repatriated 192 Eritreans from Ethiopia to Eritrea. Most Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin registered with the government and received identity cards and six month renewable residence permits that allowed them to gain access to hospitals and other public services. However, there were anecdotal reports that local government officials denied indigent Eritreans the right to free medical services." **[3a] (p12)**

21.48 The US State Department's 2004 Human Rights Report stated that:

"In 2002, the Government transferred at least 200 Eritrean military deserters who had been held at the Dedesa detention centre to a northern refugee camp. UNHCR processed 178 cases in 2002 and 94 during the year for resettlement to third countries. At year's end, it was unknown whether additional cases were still pending. As a result of the 1998 to 2000 war with Eritrea, thousands of persons were displaced internally. Of the approximately 350,000 IDPs resulting from the border war, approximately 225,000 IDPs have been resettled." **[3b] (p13)**

21.49 The US State Department's 2002 Human Rights Report stated that:

The Government stopped deporting forcibly Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin after it signed the cessation of hostilities agreement with Eritrea in June 2000." **[3d] (p8)** However in July 2001, IRIN news reported that the ICRC [International Community of the Red Cross] refused to assist in the repatriation of a group of over seven hundred civilians concerned that they had not expressed their consent. **[9aa]** Human Rights Watch, in its 2002 Report, stated that: "Ethiopia forcibly expelled the 772 people it identified as Eritreans from its territory without prior notification to the International Committee of the Red Cross as anticipated under article 2 of the truce agreement." **[11e] (p5)**

21.50 The US State Department's 2002 Human Rights Report stated that: "Detention and deportation was carried out only in conjunction with the ICRC. The Government, together with the ICRC, monitored the deportation or repatriation of 1,188 Eritrean POWs and 774 Eritrean civilians during the year [2002]. In 2001 approximately 80,000 to 100,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin resided in the country." **[3d] (p17)**

REPATRIATED ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES

21.51 The International Committee of the Red Cross reported on 25 February 2005:

"On 25 February 2005, 160 Ethiopian civilians were repatriated from Eritrea to Ethiopia under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)….In the same operation, 10 Eritrean civilians were repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea….Acting in its capacity as a neutral and independent intermediary, the ICRC carried out this repatriation with the cooperation of the authorities. ICRC delegates based in Eritrea, and an ambulance team of the Eritrean Red Cross accompanied the Ethiopian civilians on the first part of their journey, from Asmara, Eritrea's capital, to the border. They provided food, water and medical assistance, and helped to transport the luggage. At the crossing point at Mereb River, the group was met by ICRC delegates based in Ethiopia, before being placed in the care of the Ethiopian authorities." **[37a]** The ICRC had carried out a similar operation in 2004. The ICRC reported on 3 December 2004: "On 26 November, 200 Ethiopian civilians were repatriated from Eritrea to Ethiopia under the auspices of the ICRC. The group crossed the border at the Mereb river bridge, between the towns of Adi Quala in Eritrea and Rama in Ethiopia. Among those repatriated were eight children and three sick persons returning to their families in Ethiopia." **[37b]**

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS

22.01 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that: "Homosexuality is illegal and punishable by imprisonment. Instances determined to be cruel, involving coercion, or involving a minor (age 13 to 16) are punishable by not less than 3 months or more than 5 years of incarceration. Where children under 13 years of age are involved, the law provides for imprisonment of 5 to 25 years. While society did not widely accept homosexuality, there were no reports of violence against homosexuals." **[3a] (p20)**

22.02 Behind the Mask (a website on gay and lesbian affairs in Africa), when accessed on 21 February 2006, reported that:

"Laws covering homosexual activity: Sections 600 and 601 prohibit homosexual acts between men and between women, with a penalty of 10 days to 3 years' 'simple imprisonment'. This penalty may be increased by 5 or more years when the offender 'makes a profession of such activities', or exploits a dependency relation in order to exercise influence over the other person. The maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment can be applied when the offender uses violence, intimidation or coercion, trickery or fraud, or takes unfair advantage of the victim's inability to offer resistance. The maximum sentence can also be applied when the victim is subjected to acts of cruelty or sadism; when the offender transmits a venereal disease although fully aware of being infected with it; when an adult is charged with committing homosexual acts with persons under 15 years of age; or when distress, shame or despair drives the victim to committing suicide." **[39a]**

22.03 The report continued:

"Ethiopia voted against ILGA [International Lesbian and Gay Association] having consultative status at the UN in January and on April 30, 2002. Berhane Meskel Abebe, the Ethiopian representative on the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said his country voted against ILGA in January because homosexuality is a crime punishable by imprisonment in Ethiopia. 'It doesn't go with our society's belief and general culture and practice.' he is reported to have said." **[39a]**

22.04 On 27 May 2003, Behind the Mask stated: "Local government officials recently called meetings in the various suburbs and villages of Addis Ababa to warn parents about the hazards of homosexuality. Concerned that homosexuality is becoming more visible in the city local authorities are reacting to a recent spate of people coming out as gay or lesbian in the city. [Local officials] also warned that the recent rise in homosexuality is due to parents not looking after their children properly." **[39b]**

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DISABILITY

23.01 The Social Security Online website's 2005 profile of Ethiopia notes that the disability pension is: "equal to 30% of the average monthly basic salary during the last 3 years, plus 1.125% (civilian) or 1.5% (military) of the average monthly basic salary for each year of service beyond 10 years. The maximum monthly pension is 70% of the insured's average basic salary….Benefit adjustment: The Council of Ministers may adjust pensions every 5 years." **[31]**

23.02 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"While the law mandates equal rights for persons with disabilities, the government had no established mechanisms to enforce these rights. Persons with minor disabilities sometimes complained of job discrimination. The government did not mandate access to buildings or provide services for persons with disabilities. Although the law provides for rehabilitation and assistance to persons with physical and mental disabilities, the government devoted few resources to these purposes." **[3a] (p19)**

23.03 The same Report noted that: "There were approximately six million persons with disabilities, according to local NGOs….The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs was responsible for protecting the rights of the disabled." **[3a] (p19)**

23.04 The US Department of State's Human Rights Report 2003 noted that:

"The Amhara Development Association provided vocational training to war veterans with disabilities in Bahir Dar. The Tigray Development Association operated a centre in Mekelle that provided prostheses and seed money for business development, training, and counselling for persons with disabilities. The international NGO Landmine Survivors provided a number of services to victims of landmine explosions, including counselling and referrals to rehabilitation services". **[3c] (p23)**

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WOMEN

POLITICAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL RIGHTS

24.01 The 1994 Constitution provides for the equality of women. **[4] (p12-13)** The Ethiopian Embassy website describes Ethiopian women as being: "actively involved in all aspects of their society's life. Women are both producers and procreators and they are also active participants in the social, political, and cultural activities of their communities. However the varied and important roles they play have not always been recognised. The discriminatory political, economic and social rules and regulations prevailing in Ethiopia have barred women from enjoying the fruits of their labour. Without equal opportunities, they have lagged behind men in all fields of self-advancement."

24.02 A report *'The Political Participation of the Women in Ethiopia, Challenges and Prospects'* dated 25 April 2005 by the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association states that: "After Derg's communist regime was left to its demise in 1991, the transitional government of Ethiopia that constituted a coalition of 27 political and liberation organisations was established. Ethiopia was transformed from centralised a single-party country to a multi-party federation that was ethnically based. A Constitutional Assembly was held in which women also participated. It is recorded that out of 544 elected members of the Constitutional Assembly 24 of them (i.e. 4.14%) were women." **[55](p22)**

24.03 The report continues: "Thereafter a new constitution of Ethiopia was written and adopted in 1995. It incorporated provisions contained in the UN Human Rights Conventions and declarations such as UDHR, CEDAW and DEDAW and regional instruments such as the African Charter on Human and People's rights. In the FDRE Constitution affirmative action has been adopted in favour of women, making Ethiopia one of the few African countries that formally adopted the same. The affirmative action extends to women's enjoyment of political rights and protections." **[55](p22)**

24.04 A National Report on Progress made in the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +10), March 2004 on Ethiopia reports that: "Out of 547 seats reserved for parliamentarians in 1995, it was only 15 (2.74%) that were occupied by women. However, by the next round election, an increasing trend of women's participation has been observed. During the 2000 House of People's Representative election, about 42 (7.7%) of the candidates for parliamentary seats were women compared to 2.7% in 1995." **[56](p17)**

24.05 The report continues: "Although not satisfactory, women participation in local authorities has also improved. With the introduction of a Federal System of Government, in 1991, by devolution of decision making power and responsibilities to regional states, an increasing trend of women participation in local authorities have also been seen. During the 1995 general election for regional council, out of 1355 members 77 (5.0%) were women. This number increased both in terms of membership and number of women in 2000 election. Thus, in the election held in 2000 for regional council, while the number of members increased to 1647, there were 244 (12.9%) women, which have shown an increase by 10%. At the lowest level of Woreda Council, only 6.6% are women out of the 70,430 council members. At the lowest

administrative unit, the Kebele, women constitute only 13.9% of the 928,288 elected officials." **[56](p17)**

24.06 The report also notes that: "Further, at the level of international representation, among the 28 ambassadors that Ethiopia appointed at different missions abroad, only 4 (14.3) are women. **[56](p17)** Ethiopia is also a signatory of global agreements on women rights such as Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which guarantees women equal right and protection from discrimination." **[56] (p3)**

24.07 The USAID report noted that: "Ethiopian women trying to enter politics have made significant strides in the last decade. In the early 1990's a Women's Affairs Office was established in the Office of the Prime Minister to represent women's issues and in 1995 gender equality was guaranteed in the constitution. And for the May 2005 election, the government required that 30 percent of Parliamentary candidates in the ruling party would be women. Yet there remains a public perception that women should stay at home, and potential female politicians still lack cohesion and strong support system." **[30b]**

The USAID report continues: "USAID is funding an effort to back Ethiopian women who are trying to enter politics. In March 2005, 175 men and women attended a conference to discuss strategies to overcome challenges female candidates face and to increase their participation in upcoming elections. Participants also drafted and signed a five-point declaration to support women's political participation. Fifty female candidates were selected by their respective parties to participate in an intensive two-day candidate training session that highlighted and reinforced leadership skills, public speaking, campaign development, media strategies, fundraising and resource mobilization." **[30b]**

The USAID report concluded: "More that 100 female candidates contesting seats in the May 2005 elections received the pre-election training, which helped them plan their campaigns and discuss principles of governance. The Ethiopian Women's Media Association, promoted the candidates through radio, TV and billboards." **[30b]**

24.08 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that:

"Of the 19 members of the Council of Ministers, two were women, and a number of women held senior positions. There were 116 women in the 547 seat House of Peoples' Representatives, and 21 women in the 113-member House of Federation. Of the 14 members of the Supreme Court, 3 were women. During the May 15 national elections women constituted nearly half of the community observers, party workers, and election officials at polling stations." **[3a] (p15)**

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Marriage

24.09 The Revised Family Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia states the following:

"Article 1. – Various form of Marriage:

1) Marriage may be concluded before an officer of civil status.
2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, marriage may be concluded in accordance with the religion or custom of the future spouses.

Article 3. – Religious Marriage.
Religious Marriage shall take place when a man and a woman have performed such acts or rites as deemed to constitute a valid marriage by their religion or the religion of one of them.

Article 4. – Marriage according to custom.
Marriage according to custom shall take place when a man and a woman have performed such rites as deemed to constitute a valid marriage by the custom of community in which they live or by the custom of the community to which the belong or to which one of them belongs.

Article 6. – Consent
A valid marriage shall take place only when the spouses have given their free and full consent.

Article 7. – Age.
1) Neither man or a woman who has no attained the full age of eighteen years shall conclude marriage.

Article 14. – Consent Extorted by Violence.
1) Marriage concluded as a result of consent which is extorted by violence shall not be valid.
2) Consent is deemed to be extorted by violence where it is given by a spouse to protect himself or one of his ascendants or descendants, or any other, close relative.
3) From a serious and imminent danger or threat of danger." **[57]**

24.10 *The Journal of Biosocial Science* notes in the article, "Divorce in Ethiopia: the impact of early marriage and childlessness", published in 2000, that: "There are six forms of marriage in Ethiopia among the Orthodox Christian People (54% of the population from the 1984 census, excluding the rural areas of Tigray and Eritrea (Transitional Government of Ethiopia Office of the Population and Housing Census Commission, 1991, p.60: *serg* (ceremonial marriage), *k'urban* (religious marriage), *semayana* (civil marriage) *k'ot'assir* (marriage by abduction) There categories are not rigid and it is often difficult to place a woman's history into one category, as she may have experienced the characteristics of several of these types of marriages in progression to her first marriage." **[76] (p.356)**

The article continues: "Despite the predominance of religion in the daily lives of most Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, the Orthodox Church is not significantly involved in the area of marriage and divorce. The Orthodox Church has attempted to intervene in some areas of marriage, but without success." **[76] (p356)**

The article also states: "The marriage practices of the Muslim population in Ethiopia (33% of the population from the 1984 census, excluding the rural areas of Tigray and Eritrea) (Transitional Government of Ethiopia Office of the Population and Housing Census Commission, 1991, p.60) involve religious

authorities a greater extent than Orthodox Christian marriages. The traditional Muslim marriage will begin with an arrangement between the parents for the union of the children. The couple is not usually given any choice in whom they marry, although increasingly the sons have some choice. An engagement period will be followed by a ceremony that is presided over by a quadi (imam of the mosque). The marriage is defined and formalised according to the Sharia law of Islam. Polygamy is allowed and, although divorce is strongly discouraged, a marriage may still be dissolved with the husband's triple pronouncement of divorce." **[76] (p357)**

The article also notes that: "The state has also attempted to regulate marriage, without much success. The state has outlawed child marriages and *k'o'assir* marriages, which usually involve a boy coming into a wealthy household to provide labour, and later marrying a daughter of the family. Neither of these laws is widely enforced, and thus these practices still continue." **[76](p357)**

Early/Child Marriage

24.11 The Commission on Human Rights in the fifty-ninth session on 27 February 2003, Report of the Special Rapporteur on "violence against women its cause and consequences", by Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, state that: "In 2000 Parliament adopted a new family law, which raised the legal age for marriage for girls from 15 to 18, the same as for the boys; it puts civil law above customary law and religious law." **[58]**

24.12 *The Ethiopian Journal of Health Development* in an article 'Women's Health and Life Events Study in Rural Ethiopia' published in 2003, note that: "Despite of a clear provision in the Civil Code and Penal Code, girls are given for marriage before they attain the minimum age of marriage when their bodies are still immature. These problems thus lead victims of early marriage to problems such as fistula, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Another consequence of early marriage can be seen in the desertion of these young girls from their home places leaving their husbands and migration to other cities looking for new life." **[105] (p11)**

24.13 The World Health Organisation in the report 'An Assessment of Reproductive Health Needs in Ethiopia 4' , accessed on 15 May 2006, states that: "One factor contributing to this pattern of early marriage is a custom, especially common in northern Ethiopia, in which girls under the age of 15 are married to young men usually no older than 15-19. These, so called "early" or "child marriages" are essentially "parent-centred" arrangements between two families of different lineages (Dagne, 1994). Though the institution is believed once played a critical economic role in forging alliances among the rich peasant classes and in consolidation ancestral and land-holding, the nationalization of the land over the past two decades has made its role today far more ambiguous. Yet it continues to be widely practiced." **[60](p3)**

24.14 The Population Council's brief in July 2004 on Child Marriage states that "Child Marriage, in many instances, marks an abrupt transition into sexual relations with a husband who is considerably older and unchosen. Ethiopia has one of the most severe crises of child marriage in the world today. The legal age of marriage is 18 for both males and females, but it is widely ignored." **[67] (p1)**

The Population Council's report also notes that: "Nationwide, 19 percent of girls were married by age 15, and about half of girls were married by age 19. Child marriage is extremely prevalent in some regions; in Amhara, 50 percent of girls were married by age 15 and 80 percent were married by age 18". **[67] (p1)**

Marriage by Abduction

24.15 Ethiopian Revised Criminal Code of Ethiopia, Proclamation No 414/2004 in the Article 587 – Abduction of a Woman states that:

"(1) Whoever with intent to marry a woman abducts her by violence or commits such an act after having obtained her consent by intimidation, threat, trickery or deceit, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment from three year to ten years.
(2) Where the abduction is accompanied by rape, the perpetrator shall be liable to the punishment prescribed for rape in this code.
(3) The conclusion of a marriage between the abductor and the abducted subsequent to the abduction shall not preclude criminal liability.
(4) Nothing shall affect the right of the victim to compensation under civil law for the moral and material damage she may have sustained as a result of the abduction." **[69]**

24.16 Article 589 – Abduction of a Minor of the Revised Criminal Code of Ethiopia, Proclamation No 414/2004 states:

"(1) Whoever abducts another by violence, or commits such an act after having obtained his consent by intimidation or violence, trickery or deceit is punishable with rigorous imprisonment from five year to fifteen years.
(3) Whoever carries off, abducts or improperly detains an infant or a young person, in order to deprive his parents or lawful guardians of his custody, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment not exceeding five years." **[69]**

24.17 The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of States Parties, 30th Session 2005 report of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of against Women notes that: "With the continued pressure from non-governmental organisations (women's organisations and others) both at the grassroots levis, law-making agencies have begun to appreciate the importance of playing an active role in handling cases of violence against women. Social mobilization against rape and abduction was one of the significant actions during the report period." **[59] (p10)**

The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that: "Although illegal, the abduction of women and girls as a form of marriage continued to be a widespread practice in several regions, including the Amhara, Oromiya, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People'ss regions, despite the government's attempts to combat the practice. Forced sexual relationships accompanied most marriages by abduction, and women often experienced physical abuse during the abduction. Many abducted girls married as early as the age of 7, despite the legal minimum age for marriage of 18. Abductions led to conflicts among families, communities, and ethnic groups. In cases of marriage by abduction, the perpetrator did not face punishment if the victim agreed to marry him (unless authorities annulled the marriage); even after the

conviction of a perpetrator, authorities often commuted the sentence if the victim married him. There were some signs of growing public awareness of the problems of attacks on women and early marriage." **[3a] (p16)**

24.18 On the Background Information on the Harmful Traditional Practices produced by UNICEF, undated, notes that:

"Marriage by abduction occurs in most parts of Oromia and Southern Nations Nationalities People's Regional Sate (SNNP), the principal reasons behind marriage by abduction are:

- When the man feels or knows that the girl's family will not allow him to marry their daughter either due his ethnicity, class, age or economic status.
- When a girl is abducted in most instances the abductor will violate her. If a daughter is no longer a virgin, parents see that the only viable option available to her is to marry her abductor." **[61]**

24.19 The World Health Organisation in the report 'An Assessment of Reproductive Health Needs in Ethiopia 4', accessed on 15 May 2006, states that: "The rationale and the even consequences of abduction vary with the circumstances under which it is employed. In some cases, abduction entails the forced seizure and rape of a young woman against her will. But as studies have pointed out, the practice of abduction is also 'part of a complex social relationship related to family formation and the sustainability of ethnic groups'. (National Committee, 1998) Some abductions, for example are known to be arranged by the girl herself – ostensibly to circumvent her family's disapproval of the proposed partner. In other cases, it is the girl's family that arranges the abduction, particularly in situations where the family finds itself unable to finance the cost of a formal marriage." **[60] (p2)**

Dissolution of Marriage

24.20 The Revised Criminal Code of Ethiopia, Proclamation No 414/2004 states that:

"Article 74.– Various Forms of Marriage Equivalent.
1) The causes and effects of dissolution of marriage shall be the same whichever the form of celebration of the marriage.
2) No distinction shall be made concerning dissolution whichever the form according to which the marriage is celebrated."

"Article 75.– Causes of Dissolution of Marriage

c) Divorce."

"Article 76 – Conditions of Decision for Divorce.
Marriage shall dissolve by divorce where:
a) the spouses have agreed to divorce by mutual consent and such agreement is accepted by the court: or
b) the spouses or one of them made a petition, for divorce, to the court."

"Article 81.– (1) Petition for Divorce.

1) A Petition for divorce may be made to the court either by the two spouses conjointly or by one of them.
2) The spouses or one of them may state in the petition the reasons for divorce." **[57]**

24.21 The US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs has stated in the Reciprocity Schedule dated 9 March 2004 the following:

"Obtaining a divorce is a rather lengthy process in Ethiopia. Each party must have two appointed family arbiters, acceptable to the court. The first priority of the family arbiters is to attempt to reunite the husband and wife. If this is not possible, they will then negotiate agreements for property settlement and child custody. The arbiters must present agreement to the court for final decision. Upon presentation of the court's ruling and a copy of the judgements signed by all parties involved, the municipality will issue a divorce certificate in the Amharic language only. Most marriages in Ethiopia are religious in nature and the civil procedures and laws are intertwined with the religious commitments regarding termination of marriages." **[106]**

24.22 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report note that: "Although the law provides for equality of all persons, the government did not effectively enforce these protections. The law sets the legal marriage age for girls and boys at 18; elevates civil law above customary and religious law; allows for the legal sharing of property by unmarried couples who live together for at least five years; eliminates family arbitrators as a means of settling marital disputes in lieu of the court system; allows for the joint administration of common marital property; requires the courts to take into account the situation of children or the weakest member of the family in the event of divorce or separation; and imposes a six month waiting period on women seeking to remarry following divorce or the death of a spouse. However, regional councils had authority to determine family law for their respective regions. Four regions have established their own family law: Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya, and Addis Ababa. Regional laws are more specific to the region than are federal laws. Regional laws are not uniformly enforced. By law, they cannot conflict with the national constitution." **[3a] (p16-17)**

24.23 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report also states: "Discrimination against women was most acute in rural areas, where 85 percent of the population lived. The law contains discriminatory regulations, such as the recognition of the husband as the legal head of the family and the sole guardian of children over five years old. Authorities did not consider domestic violence a serious justification for granting a divorce. There was only limited juridical recognition of common law marriage. Irrespective of the number of years the marriage existed, the number of children raised, and joint property, the law entitled women to only three months' financial support if the common law relationship ended. A husband had no obligation to provide financial assistance to his family and, as a result, women and children sometimes faced abandonment when there was a problem in the marriage. The law states that any property owned before marriage belongs to the spouse that had it. Any property gained during marriage is shared equally, although a wife does not have the right to inherit her deceased husband's share. Even with stronger formal laws, most rural residents continued to apply customary law in economic and social relationships." **[3a] (p16)**

Domestic Violence and Marital Rape

24.24 *The Ethiopian Journal of Health Development*, in the article 'Women's Health and Life events study in Rural Ethiopia', published in 2003, notes: "Wife battering is one of the most common forms of domestic violence that occurs in the home context. The 1957 Criminal Code does not have a specific provision on domestic violence and wife battery is simply treated as one of the offences committed by a person against another under the general provisions stated for 'bodily' injury. Most women do not want to take such cases to court for the fear of future reprisal as a result of absence of legal protection under the penal law. Many women also fear that their marriage will be dissolved as most of them are economically dependant. On the other hand, the few women who want take their cases to the police could not proceed as a result of the deeply entrenched social pressure against taking the case to the court. Even those women who proceed with the case are often not treated well by law enforcement agencies due to lack of gender sensitivity. Wife abuse cases have a high probability of failure due to the lack of admissible evidence, as the crime is committed behind closed doors. The new draft penal law (prepared by the Ministry of Justice) incorporates a specific provision on wife battery, which is punishable upon complaint by the victim." **[105](p9)**

24.25 The US State Department report 2005 on Human Rights Practices notes that: "The new June 2004 penal code criminalized rape, but did not specifically address spousal rape. The government does not fully enforce the code due to lack of awareness of the law, lack of training, and lack of funds." **[3a] (p16)**

24.26 The report of the Commission on Human Rights, fifty-ninth session on 27 February 2003, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women its cause and consequences by Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, states, that: "Domestic violence, including wife-beating and marital rape, is reportedly pervasive social problem in Ethiopia. While women have recourse to the police and courts, societal norms and limited infrastructure inhibit many women from seeking legal redress, especially in rural areas. Social practices allegedly obstruct investigations into rape and the prosecution of the rapist, and many women are not aware of their rights under the law." **[58]**

24.27 IRIN News reported on 12 October 2005 in an article 'Ethiopia: Domestic violence rampant', says UNFPA that: "Domestic violence is so rampant in Ethiopia that nine out of ten women think that their husbands are justified in beating them, a released UN report said. The report, compiled by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), said the women believed it was in order to be punished, especially if a wife went out without telling her spouse, neglected the children or prepared food badly. 'Violence against women has long been shrouded in culture of silence', Monique Rakotomalala, the UNFPA representative in Ethiopia said at the launch of a report titled: 'State of the World's Population, the Promise of Equality'. **[9al]**

Women's Labour Rights

24.28 The International Labour Organisation's report on 'National Labour Law Profile: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia', accessed on 18 May 2006, states that: "A whole range of general principles of labour rights are firmly anchored in the constitution…Article 35 of the Constitution deals with the rights of women, such as equality with men (Article 35 (1),, in particular

employment, promotion, pay and the transfer of pension entitlements (Article 35 (7) and 42 (1) (d)). The constitution grants the right to maternity leave with full pay, as well as prenatal leave with full pay, in accordance with the provisions of the law (Article 35 (4) and (b))." **[62]**

24.29 The Labour Law Profile continues: "Furthermore, the Ethiopian Labour Proclamation provides one part (Part Six) to the Working Conditions of Women and Young Workers. Maternity leave and maternity protection are regulated in Articles 87 and 88. There are provisions around the nature of work that a pregnant employee is not permitted to perform where it could be hazardous to their or the child's health. (Article 87 (2) to (6)). Night work is not generally prohibited, nor shall she be assigned to overtime - work. Moreover she shall not be given an assignment outside her place of work and be granted time off for medical examinations." (Article 88 (3) to (4)." Employees are entitled to maternity leave, which is to start 30 days prior to due date of birth, and end not less than 60 days after birth of the child. Maternity leave is classified as paid leave. (Article 88 (3) to (4). A nursing employee does not enjoy special legal protection." **[62]**

24.30 The Labour Law Profile further continues: "The Constitution guarantees the right to equality in employment, promotion, pay and the transfer of pension entitlement (Article 35 (8) of the Constitution). The Labour proclamation in its Article (Unlawful Activities) penalizes any discrimination against female workers in matters of remuneration, on the ground of sex (Article 14 (1) b)) and contains general provision of anti-discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, political outlook 'or any other condition' (Article 14 (1) f)). Even though the Constitution recognises the given historical disparities; an obligation on certain employers to implement affirmative action measures to advance women participation is not imposed." **[62]**

24.31 The Ethiopian Government's Social Security Online website's 2005 profile on Ethiopia notes that for maternity there are no statutory benefits provided although "the labour proclamation (2003) and the public service amendment proclamation (2002) require employers to provide paid maternity leave for up to 45 days after childbirth; thereafter, paid sick leave may be paid in case of complications." **[31]**

24.32 The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association study on 'The Political Participation of Women in Ethiopia', April 2005 note, that: "Ethiopian women are more likely to be overworked and underpaid than Ethiopian men. Lesser opportunity to education for women results in lower paying jobs and lesser opportunity to secure positions of authority. Women have very restricted employment opportunities in Ethiopia, particularly in private sector. Furthermore, unless there is economic necessity, many husbands require their wives not to be employed outside their home." **[55] (p31)**

Pregnancy and Early Pregnancy

Maternal Mortality

24.33 The World Health Organisation report 'Making pregnancy safer', accessed on 13 June 2006 notes that: "The country has one of the highest maternal mortality figures in the world, recently estimated to 871/100 000 live births. In recognition of the very high incidence of maternal and newborn death and disabilities, the Federal Government of Ethiopia has put in place the programmes of the 'Safe Motherhood Initiative' as recommended by WHO and other agencies." **[26h]**

The report continues: "Although the public sector has been implementing the programme of 'Daily Integrated Maternal Child Health' during the last two decades, the health system lacks the capacity to provide adequate care for mothers. Especially clear is the lack of emergency obstetrics care. All over Ethiopia, access to the health system is poor and utilization for the existing services is below the optimum level in many areas." **[26h]**

24.34 The Policy Project, funded by the US Agency for International Development report 'Country Analysis of Family Planning and HIV/AIDS in 2004' on Ethiopia reports that: "Pregnancy, poor health and nutritional status, communicable diseases, high workload, early marriage, high fertility, inadequate access to and underutilization of health services, and the low status of women in the society are among the many underlying causes of maternal mortality." **[64] (p1)**

24.35 Save the Children's report 'State of the World's Mothers 2006', Saving lives of Mothers and Newborns, states that: "In Ethiopia number of newborn deaths is 147,000 each year and number of maternal deaths is 24,000" respectively." **[65] (p11)**

Ante-Natal Care

24.36 The Policy Project, funded by the US Agency for International Development report 'Country Analysis of Family Planning and HIV/AIDS in 2004 on Ethiopia' reports that: "Antenatal care is an integral part of safe motherhood, but now widely used in Ethiopia. The percentage of women receiving ANC varies greatly throughout the country, between just 15 percent in the Somali region, to 83 percent in Addis Ababa (CSA and ORC Marco, 2001.) Similarly, just one in 10 women receiving ANC visits a clinic four or more times during her pregnancy, with a media visit of 2.5 visits. This is well below the recommendation of 12-13 visits. Another problem is that of women who do obtain ANC, the media time elapsed of the pregnancy before that visit is quite late, 5.5 months." **[64] (p1)**

24.37 The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) 'Ethiopia Programming Framework - Integration of Gender report: Integrating women's priorities: Safe Motherhood', dated 13 June 2003, notes that: "In Ethiopia most women receive no antenatal care. Of those who do, at least half receive it only in their third trimester. Only 10% of pregnant women deliver at health care facilities; fewer deliver at health facilities with on-site capacity to respond to serious obstetric emergencies." **[72]**

The CIDA report notes that: "Government has put resources into training traditional birth attendants, but in many communities their traditional birth attendants do not have the minimum education to qualify for training.

Everywhere there are shortages of supplies and equipment and poor systems for distributing them." **[72]**

The CIDA report also notes that: "Knowledge and skills are often inadequate to address demands. Training is inconsistent. Monitoring and supervision is poor. Appropriate technical guidelines and manuals are difficult to find. Regulations prohibit doctors in a regional centre from performing emergency caesarean sections even if they have the training, assistance and resources required. They also prohibit birth attendants in the community from administering oxytocin to prevent women from bleeding to death." **[72]**

Early Pregnancy

24.38 The Population Council's Child Marriage briefing on Ethiopia, accessed on 18 May 2006, states: "First births carry special risks for both mother and child. The vast majority of births to adolescent girls are first births that occur within marriage. The foremost risk first births carry is prolonged or obstructed labour, which can result in obstetric fistulas in setting were access to care is limited. First births also have elevated risk of pre-eclampsia, malaria and infant mortality." **[67] (p1)**

24.39 An IRIN News Web Special report, accessed on 14 March 2006 states that: "Fistula typically occurs when a teenage girl, pushed into an early marriage – cannot deliver a baby because it is too big for her pelvis. Untreated it can be fatal and survivors are usually left incontinent for life and unable to bear any children. In Ethiopia, around 8,000 women each year suffer from the problem, yet less than a third receives any kind of treatment – around 1,200." **[9am]**

Abortion

24.40 The Revised Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 states in Article 545 that:

"(1) The intentional termination of pregnancy, at whatever stage or however effected, is punishable according to the following provisions, except as otherwise provided under Article 551."

24.41 The revised Criminal Code of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 states in Article 551 that:

"(1) The termination of pregnancy by a recognised medical institution within the period permitted by the profession is not punishable where
(a) the pregnancy is result of rape or incest; or
(b) the continuance of the pregnancy endangers the life of the mother or the child or the health of the mother or where the birth of the child is a risk to the life or health of the mother; or
(c) where the child has an incurable and serious deformity; or
(d) where the pregnant woman, owing of a physical or mental deficiency she suffers from or her minority, is physically as well as mentally unable to bring up the child.

(2) In the case of grave and imminent danger which can be adverted on by an immediate intervention, an act of terminating pregnancy in accordance with the provision of Article 74 of this Code is no punishable." **[69]**

The Revised Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 states in Article 75 that: "An act which is performed to protect from an imminent and serious danger a legal right belonging to the person who performed the act or a third party is not reliable to punishment if the danger could not have been otherwise averted. No exemption shall apply in the case of a similar act done by a person in a special professional duty to protect the health; however the Court may reduce the penalty without restriction." **[69]**

24.42 IPAS, an international organisation for protecting women's health and advancing women's reproductive rights, explained in a report accessed on 14 June 2006 that: "According to the 1957 Ethiopian Penal Code, abortion could only be performed if the woman's life or health were in grave danger. The government revised the Penal Code to permit abortion for an expanded range of indications, including; when pregnancy results from rape and incest; when the health or life of the women and the fetus are in danger; in case of fetal abnormalities; for women with physical or mental disabilities; and for minors who are physically or psychologically unprepared to raise a child. The revised law also notes that poverty and other social factors may be grounds for reducing criminal penalty for abortion. This significant revision of the Ethiopian Penal Code serves as a precedent for abortion-law reform in other African countries." **[68]**

Family Planning

24.43 Population Reference Bureau in an article 'Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2005' reports: "Among married Ethiopian women of childbearing age (ages 15-49), total contraceptive use stood at 14.9 percent in 2005 – 13.9 percent for modern methods and 0.8 percent for traditional methods. Injectables were the most common modern method used (by 9.9 percent of all women ages 15-49), followed by the pill (at 3.1 percent)." The report continues: "Contraceptive use in urban areas was quite high at 46.7 percent, compared with 10.9 percent in rural areas." **[70]**

24.44 The Global Gag Rule Impact Project report, 'Access Denied, The Impact of the global gag rule in Ethiopia 2005' notes: "Ethiopia has long faced problems of obtaining adequate contraceptive supplies. These problems are complex, and arise from combination of logistical difficulties, government apathy, general supply shortages and an unprecedented growth in demand for contraception." **[71]**

24.45 USAID Health: Family Planning reports in an article 'Equality Empowers', dated 11 July 2005, that: "In Ethiopia, women may not use contraception because of perceived or real opposition from their husbands. Other barriers include the attitudes of mothers-in-law, extended families, and communities. USAID has developed programs so all members can be educated to be more supportive of projects that developed clinic, community-, and workplace-based services, established health centres for young people, and worked with local NGOs including the Ethiopian Evangelical Church. From this effort came the country's first community-based reproductive health (CBRH) services program involving farmers, factory workers, dress makers, artisans, and housewives as agents to help provide improved health and family welfare at the grassroots level in both rural and urban areas." **[30c]**

Violence Against Women

Rape

24.46 The Revised Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 Article 620 states that:

"(1) Whoever compels a woman to submit to sexual intercourse outside wedlock, whether by the use of violence or grave intimidation, or after having rendered her unconscious or incapable of resistance, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment from five years to fifteen years.
(2) Where a crime is committed:
(a) On a young woman between thirteen and eighteen years of age… The punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment from five years to twenty years." **[69]**

24.47 The Revised Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 Article 626 states that:

"(1) Whoever performs sexual intercourse with a minor of the opposite sex, who is between the ages of thirteen and eighteen years, or asks her to perform such an act with her, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment from three years to fifteen years."

24.48 The Revised Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 Article 627 states that:

"(1) Whoever performs sexual intercourse with a minor of the opposite sex, who is under the age of thirteen years, or causes her to perform such an act with her, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment from thirteen years to twenty-five years." **[69]**

24.49 The United States Department of State Report 2005 on Human Rights notes that: "The new penal code criminalized rape, but did not specifically address spousal rape. The government does not fully endorse the code due to lack of awareness of the law, lack of training, and lack of funds. Social mores continue to be a key constraint, particularly in rural areas. It is difficult to prove rape because the country does not have appropriate laboratory facilities and rape kits. The government has taken limited action based on the penal code." **[3](p16)**

24.50 The US State Department report continues: "Social mores obstructed investigations and prosecutions in rape cases and many women were not aware of their rights under the law, which led to widespread underreporting. Observers estimated that at least one thousand rapes occurred annually in Addis Ababa, but data based on official police reports counted only approximately 400 cases per year. The press continued to report regularly on rape cases, particularly when injury to minors resulted. Courts sentenced convicted rapists to 10 to 15 years' imprisonment, as prescribed by law." **[3a] (p16)**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

24.51 The Revised Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 states in the Article 565:

"Whoever circumcises a woman of any age is punishable with simple imprisonment for not less than three months, or fine not less than five hundred Birr." **[69]**

24.52 The Revised Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 414/2004 Article 566 states the following:

"(1) Whoever infibulates the genitalia of a woman, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment from three years to five years.
(2) Where injury to body or health has resulted due to the act prescribed in sub-article (1) above, subject to the provision of the Criminal Code which provides for a more severe penalty, the punishment shall be rigorous imprisonment from five years to ten years." **[69]**

24.53 World Health Organisation Fact Sheet No 241, June 2000, states that: "Female genital mutilation (FGM), often referred to as 'female genital circumcision', comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural, practical or other non-therapeutic reasons. There are different types of female genital mutilation known to be practiced today. They include:

- Type 1 – excision of the prepuce, with or without excision of part of all the clitoris;
- Type 2 – excision of the clitoris with partial or total excision of the labia minora;
- Type 3 – excision of part of all of the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of the vaginal opening (infibulation);
- Type 4 – pricking, piercing or incising of the clitoris and/pr labia; stretching of the clitoris and/or labia; cauterization by burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue;
- Scraping of tissue surrounding the vaginal orifice (*angurya* cuts) or cutting of the vagina (*gishiri* cuts);
- Introduction of corrosive substances or herbs into the vagina to cause bleeding or for the purpose of tightening or narrowing it; and any other procedure that falls under the definition given above." **[26i]**

24.54 The WHO Fact Sheet continues: "The most common type of female genital mutilation is excision of the clitoris and the labia minora, accounting for up to 80% of all cases; the most extreme form is infibulation, which constitutes about 15% of all procedures. In cultures where it is an accepted norm, female genital mutilation is practiced by followers of all religious beliefs as well as animists and non believers. FGM is usually performed by a traditional practitioner with crude instruments and without anaesthetic. Among the more affluent in society it may be performed in a health care facility by qualified health personnel." **[26i]**

24.55 The WHO Fact Sheet further continues: "The age at which female genital mutilation is performed varies from area to area. It is performed on infants a few days old, female children and adolescents and, occasionally, on mature women. The reasons given by families for having FGM performed include:

- psychosexual reasons: reduction or removing of the sensitive tissue of the outer genitalia, particularly the clitoris, in order to attenuate sexual desire in the female, maintain chastity and virginity before marriage and fidelity during marriage, and increase male sexual pleasure;
- sociological reasons: identification with the cultural heritage, initiation of girls into womanhood, social integration and the maintenance of cohesion;
- hygiene and aesthetic reasons: the external female genitalia are considered dirty and unsightly and are to be removed to promote hygiene and provide aesthetic appeal;
- myths; enhancement of fertility and promotion of child survival;
- religious reasons: some Muslim countries, however, practice FGM in the belief that it is demanded by the Islamic faith. The practice, however, predates Islam." **[26i]**

24.56 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that:

According to a Ministry of Health Demographic and Health survey released during the year, the practice of FGM among all women had decreased from 80 to 74 percent, while support for the practice among women had dropped from 60 to 29 percent. **[3a] (p16)**

24.57 The Report also noted that:

"The government took some measures to help eradicate FGM. It worked to discourage the practice through education in public schools and broader mass media campaigns. In July 2004 the Hamer District women's affairs bureau removed a district official from office for forcing his wife to undergo FGM. In 2004 the South Omo Zone Mobilization and Social Affairs Department Deputy Head reported that committees to eradicate harmful traditional practices were established in 197 localities through South Omo Zone. In 2004 Eastern Harerge Zone police arrested four women who had allegedly circumcised 62 girls in a single day; local residents allegedly tipped off the police following an intensive media campaign on the harmful effects of circumcision." **[3a] (p16)**

24.58 The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), in its Report on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia dated 26 June 2003, stated that: "FGM has terrible effects on the child or young girl's state of health, both at the time and in the future. Apart from potentially fatal haemorrhages, there is a risk of tetanus or septicaemia from the very basic instruments used and neighbouring organs are often damaged due to the girl's distress." **[38] (p13)**

Support from Non-governmental and government

24.59 African Centre for Women (ACW)
ACW's objectives are monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the African Plan of Action 2000-2004, analyzing national sectoral policies and making suggestions of adequate strategies in order to improve women's access to productive resources and promote the economic value of women's unpaid work, developing adequate information and communication strategies to facilitate a better exchange of experiences, and undertaking policy advocacy for the elimination of gender-based discrimination of women at the levels of policy making machinery, national legislation, the media, as well as in national development strategies. **[73]**

Democratic Association of Tigray Women (DATW)
The Tigrean Fighters Association and 'The Women Mass' Association merged in September 1991 to form the Democratic Association of Tigrean Women. The Objectives of the Association are to: participate in local, regional and national women's issues; play an active role in the democratic processes and struggle for human rights; facilitate the empowerment of women, particularly in political, social and economic affairs. **[73]**

Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association
EWLA is working to defend women's human rights and improve civil society throughout Ethiopia. Issues: Networking for women lawyers. **[73]**

Horn of Africa NGO Network for Development (HANND)
The Horn of Africa NGO Network for Development (HANND) is the collaboration of some 40 indigenous organisations and civil society leaders in the countries of the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda). **[73]**

PROGYNIST: Women Empowerment NGO
PROGYNIST was established to promote the welfare and contribution of Ethiopian women to the political, socio-economical and environmental development and management of their country. PROGYNIST believes that empowering women is strengthening civil society and acknowledging its role in sustainable development. To ensure sustainability, PROGYNIST focuses on projects uplifting, women's economic status by employing gender-fair and environment friendly technology. **[73]**

Women's Association of Tigray (WAT)
WAT is the main women's organisation in Ethiopia's northernmost province. Its mission is to empower women who need to be aware about what development is so that they can participate. WAT aims to improve the skills of the women in Tigray through diverse programs addressing political, economical, and social and health issues. Not only was the WAT involved in the preparation of the new family law in Tigray, they also held several awareness programme seminars for different community representatives as well as religious leaders to give them a thorough grasp of the new law. **[73]**

The African Women's Committee for Peace and Development
The Committee's objective is to ensure the full, effective and equal participation of African women in all endeavors for peace and sustainable development on the continent. **[74]**

Kembatta Women's Self-Help Centre
With a programme of community outreach and mobile health clinics, the Self - Help Centre provides education and support to local women on issue of reproductive health. They also provide training and credit and income generating schemes to enable women to become economically sufficient. **[75]**

Women's Association of Tigray
The association runs awareness and rights training programmes to help women build their own leadership capabilities, enabling them to take full and active role in the decision process of their families, their communities and their country. In addition, they participate in health education programmes for local

women, as well as providing vocational training and credit, saving and incoming generate schemes to help women move out of poverty. **[75]**

Integrated Community Educational and Development Association
ICEDA's focus is on advocacy, lobbying and campaigning to raise public awareness of issues regarding violence and other forms of discrimination against women. Working to counter early, forced and marriage by abduction, the Association also runs training programmers for women, educating them of their civil, economic and legal rights." **[75]**

UNITED NATIONS CONTACTS
Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations **[73]**

UNPD Africa
United National Development Programme (UNDP) – Ethiopia **[73]**

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Eastern Africa Regional Office **[73]**

United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) **[73]**

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS:

Women's Affairs Section at the Prime Minister's Office (WAO) **[73]**

24.60 IRIN News reported on 18 May 2004:

"Ethiopia was awarded US $1.5 million on Monday to promote women's rights. The African Development Bank (ADB) pledged the money to help the country meet the global anti-poverty targets – known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – by 2015….Among key MDGs are those concerning the promotion of equal rights for women and their empowerment, as well as massive support for maternal health care. Experts regard improving the lives of women in health care and education as vital if global and Third World poverty is to be overcome." **[9ab]**

24.61 The article continued to note:

"In Ethiopia, according to the United Nations Children's Fund, women often bear the brunt of poverty, poor health care and lack of education. Only six out of 10 are literate, while less than six percent can expect to receive skilled help during childbirth. Currently, one-fifth more boys than girls attend school….Securing additional funding for the promotion of women's rights and democratic representation is crucial, according to the government and humanitarian agencies. The ADB money will be ploughed into the newly established Women's Affairs Office (WAO) to provide institutional support….The government has pledged to place women at the heart of its development agenda, and accordingly established the WAO under the direction by Gifti Abasiya, the minister of state for women's affairs. Although the country has a far-reaching constitution which promotes gender equality with a legal framework to implement it, officials admit that in reality it has its shortcomings." **[9ab]**

24.62 Furthermore the Report further noted that:

"All land belonged to the government. Although women could obtain government leases to land, and the government had an explicit policy to provide equal access for women to land, rural communities rarely enforced this policy. The EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association], reported that, in nearly all regions, women did not have access to land, except through marriage. However, when the husband dies, other family members often take the land from the wife." **[3a] (p17)**

24.63 Trafficking of women is a growing problem. In an IRIN report dated 13 June 2003:

"The IOM says that illegal traffickers who prey on women could make up to 7,000 Ethiopian Birr (more than US $800) for each victim they send overseas. The IOM say women aged between 18 and 25 are targeted by traffickers at colleges and in poor districts in towns and cities." **[9ac]** The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2004 noted that: "There were credible reports from the EWLA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that many female workers who travelled to the Middle East as industrial and domestic workers were abused. In August [2004], the Government opened a new consulate in Dubai, in part to assist Ethiopian women workers who were abused." **[3b] (p16)**

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CHILDREN

OVERVIEW

25.01 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that: "The government supported efforts by domestic and international NGOs that focused on children's social, health, and legal issues, despite its limited ability to provide improved health care, basic education, or child protection." **[3a] (p17)** The Report also noted that: "The government estimated the number of street children totaled 150 to 200 thousand, with approximately 50 to 60 thousand street children in Addis Ababa. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimated there were 600 thousand street children in the country and more than 100 thousand in the capital. UNICEF believed the problem was exacerbated because of families' inability to support children due to parental illness and decreased household income. These children begged, sometimes as part of a gang, or worked in the informal sector. Government and privately run orphanages were unable to handle the number of street children, and older children often abused younger ones. Due to severe resource constraints, hospitals and orphanages often overlooked or neglected abandoned infants. 'Handlers' sometimes maimed or blinded children to raise their earnings from begging." **[3a] (p18)**

CHILD LABOUR

25.02 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report noted that "There were laws against child labour; however, the government did not effectively implement these laws in practice and child labour remained a serious problem, both in urban and rural areas. Under the law, the minimum age for wage or salary employment is 14 years, which was consistent with the age for completing primary school; the minimum age for employment was not effectively enforced, however. Special provisions cover children between the ages of 14 and 18, including the prohibition of hazardous or night work. By law, children between the ages of 14 and 18 were not permitted to work more than 7 hours per day, work between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am, work on public holidays or rest days, or perform overtime work. The government defined hazardous work as work in factories or involving machinery with moving parts, or any work that could jeopardize a child's health." **[3a] (p21)**

25.03 The report goes on to state that: "A 2001 ILO funded survey on child labour found that 40 percent of children began working before the age of 6. It also found the average number of hours worked in a week by children ages 5 to 17 was 32.8 hours. Approximately 13 percent of boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 9 worked from 58 to 74 hours a week. More than two thirds of all children surveyed were giving either all or part of their earnings to their parents or guardians. Reduced household income from poor crop harvests and children dropping out of school were two factors contributing to the increased incidence of child labour." **[3a] (p21)**

25.04 The report further adds: "Child labourers often faced abuse. A 1999 study concluded that compared to non-working children, child workers faced twice as much physical and emotional abuse, five times as much sexual abuse, and eight times as much neglect. Among child workers surveyed, rapes occurred

exclusively among child domestic labourers….The government's definition of worst forms of child labour included prostitution and bonded labour. During the year there were reports of forced or bonded labour of children who had been trafficked from the Oromiya Region and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region to other regions of the country to work as domestic servants. Family members reportedly forced young girls into prostitution." **[3a] (p21)**

25.05 The OMCT, in its Report on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia dated 26 June 2003, stated that: "Juveniles aged between 15 and 18 are considered to be fully responsible for their actions and, with the exception of death penalty, face full penal responsibility…juveniles who are 15–18 years old can be subjected to life imprisonment." **[38] (p21)**

CHILD PROSTITUTION

25.06 The US State Department's 2004 Human Rights Report noted that: "Child prostitution continued to be a problem and was widely perceived to be growing, and children were trafficked out of the country in adoption schemes." **[3b] (p17)**

25.07 The report further noted that: "There were unconfirmed reports that children from the south were transported into Kenya by child traffickers operating adoption rings, and adopted as other nationalities." **[3b] (p17)**

25.08 The same report noted that:

"According to an NGO report, 60 percent of commercial sex workers were between the ages of 16 and 25. Underage girls worked as hotel workers, barmaids, and prostitutes in resort towns and rural truck stops. Pervasive poverty, migration to urban centres, early marriage, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and limited educational and job opportunities aggravated the commercial sexual exploitation of children. A few NGOs aided child victims, including the Forum on Street Children Ethiopia, which provided children forced into prostitution or commercial sexual exploitation with shelter, protection, and return to their families." **[3b] (p18)**

25.09 IRIN News state in an article: 'Ethiopia: Focus on Street Children Rehabilitation Project', dated 1 March 2004, that: "According to the labour and social affairs ministry, some 150,000 children live on the streets in Ethiopia, about 60,000 of them in the capital. However, aid agencies estimate that the problem may be far more serious, with nearly 600,000 street children country-wide and over 100,000 in Addis Ababa. The United Nations Children's Fund says the problem may be getting worse because of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and falling incomes. HIV/AIDS has already orphaned 1 million children in Ethiopia." **[9ap]**

The report continues: "Poverty is also leading to growing numbers of child prostitutes, according to NGOs, and the phenomenon is in turn exacerbated and complicated by the HIV/AIDS crisis. Save the Children, Denmark (SC-D) said child prostitution was 'increasing at an alarming rate' in the capital, but could not cite statistics. It said children as young as 13 were being lured to the city and thrust into the sex trade. 'Intervention is clearly needed as a matter of national urgency,' said SC-D." **[9ap]**

The report further continues: "The children often identified lack of work, family deaths, poor education or unwanted pregnancy as factors driving them into prostitution. Many of the children prostitutes have been victims of serious sexual and physical abuse. Almost half of the children said they had been raped before ending up on the streets, with one-third of them becoming pregnant as a result, some resorting to back-street abortions. The abortions were performed mainly by [practitioners of] traditional medicine, and in the street illegally, said the SC-D. 'The dangers of this are numerous, including death', it added in a seven page study, which revealed that some 60 percent of the prostitutes in Addis Ababa originated from outside the city." **[9ap]**

CHILD SOLDIERS

25.10 The US State Department's 2002 Human Rights Report notes that:

"The Ministry of Defence did not permit persons under the age of 18 to join the armed forces, and the Government made efforts to enforce this policy. There were no reports that children under the age of 18 were recruited into the military during the year (2002); however, in the past, military officers admitted that underage applicants sometimes were enlisted. Scarce birth certificates, poor educational opportunities, patriotism, and pervasive poverty encouraged underage applicants to try to circumvent restrictions on underage soldiers." **[3d] (p24)**

25.11 Child Soldiers in its 2004 Report on Ethiopia stated that:

"National recruitment guidelines in use since 1991 specify that recruits must be between the ages of 18 and 25, and have completed six years of secondary education (two years for recruits from marginalised regions). However, in 2001 the lack of a birth registration system was noted with concern by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Recruitment officers were believed to have operated with considerable discretion, putting minors at risk of recruitment, particularly in rural and impoverished communities." **[24]**

25.12 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2002 noted that:

"Scarce birth certificates, poor educational opportunities, patriotism, and pervasive poverty encouraged underage applicants to try to circumvent restrictions on underage soldiers. If a unit commander suspected but could not prove that a soldier was underage, he could transfer the soldier from a front-line combat unit to a rear-area command. There were no reports of children joining local militias during the year [2002]." **[3d] (p24)**

EDUCATION

25.13 The Save the Children report on 'Ethiopia: Education', accessed 20 July 2006, notes: "The education system in Ethiopia is characterized by inadequate facilities (lack of basic education materials, shortage of buildings and furniture, dilapidated buildings, etc.) and low professional capacity (insufficient training of staff, weak institutional capacity and limited community involvement in the management of schools). The curriculum is inadequate in responding to the needs and life challenges of the children and their families, and teachers do not have the necessary support and materials to successfully implement the

curriculum. The school schedule conflicts with the work of many children and their families. Moreover, sending children to school is too expensive for communities with very low economic status-both because of direct expense and because the loss of children's labour." **[77a]**

25.14 The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development /A World Bank Country Study on Education in Ethiopia, published in July 2005, states that: "Schools in Ethiopia fall into two broad categories: government and nongovernment. Those in the first group charge little or no fees and they are managed and staffed by paid staff by the federal or regional governments. By contrast, institutions in the nongoverment sector rely partly or wholly on nongovernmental sources of financing (for example, contributions by communities and student fees), and they are managed privately." **[78]**

The World Bank adds: "Besides the regular daytime programs, a diversity of other educational options is available. Most students pursuing these options either pay out-of-pocket to receive instructions or rely on nongovernmental organisations for subsidized services. Evening classes offer instruction at all levels but are available mainly in urban areas because electric power for lighting is still largely confined to towns and cities. Financed entirely by student fees, the classes may meet in government of nongovernmental premises. Those using government facilities are typically staffed by teachers and other personnel with daytime jobs in the same school, while those meeting in nongovernmental facilities presumably draw on more diverse sources for their staff. The curricula for evening courses prepared students for the same end-of cycle examinations as students in the regular programs; however, they are designed to cover material over a longer period because students inevitably attend fewer hours of instruction at each class than students in the regular programs." **[78]**

The World Bank report further continues: "Distance programs at the secondary level have been offered by the Educational Media Agency since 1971, but they reach relatively few people - around 1,000 students in 2001-2002. In higher education, distance courses have also become popular in recent years, but the numbers enrolled are not known. Kiremt courses offered by universities and colleges are yet another option. Their main clientele were teacher, numbering just over 9,000 in 2001-02, who attended under sponsorship by regional governments to upgrade their formal qualifications." **[78]**

The World Bank report also notes that: "Nonformal education, sometimes referred to as Alternative Basic Education, is especially important in rural communities. Available both to adults and children and financed largely by nongovernmental organisations, including international ones (for example, Action Aid and Save the Children) or local agencies dependent on foreign sources of funding, nonformal education programs may be managed directly by the funding organisation or in collaboration with the local governments. While not all nonformal education programs share a common curriculum across localities, they have a common aim: imparting basic literacy and numeracy. Adults in these programs often benefit from job-related skills training as well. The programs for children (clients below age 15) typically offer three levels of instruction, in aggregate, match the first cycle of primary schooling (grades 1-4). Focusing mainly on the core subjects of languages (typically the local language and English) and mathematics, the programmes are staffed by teachers living in the community who may or may not be paid.

Classes meet in structures built by the villagers or donated by a local benefactor, and the school calendar and hours of instruction are deliberately arranged to free children for work on the family farm or home. At their best, the programs succeed in qualifying the pupils to transfer to formal schools at the fifth grade after only three years of instruction. Performance is not uniformly good, however, because of funding and other constraints. Indeed, in the most poorly funded centres, the programs offer what can at best be described only as informal instruction." **[78]**

25.15 The Africa South of the Sahara 2005 Report stated that:

"Education in Ethiopia is available free of charge, and, after a rapid growth in number of schools, it became compulsory between the ages of seven and 13 years. Since 1976 most primary and secondary schools have been controlled by local peasant associations and urban dwellers' associations. Primary education begins at seven years of age and lasts for eight years. Secondary education, beginning at 15 years of age lasts for a further four years, comprising two cycles of two years, the second of which provides preparatory education for entry to the tertiary level. In 2000/01 total enrolment at primary schools included 47% of children in the appropriate age-group (53% of boys; 41% of girls); according to UNESCO estimates, enrolment at secondary schools included 13% (15% of boys; 10% of girls) of children in the relevant age group." **[1a] (p450)**

25.16 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report also noted that:

"Education is compulsory and universal through grade six, though approximately 20 percent of school-age children do not attend school. By law, primary education is tuition free. There were not enough schools to accommodate the country's youth, particularly in rural areas, and the cost of uniforms and school supplies was prohibitive for many families. Approximately 74 percent of male primary school age children and 59 percent of female primary school age children attended school; in Addis Ababa girls' attendance was slightly higher. Government reports showed that 29 percent of the children who attended school left the system before they reached the second grade, and only 22 percent of children who began first grade completed eighth grade." **[3a] (p17)**

25.17 The Report also noted that: "There are 21 institutions of higher education in Ethiopia, with a total of 67,682 enrolled students in 1999/2000. There is a considerable shortage of qualified teachers, which is particularly acute in secondary schools, which rely heavily on expatriate staff. The 1999/2000 budget allocated an estimated 11.3% (2,304m. birr) of total expenditure to education." **[1a] (p450)**

25.18 The US State Department's Human Rights Report 2005 noted that:

"Education is compulsory and universal through grade six, though approximately 20 percent of school-age children do not attend school. By law, primary education is tuition free. There were not enough schools to accommodate the country's youth, particularly in rural areas, and the cost of uniforms and school supplies was prohibitive for many families. Approximately 74 percent of male primary school age children and 59 percent of female primary school age children attended school; in Addis Ababa girls' attendance

was slightly higher. Government reports showed that 29 percent of the children who attended school left the system before they reached the second grade, and only 22 percent of children who began first grade completed eighth grade." **[3a] (p17)**

25.19 IKED, The International Organisation for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development, has listed Higher Education providers in Ethiopia, accessed on 18 July 2006:

Alemaya University
Alemaya University (also known as Haromaya University) is located about 510 km from Addis Ababa in the Eastern Hararghe Zone at a distance of about 20 kilometres and 40 kilometres from the nearby towns: Harar and Dire Dawa respectively. Currently, the University is running 30 programs at PhD, MSc, BSc and Diploma levels.

Addis Ababa University
Addis Ababa University, the oldest institution of higher education in Ethiopia, is now engaged in a mission to enlarge the nation's capacity in higher education.
http://www.aau.edu.et/

Arba Minch University: School of Graduate Studies
Arba Minch Water Technology Institute is the first and the only one of its kind in the country which is offering a qualified course in water resources planning, design and development.
http://www.freewebs.com/amu-pg

Bahir Dar University
Bahir Dar University was inaugurated in May 2001 when Bahir Dar Teachers College and Bahir Dar Polytechnic Institute joined together to become the Education and Engineering Faculties, respectively, of the new University.
http://www.telecom.net.et/~bdu/

Debub University
Debub University is a young institution established on December 22 1999 by the Council of Ministers Regulation no. 62/1999. It was formed by bringing together three already existing colleges in southern Ethiopia: Awassa College of Agriculture (ACA), Dilla College of Teachers Education and Health.
http://www.dunive.edu.et/

Gondar University Gondar College of Medical Science
The Gondar College of Medical Science is located in Gondar, once the capital city of Ethiopia in the north-western part of the country. The college is the oldest health professional training institute in Ethiopia, first established as Public Health College in 1954. http://www.ugondar.edu.et/

Jimma University
Jimma University (JU) is an autonomous public higher educational institution established in December 1999 by the amalgamation of Jimma Institute of Health Sciences (established 1983).
http://www.telecom.net.et/junv.edu/

Mekelle University
Mekelle University is a four year university located in the province of Tigray.

http://www.mu.ed.et/ **[79]**

CHILD CARE

CHILD PROTECTION

25.20 The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, fifty-ninth session, Item 13 of the provisional agenda, Rights of the Child, Report submitted by Mr Juan Miguel Petit, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/92 reports on Ethiopia: "Criminal liability is incurrent by a person selling or trafficking children under the Penal Code, and the right of children not to be subjected to exploitative practices is enshrined in the Constitution. Child pornography is addressed through the criminalisation of a number of offences, excluding possession, relating to writings, images, posters or films which are obscene or grossly indecent. Children under the age 9 incur no criminal responsibility. Criminal liability may be incurrent by a young person between the ages of 9 and 15 if they use others for the purpose of prostitution, or if they use child pornography against others for the purpose of gain. If such an offence is committed, the court follows a special procedure for juvenile delinquents. Children over 15 are tried under the ordinary provisions of the Penal Code for adults. Sanctions for those between the ages of 9 and 15 include measures to ensure the best possible treatment of a young person and may include supervised education, reprimand, school or home arrest, or admission to a corrective institution. Efforts are being made to give on - the job training in dealing with juvenile offenders to most judges and prosecutions." **[80]**

25.21 The US State Department's 2005 Human Rights Report also noted that: "Child abuse was a problem. Members of an NGO staffed 10 child protection units in Addis Ababa's police stations to protect the rights of juvenile delinquents and juvenile victims of crime. Some police officers completed training on procedures for handling cases of child abuse and juvenile delinquency." **[3a] (p17)**

25.22 ECPAT International in the report 'Child Protection Units in Ethiopia', accessed on 3 August 2006, note that: "In 1997, a pilot project was started in four police stations around the capital: Addis Ababa, with one trained officer in each station dealing solely with cases involving children. The officers were employed by the police force but Forum assisted with refurbishing rooms and provided equipment. Following the success of this pilot, more officers were trained and the programme extended to ten suburban police stations. Two officers (one male, one female) were assigned to each station and Forum trained social workers attached to each unit, made up a team of three. Pilot projects were also launched in other provinces." **[81]**

The ECPAT report continues: "A coordinating office was established at police headquarters with a full-time ranking officer responsible for the activities of the units. This office also became the centre of collation and dissemination of data on children's cases (both victim and perpetrator) from all 28 police stations around the capital. A data bank now exists of all cases handled since the project was initiated." **[81]**

The ECPAT report further continues: "The officers in the unit do not wear police uniforms and are just as prepared to solve a child's problems through family and community intervention as through legal means. Importantly, they have begun to see the children as vulnerable human beings and not as the cause of trouble. In the districts where CPUs exist, community crime prevention and correction programmes have been established to divert children at risk and to avoid the necessity of removing them from their families. The CPUs do not function in isolation. They are connected to Drop-In Centres, Safe Houses Programmes and to a network of NGOs, which are able to accept referrals and offer professional services." **[81]**

ORPHANS AND ORPHANAGES

25.23 IRIN news reported on 10 January 2005 that: "The rising number of orphans has raised the demand for adoptions to a record high. Some 1,400 children made new homes abroad last year [2004], more than double from the previous year….Adoption agencies also doubled to 30 in the capital Addis Ababa in the last year, a highly lucrative market with some agencies charging parents fees of up to US $20,000 per child. Buti Gutema, who heads the country's adoption authority, says adoption of orphans poses many quandaries to his government. He blames the growing number of orphans and the increasing numbers of adoptions on poverty….In a move to help stem the growing orphan crisis in Ethiopia; the US government announced a $20 million project in December to help the 530,000 HIV/AIDS orphans…. Ethiopia has strict adoption laws, but the process can be pushed through in 10–15 days if the paperwork is in order, according to Balti….An international convention, established in 1993, exists to protect children who are adopted overseas. It has been approved by 66 nations, although the Ethiopian government has not signed it yet….Most mothers will simply abandon their children near a police station or church rather than turn up at orphanages, where by law, they must be turned away. Any children that turn out to be HIV-positive cannot be put up for adoption." **[9ad]**

25.24 IRIN news also reported on 23 July 2002 that: "Hundreds of street children and homeless people were last month forced out of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and dumped in a forest outside the city the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) has said...Some of the children were reportedly only 11-years-old. The round-up, which has only come to light a month after it happened took place during the World Cup….The homeless and the children were rounded up from the centre of the city where a huge television screen had been erected so that people could watch the football matches." **[9ae]**

HEALTH ISSUES

HIV/AIDS ORPHANS

25.25 The Save the Children report on 'Ethiopia: Health', accessed on 20 July 2006, notes that: "The HIV/AIDS pandemic has hit Ethiopia with catastrophic results. The HIV prevalence is officially 6.6% (but 16% in Addis Ababa). 2.2 million Ethiopians are infected by HIV/AIDS (the third highest number of people infected in the world). Even more troublesome is that the highest prevalence is seen in the age group 15 to 24, representing 'recent' infections for this two-decade-old pandemic. The age and sex distribution of reported AIDS cases

show that about 91% of infections occur among adults of age 15-49. The number of females infected between 15-19 years is much higher than the number of males in the same age group. The pandemic is encased by gender inequality as women often do not have the confidence, knowledge or economic autonomy to protect themselves. As the disease strikes the economically active within the families, those who are affected often face financial insecurity, discrimination, and struggle for their substance." **[77b]**

The report continues: "3.8 million children have lost one parent due to HIV/AIDS (among other illnesses) and there are more than 1.2 million orphans in Ethiopia. Traditionally, these children are taken in by extended families but because of the sheer number and the economic strain, many children are no longer cared for by their extended clan. Many orphans are now found on the streets, exploited and abused or working to care for their younger siblings by any means that they have." **[77b]**

25.26 IRIN Plus News in the report 'Ethiopia: Poverty threatens efforts to stop mother-to-child HIV transmission', dated 28 April 2006, states that: "Preventing HIV-positive mothers from infecting their children remains a serious challenge in conservative and improvised Ethiopia, where women are expected to breastfeed their children. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMCT) programmes advice mothers to find replacement for breast milk in order to reduce the risk of passing on the HI virus to their children through breastfeeding. However, in a country like Ethiopia, parts of which suffer from chronic food shortages, alternative food sources are often unavailable." **[9ao]**

The IRIN report continues: "According to a recent study by the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF), about 15-20 percent of infant HIV infections occur during pregnancy, 50 percent during labour and delivery, while breastfeeding accounts for a further 10 to 30 percent. Preventing transmission during pregnancy and birth involves both mother and child taking antiretroviral drugs, but stopping infection through breastfeeding means resorting to formula milk and other breast milk substitutes, an option not open to most Ethiopian mothers. Many Ethiopian women fear the consequences for refusing to breastfeed their children, which is considered an important part of their culture." **[9ao]**

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TRAFFICKING

OVERVIEW

26.01 The US State Department's 2006 Report on Trafficking in Persons states that: "Ethiopia is a source country for men, women and children trafficked for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Children and adults are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude and, to a lesser extent, for commercial sexual exploitation and labour; such as street vending. Small numbers of men are trafficked to Saudi-Arabia and the Gulf States for low - skilled forced labour. Ethiopian women are trafficked to Middle East, particularly Lebanon, for domestic servitude; other destinations include Egypt, South Africa, Sudan and

Djibouti. Small percentages of these women are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Transit countries for trafficked Ethiopians reportedly include Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Libya Somalia and Sudan." **[3j]**

The report continues: "The Government of Ethiopia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. While Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to educate migrating workers about the dangers of trafficking and detect cases of child trafficking within the country are notable, its small number of prosecutions compared to large number of investigations is a continued cause for concern." **[3j]**

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

26.02 Anti-Slavery International in the Report of the Eastern and Horn of Africa Conference on Human Trafficking and Forced Labour, dated 5-7 July 2005, notes that: "There is inadequate data on trafficking in Ethiopia. There is even less data on trafficking of children as little that is available is put together with the number of women trafficked. However, some studies point to widespread cross-border trafficking of girls and young women. For example, studies have indicated that out of thirteen girls who leave the country under the age of 18, and four out of five girls and women leaving the country are trafficked. Available information shows that the majority of victims of cross-border trafficking are from the capital, Addis Ababa, while a significant number come from the Tigray, Oromia and Amhara regions." **[82]**

The report continues: "The victims are recruited with promises of employment abroad, marriage to a foreigner and lured of a 'better life' overseas. The traffickers charge between one to seven thousands Ethiopian Birr per person and usually recruit from schools, colleges and villages. Events such as the Muslim pilgrimages, Hajji and Oumra, are used as opportunities to move young women and girls to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries under the pretext of attending the religious ceremonies." **[82]**

The report further continues: "The traffickers involved here range from local brokers, relatives, and family members to friends of victims. Returnees also play an important role in luring potential victims into agreeing to travel with promises of a 'better life' in countries of destination. Many of the returnees are also involved in trafficking by working in collaboration with tour operators and travel agencies. Some of the challenges faced by NGOs in the fights against human trafficking in Ethiopia include weak legislation, poor enforcement and inadequate support by the Government in tackling the problem. In addition, low knowledge levels, inadequate capacity as well as resource constraints hinder a holistic approach in addressing the problem of human trafficking and forced labour in the country." **[82]**

26.03 The UNICEF report 'Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children in Africa 2005', states that: "Even if Ethiopian women wish to migrate for work purposes, many of them become victims of trafficking, lured by false promises of good jobs, high salaries and easy life. There have been many reports of abuse of Ethiopian migrant women recruited for domestic work in the Middle East and Gulf States. They find themselves abroad in very exploitative situations where they are abused and ill-treated in working

conditions comparable to modern day slavery. In this context, when a woman reaches her destination, the employer of the agent from the employment agency permanently withholds her travel papers and official documents, undermining her basic human right to free movement. The Private Employment Agency Proclamation 104/1998 aims at regulating all employment service entities and particularly at protecting the rights, safety and dignity of Ethiopians employed and sent abroad, with aggravated penalties for abuses of human rights and physical integrity of workers." **[28e]**

"The proclamation states that:

a licence is required for any person who wishes to set up a private employment agency.
This agency must prepare a formal contract of employment and submit it to the authorities.

If the agency is providing services for hiring and sending workers abroad, the agency must fulfil the additional obligations:

ensure that the employment contract fulfils the minimum working conditions set in Ethiopian law;
be responsible for ensuring the rights, safety and dignity of worker
have a branch office or representative in the receiving country
provide orientation for the worker before he or she is sent abroad, concerning the work and the country
notify the nearest Ethiopian Embassy of the worker's presence
deposit guarantee funds in a recognized financial institution; US$30,000 if up to 500 workers can be placed by the agency, US$ 490,000 for between 500-1,000 workers and US$ 50,000 for more than 1,000 workers." **[28e]**

The UNICEF report further continues: "Presently only one private employment agency for sending migrant workers to Lebanon has legal recognition. This concerns very few of all the potential candidates. Even if the immigration authorities did not issue visas for other migrant workers to Lebanon, this does not mean that trafficking would be stopped. It seems that the traffickers are using neighbouring countries like Tanzania and Kenya as transit countries for Ethiopian women to the Middle East and Gulf. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established an Inter-Ministerial National Committee in June 1999 to look into the issue of Ethiopian women who are being trafficked to the Gulf States and Lebanon. IOM is supporting the government initiatives. Since the beginning of 2003, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has taken over the responsibility of the Inter-Ministerial National Committee." **[28e]**

26.04 The Forced Migration Organisation Research Guide on Trafficking of Young Girls and Women in Ethiopia, accessed 7 August 2006, states that: "Weakness in the Ethiopian legal structure has further exposed women to exploitation. The Ethiopian Penal Code defines trafficking in 'women, infants and young persons' narrowly without considering other forms of trafficking. According to the Article 605 of the Penal Code, the term trafficker refers to a person who transports women, infants and young people out of the country illegally by enticing them or otherwise inducing them to engage in prostitution. Labour trafficking, which does not fall under the 'prostitution' category, is thus not given due attention and cannot be formulated and the government of Ethiopia is now engaging in various endeavours to protect the rights of its

citizens in the Diaspora. In this regards, the Private Employment Agency Proclamation No 104/1998 was a step forward. The Ethiopian government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also created the General Directorate in charge of Ethiopian Expatriates Affairs in January 2002. Through this body, Ethiopian migrants are encouraged to return, participate in national affairs, mobilize the Ethiopian community abroad, conduct researchers, etc." **[83]**

The FMO report continues: "Another major obstacle to monitoring the well-being of the trafficked women is their change in identity. Almost all the women migrants to Middle - Eastern countries with Christian names tend to change their names to Muslim names to facilitate the visa process. However, this poses a great challenge for the Ethiopian government to trace migrants as they have two identities." **[83]**

26.05 The US State Department's 2003 Report on Human Rights noted that:

"There was a network of persons in Addis Ababa based in the tourism and trade sectors who were heavily involved in soliciting potential clients, recruiting young girls, arranging travel, and fabricating counterfeit work permits, travel documents, and birth certificates. There were reports from the EWLA [Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association] that some domestic workers abroad were subjected to abusive conditions, including sexual exploitation. In addition, the employers of domestic labourers sometimes seized passports, failed to pay salaries, and overworked their employees. Some domestics were forced to work for their employers' relatives without additional pay. Domestics were forced to pay a monetary penalty for leaving their employment early." **[3c] (p29)**

TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

26.06 US State Department's 2003 Report on Human Rights noted that: "There were occasional reports that children were trafficked out of the country, including unconfirmed reports that children from the south were transported into Kenya by traffickers operating adoption rings, and adopted as other nationalities." **[3a] (p18)**

26.07 IRIN news reported on 20 October 2005 that the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) had announced the launch of a campaign against child trafficking, stating:

"Dubbed 'Ethiopia's Campaign for Vulnerable Children', the campaign encourages candidates running in local elections scheduled for early 2006 to push the issue onto the agenda….A legal expert with the IOM's counter trafficking unit in Addis Ababa, Alem Brook, said internal trafficking of children in Ethiopia was one of the highest in the world….The IOM warned that thousands of Ethiopian women were also trafficked abroad. At least 10,000 have been sent to the Gulf States to work as prostitutes, the agency said. 'There are increasing numbers of young women being recruited from here for sexual purposes,' Alem said. Traffickers in Ethiopia expect to earn around 7,000 birr (around $800) for each victim they send overseas, she added. However, if caught, they are liable to 20 years imprisonment but few are ever prosecuted." **[9ai]**

26.08 IRIN news reported in an article on 20 October 2005 that:

"Ethiopian children are being sold for as little as US $1.20 to work as domestic workers or prostitutes, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said. Up to 20,000 children, some 10 years old, are sold each year by their parents and trafficked by unscrupulous brokers to work in cities across Ethiopia, the IOM added…. Around two-thirds of the children are trafficked by brokers who take a percentage of the child's earnings, while one-third are trafficked by friends and family." **[9y]**

26.09 ReliefWeb reported in an article, provided by Voice of America (VOA) on 26 May 2005, that: "There is no official statistics for how many children are trafficked each year in Ethiopia, but according to estimates from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) the number could be in tens of thousands. IOM's country program coordinator, Yitna Getachew, says unlike some countries where organised crime or criminal gangs are behind child trafficking activities, traffickers in Ethiopia are mostly small-time middlemen who prey on poor, desperate families in rural areas." **[85]**

The report continues: "Brokers go into the rural areas and then deceive children; tell them that they will take them to big cities where they will have education, better life, and they sort of kidnap them and take them to the next big city where there are bus stations, and then bring them to Addis here,' said Mr Getachew at IOM. 'But sometimes, arrangements are made with parents. They tell the parents that they could take the child to a city and place them with a good family where they would be cared for." **[85]**

The report further continues: "To circumvent an Ethiopian law which regulates issuing passports for children under 18, brokers regularly falsify birth certificates, identity cards and, other documents. The brokers tell the girls that once they arrive to their destinations, they will be working as maids and nannies. But 'buyers' often force many of the girls into prostitution or sexually abuse them at home." **[85]**

The report also states that: "The International Organisation for Migration say the majority of child trafficking in Ethiopia occurs within its own borders. Many young boys from rural villages end up in Addis Ababa where they are put to work, weaving popular white Ethiopian dresses called '*shembas*'. The boys are forced to work more than 10 hours a day and are barely given enough to eat. Those who cannot perform their jobs are simply abandoned in the streets. For young girls, Mr Yitnart, IOM, says work for them usually means toiling as domestic servants. 'Most of them work more than 11 hours a day,' he said. The average pay is about 18 birr a month, which is just a little less than £2. Very few attend school. Even if they attend school, they do not have enough time to do their studying. The are beaten, sexually abused, not by the employers, but by the employer's children." **[85]**

PROTECTION AND SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

26.10 The US State Department's 2005 Report on Human Rights also noted that:

"The government provided little assistance to trafficked victims who returned to the country. EWLA (Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association) provided limited legal assistance to such victims. The federal police's Women's Affairs Bureau, in collaboration with the media, continued to implement a public

awareness program on the dangers of migrating to Middle Eastern countries. The Children, Youth, and Family Affairs Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs chaired the National Steering Committee Against Sexual Exploitation of Children. There were some government initiatives during the year to combat trafficking, including government consultation with IOM." **[3a] (p18)**

26.11 The US Department of State 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report notes that: "The Government provided limited assistance to trafficking victims over the last year. The child protection unit in each Addis Ababa police station collected information on rescued trafficked children to facilitate their return to their families; it also referred 262 girls to an NGO for care pending transport home. The Ethiopian consulates in Beirut and Dubai dispensed limited legal advice for trafficking victims and provided temporary shelter for victims awaiting funds to pay off aggrieved employers for their freedom. In 2005 MOSLA investigated 52 complaints filed by returnees and families of aggrieved employees by verfying employment agencies' reporting through the Ethiopian missions abroad: 45 complaints were determined to be unfounded, four were amicably resolved, and legal proceedings for contract violations began against labour migration agencies in three cases. Government authorities made no effort to interview returned victims about their experiences in the Middle East." **[3j]**

26.12 IRIN news reported on 29 June 2004:

"The first-ever centre to help victims of trafficking opened in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on Tuesday. It will offer support to the estimated 40,000 women and girls believed to be victims of trafficking, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)….The women will be offered shelter, medical assistance and psychosocial counselling at the US $412,000 centre, which was funded by the US Agency for International Development….The Meraf (Amharic for New Chapter) Centre, which will accommodate up to 12 victims of trafficking at a time, is run by a local NGO, the Good Samaritan Association." **[9z]**

INTERNAL TRAFFICKING

26.13 The US State Department's 2004 Report on Human Rights notes that:

"The law prohibits trafficking in persons; however, there were numerous reports that persons were trafficked to, from, and within the country. Child prostitution was a problem; particularly in urban areas….NGOs reported that impoverished girls as young as age 11 were recruited to work in houses of prostitution where they were kept uninformed of the risks of HIV/AIDS infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. A 2003 Family Health International Report indicated that customers targeted younger girls because they were believed to be free of sexually transmitted diseases." **[3b] (p18)**

ANTI–TRAFFICKING ACTION

26.14 The US State Department 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report states that: "The Ethiopian Government's law enforcement response to trafficking improved in 2005. In May, the government enacted a new penal code with improved anti-trafficking language that criminalizes most forms of human trafficking. Working with a local NGO, police monitored five key towns for possible trafficking. At

security checkpoints throughout the country, the Immigration Authority verified the legality of the migrants' travel documents. Border guards on the Bossasso route reported mass movements towards Somalia; the guards stopped travellers without proper documentation and issued warning about the dangers of irregular migration. In 2005, 520 cases of child trafficking were reported, eight of which remained under investigation at year's end. Police referred 38 cases to prosecutor's office: by the close of the reporting period, two resulted in conviction, 18 were pending prosecution, and 18 were closed for lack of evidence or because the defendant absconded. The low conviction rate for trafficking cases serves as a poor deterrent to traffickers, who can operate with relative impunity. In late 2005, police officers assigned to anti-child trafficking units in Addis Ababa were transferred from those duties to deal with recurring street disturbances. The Ministry of Labour (MOLSA), in cooperation with the Airport Immigration Authority, prevented an unspecified number of labour migrants without valid employment contracts from departing for the Middle East." **[3j]**

26.15 The Trafficking in Persons report continues: "Ethiopia's efforts to prevent internal trafficking increased, but measures to increase awareness of internal trafficking were lacking. During the past year, the government tightened its implementation of foreign employment regulations, resulting in a trafficking route shift; more Ethiopian victims are reportedly transiting neighbouring countries rather than flying directly out of the main airport. The Immigration Authority continued to provide printed information on trafficking to those applying for passports and required applicants to view a video on the dangers of human trafficking. MOLSA supervised the work of legal labour migration agencies through surprise inspections and required biweekly reports. In 2005, the number of registered agencies rose from five to 17, facilitating the travel of 6,200 workers to six countries. MOSLA, in conjunction with Ethiopian consulates in the Middle East, approved foreign labour contracts for an additional 1,345 workers; many Ethiopians still continue to seek international employment through black market channels. The inter-ministerial anti-trafficking convened regularly, but its activities were not disclosed." **[3j]**

26.16 The Protection Project of the Johns Hopkins University, accessed on 8 August 2006, reports on Ethiopia as follows: "The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association is nongovernmental organisation (NGO) that has done a great service in combating trafficking by hearing complaints of trafficking victims. On 13 June 2006, to mark the World Day against Child Labour, the local offices of the International Labour Organisation, UNICEF, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), as well as the Ethiopian Government, aired messages through various mass media channels to raise awareness about the dangers of child labour and trafficking. The IOM has taken several steps to prevent trafficking problem. For example, it has implemented an awareness campaign that targets girls around the age of 16, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking when they search for employment. Through radio and other media, the campaign teaches these girls about legal migration and warns them about the dangers of trafficking." **[84]**

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MEDICAL ISSUES

OVERVIEW

27.01 Vital indicators: The 'crude' death rate is estimated by different sources to be 14.8 per 1,000 population, about double that of Kenya and second only to Uganda in eastern Africa. Life expectancy at birth (LEB) of males and females is 49.7 years and 52.4 years respectively. The infant mortality rate (IMR) is estimated at 105 per 1,000 live births while the child mortality rate (CMR) is 172 deaths per 1,000. The maternal mortality rate (MMR) is estimated at 500–700 per 100,000. (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

27.02 Burden of disease: The total burden of disease, as measured by premature death from all causes, is approximately 350 deaths per year (D/Ys) lost per 1,000 population. Ethiopia's burden of disease is significantly higher than in neighbouring Kenya (estimated at 170 D/Ys lost per 1,000 population) and in East Africa as a whole (which has a burden of disease of 280 D/Yes lost per 1,000 population). (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

27.03 Ethiopia's burden of disease is dominated by pre-natal and maternal conditions and by acute respiratory infection (ARI), followed by malaria, nutritional deficiency, diarrhoea and AIDS. Indeed, the top ten causes of mortality account for 74 per cent of all deaths and 81 per cent of D/Yes lost. Diseases that affect children under the age of 5 years (ARI, diarrhoea, nutritional deficiencies and measles) account for 33 per cent of deaths. Although largely preventable, childhood and maternal illnesses and communicable diseases are the major causes of death in Ethiopia (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL TREATMENT AND DRUGS

27.04 Health service coverage: The overall level of health service coverage is estimated to be approximately 45 per cent. The actual coverage estimates for the individual programmes are very low. (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

27.05 The major reasons for the poor coverage of health services in Ethiopia are the limited physical access of the population to health facilities and staff, as illustrated by the facility to population ratio. Currently, health facilities for a population of some 58 million people comprise 89 hospitals, 191 health centres, 1,175 health posts and 2,515 health stations. The available health care facilities are also unevenly distributed across regions. (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

27.06 Health service utilisation: Total outpatient utilisation of government health facilities in Ethiopia suggests that, on average, there are about 0.25 visits per person per year. A household survey on health care utilisation found that only 10 per cent of persons reporting illness actually obtained treatment for their conditions from any health facility, government or private. Utilisation by the rural population (9.5 percent), as compared to 14 per cent in urban areas, is lower than the national average. (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICES

27.07 Health services quality has been compromised by inadequate and poorly maintained infrastructure and equipment, scarcity of trained health personnel, and the unavailability of drugs and pharmaceutical supplies. (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

27.08 An estimated 20,000 health care workers provide services in Ethiopia, the vast majority through the public sector. Not only are the ratios of health personnel to population substantially less than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa, but the situation is worsened by the fact that a considerable number of staff (one-third of doctors and one-sixth of nurses) work in Addis Ababa where about 4 per cent of the country's population live. (Ethiopian Embassy) **[5c]**

27.09 Medicines Sans Frontiers reported an outbreak of meningitis in the Welayita region of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region in a press article of 20 February 2006. "In four weeks, the total number of cases reached 89 (including 13 deaths) in Kendo Kocha and 52 (three deaths) in Boloro Sore…. A vaccination campaign was initiated with the Ministry of Health targeting more than 200,000 people (everyone between the ages of 2 and 30 not previously vaccinated)." **[25a]**

TUBERCULOSIS

27.10 A Médecins Sans Frontières article dated 5 December 2005 about treating TB patients in the middle of the desert stated that:

"MSF is working in Ethiopia's desolate Afar region to treat nomads who are suffering from TB. As herders, the Afars move their animals every three or four months in search of good grazing areas and adequate water. The region's only health facilities are found mostly in towns along the main roads, far from the Afar's pasture land and water sites. The area's remoteness makes it difficult for the Afar to access TB treatment and adhere to the requirements of standard treatment….Most patients diagnosed with TB must travel daily to a health clinic to receive and be observed taking their medicines." **[25b]**

27.11 The Earth Institute at Columbia University together with Centre for National Health Development in Ethiopia reports in an article 'Ethiopia: Tuberculosis' that: "Ethiopia is one of the top sixteen countries in the world, and one of the top three in Africa, with regards to the number of tuberculosis (TB) patients. Over a third of population has been exposed to TB. The Annual Risk of TB Infection (ARTI) is at 2.2%. An estimated 337,030 Ethiopians (0.62% of the population) have active TB of all kinds, with more than 120,000 new cases in the last year (2003/04), nearly a third of which having smear-positive TB. According to the Ministry of Health hospital statistics data, tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of morbidity, the fourth cause of hospital admission, and the second cause of hospital death in Ethiopia. Nearly a third of all TB cases are fatal, killing over 42,000 people in Ethiopia this year, excluding those who had HIV/AIDS. Social and biological factors that have aggravated the problem in Ethiopia include recurrent famine and widespread poverty that leads to severe malnutrition." **[88a]**

The report further continues: "One of the obstacles to providing tuberculosis testing and treatment in Ethiopia is the fact that about half the population of Ethiopia lives more than 10 kilometres from health facility, usually in regions

with poor transport. Ethiopia has implemented the internationally recommended approach to TB control DOTS. DOTS have been delivered to all districts in Ethiopia, and are being implemented in 119 hospitals, 519 health centres and 114 health stations across the country. According to Ministry of Health documents, of all TB case incidences in 2003, 54,000 test sero-positive for HIV. In newly diagnosed TB patients, HIV co-infection occurs over 40% of the time. The incidence of co-infection is significant, and will rise over time, as the 25 million TB-infected people (1/3 of the population) continue to interact with the 1.5 million HIV/AIDS-infected group." **[88a]**

TRADITIONAL HEALING OF TUBERCULOSIS

27.12 EthnoMed in an article 'Ethiopian Tuberculosis Cultural Profile', dated April 2006, notes that: "Traditional medicines are believed to work depending on the healer's capabilities and specialties, and some very skilled healers have wide following. There are licensed traditional practices in Ethiopia. Traditional healers have been known to recommend abstinence for saving a person's strength during illness, including TB." **[89]**

The article continues: "Tasma is a special honey used for healing, made by insects and gathered from soil. It is liquid, dark in colour and thick like syrup. Tasma is used to treat coughing, including TB coughing, to make a person feel better. Nutritional treatments include diets especially rich in protein and fats — eggs, meat and butter." **[89]**

ISOLATION AND STIGMA OF TUBERCULOSIS

27.13 EthnoMed in an article 'Ethiopian Tuberculosis Cultural Profile', dated April 2006, notes that: "There is a heavy stigma associated with having TB and the consequent isolation. The sick are isolated and, for most part, outcast. People avoid people with TB. In rural Ethiopia, neighbours isolate patients with TB. The community makes a fence around the family's house. People deliver water and food to the fence. Fencing a whole neighbourhood or village (4-5 houses) also occurs. The stigma of social isolation lingers even after treatment is completed. Both the community and the individual are deeply challenged to move beyond the social stigma. The isolation and stigma is a powerful blow for Ethiopians whose cultural identity is strongly linked with community participation and connectivity." **[89]**

MALARIA

27.14 The Earth Institute at Columbia University together with Centre for National Health Development in Ethiopia reports in an article 'Ethiopia: Malaria', accessed on 9 August 2006, that: "Malaria stands as the leading cause of morbidity in Ethiopia, where nearly 48 million people live in malaria risk areas. Three quarters of Ethiopia's total landmass is regarded as malarious. Areas with an altitude of above 2300mts above sea level are generally free of malaria. The capital Addis Ababa at an elevation of about 2400mts is malaria free. More than 4 million clinical cases are reported yearly from health facilities and communities, reflecting the magnitude of problem. Climatic changes, recurrent drought, large-scale population movement; and wide spread of multi-drug resistant falciparum malaria are some of the major factors that contribute to the worsening malaria situation." **[88b]**

The report continues: "Clinical malaria accounts for 10-40% of all outpatient consultations, with corresponding proportional morbidity among children under 5 years being 10%-20%. An average of 4-6 hundred thousand confirmed malaria cases are treated every year. Clinical cases in areas where no microscopes are available is estimated at 3-4 folds. In addition, a significant number of people do not have access to health services. Therefore, the overall annual number of malaria cases is estimated 4-5 million. Malaria also accounts for 13%-26% of all inpatient admissions in the various health facilities; it remains a major cause of mortality, with proportional mortality rates of 13%-35% in health facilities. Generally, it accounts for 30% of the disease burden in all age groups." **[88b]**

The report further continues: "Chemical spray of houses is done just before the transmission season to prevent epidemics and check seasonal peaks. Some chemicals such as DDT are strictly used for indoor spraying of houses and all necessary precautions are made to prevent contamination of the outdoor environment by these chemicals. Organophosphates use is limited to areas where DDT resistance vectors are detected. Insecticide threaded nets (ITNs) are now widely used for personal protection against malaria. Currently, ITNs are provided at highly subsidized price or free of charge, to population groups at higher risk such as non immune settler moving to malaria endemic areas, children under five and pregnant women living in malaria risk areas. However, ITNs are also available through other commercial and social marketing channels, and people living with malaria risk are encouraged to use one." **[88b]**

The report concludes: "Following the Abuja declaration on Roll Back Malaria (RBM), the government has committed to reduce malaria in half by the year 2010 by implementing the strategies of RBM. Since then, the government has carried out a situational analysis, identified priorities, and developed a five0year strategic plan that has been underway since 2001. Intensive malaria control efforts are ongoing in Ethiopia using several core intervention strategies, including prevention, treatment and research & development. Examples include government to spray homes of high-risk populations with insecticide, and to provide free malaria drugs to patients. In addition, the Government continues to engage local partners in productive relationships to undertake integrated anti-malaria interventions. The Government continues to engage to local and international partners in productive relationships to support integrated antimalaria interventions, while it covers the cost of scaling up the procurement and application of indoor residual insecticides for malaria prevention. Current malaria prevention and control initiatives have been supported through funds allocated in second round of the Global Fund to fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria in August 2003, which amount to 76.8 million USD." **[88b]**

IMMUNISATION

27.15 The Word Health Organisation has reported in an article 'WHO supporting Ethiopia with introduction of new childhood vaccines', dated 10 February 2006, that: "Life saving vaccines against hepatitis B (Hep B) and Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) will soon be introduced in Ethiopia. As early as July 2006 vaccination against Hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type b will be included in to the routine vaccination series along with vaccines to prevent

tuberculosis (BCG), diphtheria, pertusis and tetanus (DPT), measles, and polio OPV. Hep B and Hib vaccines will be provided along with DPT in a single injection. This combination vaccine of DPT-HebB-hib will be provided to unvaccinated children less than one year of age. Ideally the vaccine should be administered at 6, 10, and 14 weeks of age." **[26k]**

The report continues: "Acute viral hepatitis, chronic viral hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer) account for 12% of hospital admissions and 31% of hospital mortality on medical wards in Ethiopia. Haemophilus influenza type b is also a serious threat to Ethiopian children. Hib is the predominant cause of meningitis and pneumonia among children in Ethiopia. The Ministry of Health (MoH) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia with the support of the WHO Country Office has been exerting efforts to gain support to avail these vaccines to Ethiopian children. To this end, over the last two years steps have been taken to assess the burden of morbidity and mortality posed by Hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenza type b." **[26k]**

POLIO

27.16 The World Health Organisation reported on a two-round polio vaccination campaign in October and November 2005 which reached 15.5 million children under five in all parts of Ethiopia. More than 100,000 volunteers and health workers participated in the campaign. **[26a]** WHO reported on 13 January 2006 that: "Additional rounds of polio vaccination campaigns will be necessary after the recent identification of three children who were found to be infected with wild poliovirus in East Harerghe Zone of Oromia Region. Symptom onset ranged between 12 October and 6 December 2005. Unfortunately, the most recent case had symptom onset after the November National Immunization Days vaccination campaign. This indicates that wild poliovirus has managed to continue circulation in the area, despite the recent campaigns. Therefore, at least two more wide scale campaigns will be necessary to ensure interruption of the poliovirus." **[26b]**

27.17 The World Health Organisation reported in an article 'Polio, Measles and MNTE activities', accessed on 8 August 2006, that: "In line with the national commitment towards eradication of polio, the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Ethiopia has been consistently conducting immunisation campaigns since 1996 with the support of partner organisations, including the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JIA), the Government of Japan, Rotary International, the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organisation (WHO) Unicef." **[28c]**

MEASLES

27.18 The World Health Organisation has also reported that: "Measles is one of the leading causes of childhood deaths in Ethiopia. A measles immunisation and Vitamin A supplementation campaign is being conducted since 1998 in selected areas of the country. A total of 20 million children received measles immunisation and supplemented with vitamin A capsule between December 2002 and December 2003. Similarly Measles and Vitamin A campaign has been conducted targeting 6 months to 14 years of age for measles and targeting 6 - 59 months for Vitamin A 2004." **[86]**

27.19 Measles Initiative reports that: "In October 2003, the Ethiopian Red Cross worked with Ministry of Health, national authorities, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, and other members of the global Measles Initiative in a massive effort to vaccinate children under 15 against measles. More than 300 Red Cross Volunteers in districts east and west of the capital of Ethiopia, Addis [sic] were successful of reaching 179,000 children from the more isolated parts of these districts. A total of 9 million children were vaccinated across the country. In April 3-7, 2006 Measles Initiative prepared targeted vaccinations for 4,450,897 under five years' olds." **[86]**

27.20 The American Red Cross in the article 'Modernity and Tradition Unite Against the Measles in Ethiopia', dated 3 November 2003, explains that: "Convincing people to get their children immunized should be a simple exercise. But often, volunteers and social workers face enormous obstacles in convincing parents that it is responsible decision. Last year, a similar immunisation campaign was aimed at vaccinating farmer's cattle in the same region. 'Some of the animals were obviously ill when they received the injection. Several died shortly after. The population was quick to associate the death of the animals to vaccination process,' explains Dr. Tisanes Belay, head of the Ministry of Health's family health department. 'It was extremely difficult for health workers to explain the situation to confused parents who refused to bring their children to vaccination calls.' In other areas, people were more receptive to the measles injection. 'Comprising a few drops administered orally, the polio vaccine does not convince all parents that it is a serious medical practice. So when the volunteers tell them that for measles their children will get an injection, parents usually have more favourable attitude', says Dr. Solomon Fisseha, program coordinator of the Ethiopian Red Cross." **[87]**

The article continues: "Quite often, traditional healers — whose opinion is well respected in a country where the national health system covers less than 50 percent of the population — spread unfounded rumours and encourage people to ignore appeals for vaccination." **[87]**

KALA AZAR

27.21 Médecins Sans Frontières reported in an article 'Better access to treatment for Ethiopian kala-azar patients', dated 6 March 2006, that: "Patients in Ethiopia suffering from the deadly tropical disease kala-azar will get better access to medical care. The Ethiopian authorities have approved a national treatment guideline, a significant step in tackling this forgotten disease. The Federal Ministry of Health outlined its intention to establish six treatment centres within the next six months and to undertake training across the country." **[25f]**

The report continues: "Kala-azar (also known as visceral leishmaniasis) had been a neglected disease in Ethiopia with minimal treatment programmes available. Up until the bulk of the kala-azar patients were dependent on Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) or research institutions for medical care. MSF has treated more than 9,300 patients since the start of its kala-azar programmes in 1997." **[25f]**

27.22 Médecins Sans Frontières reported on 28 October 2005 that:

"The MSF project in Humera is the only programme in Ethiopia, and one of very few in the world which is treating people co-infected with Kala azar and HIV….The disease tends to develop in people living in poor and rural regions, especially those whose immune systems have already been weakened by malnutrition or other diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS. If left untreated, close to 95% of those who contract kala azar die." **[25c]**

27.23 On 27 June 2005 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that: "A severe outbreak of kala azar, a rare and fatal disease, has struck the region of Amhara, northwest Ethiopia. In the small rural community of Bura (pop: 6,000) more than 150 people have died and over 230 infected persons have already been recorded." **[25d]**

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

27.24 ORBIS, an organisation dedicated to saving sight worldwide, stated:

"Nearly one million Ethiopians are blind and an estimated three to four million adults and children are visually impaired. The main causes of blindness in Ethiopia are cataract, trachoma, glaucoma and corneal opacities. Services for uncorrected refractive error, another major cause of visual impairment, are almost totally non-existent there. The available eye care personnel in Ethiopia are: 76 ophthalmologists, four cataract surgeons, 93 ophthalmic nurses and ophthalmic medical assistants and 258 eye care workers. The ophthalmologist/population ratio is approximately 1:1 million nationally. However, the ratio is one ophthalmologist to approximately five million people in rural areas. There is just one training institute (Department of Ophthalmology, Medical Faculty, Addis Ababa University), which graduates only three or four ophthalmologists per year, and there are just two ophthalmic nurse training schools." **[27a]**

27.25 ORBIS further stated in an article about fighting blindness with Zithromax, accessed on 25 January 2006, that: "In the Gurage Zone of central Ethiopia ORBIS has had great success in combating Trachoma. This year, our rural community health agents administered the antibiotic Zithromax to 200,000 people, a 14% increase on last year….One single oral dose of Zithromax clears the infection and thus prevents the scarring that leads to trichiasis." **[27b]**

HEART DISEASE

Adults

27.26 IRIN news, stated in an article on 11 August 2003 that:

"Ethiopia is to build its first ever state of the art cardiac centre to tackle 'rampant' heart disease in the country. Dr Belay Abegazm the country's only paediatric heart surgeon, told IRIN on Monday that the first operations could begin as early as next year. Heart disease is a major killer in Ethiopia and is compounded by massive overcrowding in urban centres. Dr Belay estimated that as many as 200,000 new cases of heart disease occur each year in the country…There are currently less than 10 surgeons who can perform heart operations in the country – and Dr Belay is the only doctor able to operate on children. He said the centre, which is being supported by Addis Ababa

University, would also act as a training institute and at least one or two operations could be carried out a day." **[9s]**

Children

27.27 The Children's Heart Fund of Ethiopia has reported in the Sector Review, accessed on 6 September 2006, that: "Heart Diseases are prevalent among Ethiopian children. Congenital Heart Disease occur as much as they do elsewhere, the incidence of which is believed to be between 6 to 8 live birth. Rheumatic Heart Diseases are in particularly among the commonest among Ethiopian children, a case which is true in other underdeveloped countries. The low socio-economic status of the mass of population and overcrowding are some of the known factors which lead to streptococcal throat infection, the rise of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart diseases. Studies showed that 15% of the 4 million children between the ages of 5 to 15 years are at risk of developing streptococcus throat infection on the average twice in one year. Thus, Ethiopia, with 3% attack rate of rheumatic fever about in 120,000 children are estimated to develop rheumatic fever every year." **[90]**

The report continues: "The young and productive stratums of the population are at high risk of developing rheumatic heart diseases. Patients die at early age as a result of complications such as intractable congestive heart failure and arrhythmia, in the absence of surgical management of alveolar lesions." **[90]**

MALNUTRITION

27.28 UNICEF states in a press release dated 11 May 2004:

"UNICEF has funded the training of trainers (TOT) for more than 100 health professionals at three Ethiopian medical schools so that they can train their peers in the treatment and management of severely malnourished children. Since the beginning of this year, 41 nurses, 12 doctors and 54 medical interns have been provided training based on the national protocol at Addis Ababa, Gondar and Jimma Universities. Therapeutic feeding units (TFUs), which have been set up at the hospitals with UNICEF support including therapeutic feeding products and basic equipment, were used to give the participants practical hands on experience dealing with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases." **[28a]**

27.29 UNICEF Ethiopia reports in an article 'Nutrition', accessed 8 on August 2006, that: "UNICEF promoted capacity building in treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) through the medical universities. The objective is for the Universities to include the management of SAM into the student's curricula. UNICEF supported the university hospitals for the establishment of TFU that serves for practical sessions. UNICEF plans to assist the MoH in the future training of more regional health workers with the goal of integrating the protocol into routine health care treatment and establishing additional TFUs. Health facilities will be equipped to deal with malnutrition patients, including screening for and recording statistics on malnutrition. Future training sessions will ensure the continued build up of more trainers of trainers (TOT) well as rapid response teams to deal with time crisis. As a recovery programme, UNICEF has launched the 'Enhanced Outreach Strategy for Child Survival Intervention (EOS)'. This is a three years project bridging towards the

government's initiative called the Health Extension Package (HEP). The target population is 6,779,867 children from 6 to 59 months living the 325 most food insecure *woredas* in the country. The overall objective is to enhance child survival by reducing mortality and morbidity in children under 5 years of age." **[28d]**

The UNICEF Ethiopia report further continues: "The specific objectives are at least 90% of children 6-59 months given vitamin A 6 months in targeted *woredas*; ensure access twice a year by children 6-59 months to the following key child survival interventions in the targeted woredas; de-worming; screening for acute malnutrition and referral to the nearest feeding centre when appropriate; social mobilisation for routine immunisation and immunisation against measles for children under one year old; information, education and communication (IEC) on infant and young child feeding; promoting of hand washing and HIV/AIDS prevention. In April 2004, EOS project was piloted in 14 woredas of SNNPR, followed by the remaining 40 targeted woredas in June 2004. IDD is a public health problem in Ethiopia. In 2003 progress was made toward increasing population access to iodized salt by the training of 18 salt producing companies and quality control laboratory technicians located in 4 regions on salt iodization. Agreements were signed between the Ministry Of Health and Ethiopian salt producing companies and machines were distributed." **[28d]**

HIV/AIDS – ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT

27.30 The World Health Organisation reported that:

"Available evidence suggests that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia started in the early 1980's. The first two positive samples were retrospectively detected from samples collected in 1984 for other research. The first two AIDS cases were officially reported from Addis Ababa in 1986. Based on recent sentinel surveillance data, the national adult prevalence rate is estimated at 6.6%. Rural prevalence is much lower than urban prevalence (3.7% and 13.7%, respectively). The number of reported AIDS cases stands at 130,000 as of September 2003. In the lower age groups (15–29) more females than males are affected. There are an estimated 1.2 million AIDS orphans in the country." **[26d]**

27.31 UNICEF the United Nations Children's Fund, noted that:

"Ethiopia is one of the countries in the world most severely-affected by HIV/AIDS: 7.3 per cent of the adult population is infected and an estimated 2.2 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, including 200,000 children. This has reduced family and community cohesion, disrupting the traditional patterns of protection and care and placing children and women at heightened risk of trauma and exploitation. The drought may accelerate the transmission of HIV/AIDS given the population movements, potential for increased sexual violence and sex work as a survival strategy." **[29b]**

Transmission

27.32 The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) published a Report in February 2005 titled 'The Human Financial Resource Requirements for Scaling up HIV/AIDS Services in Ethiopia'. The Report noted:

"Ethiopia is currently one of the countries most seriously affected by HIV/AIDS….It ranks sixth in the world in number of HIV infections (USAID 2003). The current national adult (15–49) HIV-prevalence estimate from sentinel surveillance sites is 4.4 percent. Approximately 1.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, 120,000 of whom are children (UNAIDS 2004). UNAIDS also estimates 120,000 adult and child deaths from AIDS in Ethiopia in 2003. Estimates from the same year indicate that the number of children orphaned by AIDS to total as high as 720,000 (UNAIDS 2004)….Heterosexual sexual transmission is responsible for most infections in Ethiopia, with the highest infection rates concentrated in females aged 15–24 years in urban areas (15 percent prevalence 2001/2002) (UNAIDS 2003). The 2002 Behavioral Surveillance Survey by Mitike, Lemma, Berhane, et al. indicates that, while knowledge of sexual transmission is widespread (98 percent), use of safe practices is low (<50 percent condom use with non-regular partner). In addition, knowledge of HIV/AIDS, including its transmission and prevention, is thought to be lower among women than men (Garbus 2003). Mother-to-child transmission contributes the second highest number of new HIV infections each year – almost 20 percent of estimated cases – a problem that may be fueled by high fertility and a tradition of breastfeeding." **[30a] (p3)**

27.33 The World Health Organisation also noted that:

"HIV transmission in Ethiopia occurs mainly through heterosexual contact. Some transmission also occurs from mother to child and through transfusion of infected blood and unsafe medical practices. With 45% of Ethiopia's population under 15 years of age, young people are especially vulnerable. Other vulnerable population groups include female sex workers, unemployed people, long-distance truck drivers, migrant workers and internally displaced populations." **[26e]**

Resources for treatment of HIV/AIDS

27.34 The World Health Organisation state that:: "Recent data suggests that Ethiopia has a critical shortage of human resources to deliver even basic health services. In 1999, the physician to population ratio in Ethiopia was 1:48,000, the lowest in the world. The current (2003) ratio of 1:34,000 is still more than five times lower than the sub-Saharan Africa average, and that of nurses (1:4,900) is more than four times lower (WHO 2004). It is vital to point out that, as HIV/AIDS services are expanded and resources shifted towards meeting HIV/AIDS targets, this may in fact have negative spin-off effects on other essential programs such as malaria, immunization, and maternal and child health." (USAID), **[30a] (p4)**

27.35 The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported on 15 July 2005:

"Today Dr Olusegun A. Babaniyi, representative of the World Health Organization to Ethiopia laid the foundation stone for the building of a youth health and recreation center at the town of Bishoftu about 40 km south east of Addis Ababa in the Oromiya Region of Ethiopia….The Center is being built with an initial outlay of birr 140,000 from the WHO/OPEC Fund Initiative. When it is completed the centre will provide HIV/AIDS education, counselling and testing (VCT) services to the youth in Bishoftu town. Reproductive health services such as control and prevention of sexually transmitted infections

(STIs) condom distribution and others will also be included. The center will also organize various youth clubs such as anti-AIDS club, drama and music troupe, indoor and out door recreational activities, etc." **[26f]**

Anti-viral treatment

27.36 Médecins Sans Frontières reported on 27 January 2004 that: "This week the international medical relief organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and the Tigray Regional Health Bureau have launched the first program of free (ARV) for HIV/AIDS patients in Ethiopia. The new ARV program is part of the commitment by the Ethiopian government and MSF to increase the availability of ARV treatment to patients in need of it." **[25e]**

The report continues: "ARV drugs have proven successful in slowing down the effects of AIDS, sometimes to the extent of virtually taking away the effects of the disease. The patient can regain a more normal life; continue to work and function in society and the family. The launch of the ARV program was marked by a dinner Saturday night in Humera, the extreme north-west corner of Ethiopia, during which Kindu, the first patient who started ARV treatment on 9 January 2004, spoke about how critically ill he had been only 17 days ago, bedridden in the Humera hospital and how he had regained his appetite after starting ARV….In addition to the new ARV-treatment program, MSF supports Humera hospital with voluntary counselling and testing services, management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), treatment of opportunistic infections for AIDS patients, a food support program for AIDS patients that visit the hospital, a program of preventive HIV/AIDS sensitization and outreach, and a program to treat kala azar. MSF hopes to open additional ARV-treatment programs in Ethiopia as soon as possible." **[25e]**

27.37 IRIN news reported on 4 August 2003 that: "Although the cost of the [ARV] drugs has dropped dramatically in recent years – in Ethiopia the monthly cost is around US $40 per person – they are still out of the reach of most. The Government is looking at two ways of ensuring greater supply and reducing the cost – by financial support from the Global Fund and through generic drugs." **[9t]**

Family Planning and HIV/AIDS

27.38 The Policy Project funded by US Agency for International Development in 'Country Analysis of Family Planning and HIV/AIDS: Ethiopia 2004', reports that: "In Ethiopia, family planning and reproductive health are integrated in almost all programs and service-delivery points. The idea of integrating HIV/AIDS with family planning, however, has become a new agenda item in Ethiopia. Yet, the organisations have thus far attempted to integrate any aspects of HIV/AIDS programming into their family planning organisations." **[64]**

The report continues: "The integral role of NGOs in Ethiopia cannot be ignored. Because of the condition of the public health sector, NGOs are the primary providers of HIV/AIDS services and support and have been critical in breaking the silence of Ethiopia's epidemic (Mbengue, 2001). More than 48 international and 55 local NGOs have been involved in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia (Meche, 2002). Some NGO, such as FGAE,

DKT and Pathfinder, have integrated HIV/AIDS with the pre-existing family planning programmes." **[64]**

The report further continues: "The public sector is the major source of family planning services in Ethiopia, followed by private sector NGOs. According to the 2000 EDHS, about 78 percent of the family planning services are provided by the public sector, 15 percent by the private sector, and the remaining 7 percent by NGOs." **[64]**

Aids Programmes and Organisations in Ethiopia

27.39 IRIN Plus News has reported in the Ethiopia Country Profile the following AIDS Programmes and Organisations in operation in Ethiopia, dated 25 February 2005:

"National Strategic Framework
Completed (2001-2005)

Ministry Of Health

National AIDS Council

HIV/AIDS Organisations:

Actionaid Ethiopia
Home-based care; orphan care; voluntary counselling and testing; PWA support

African AIDS Initiative International
Education; outreach; testing; counselling; research and support services
www.africanaidsinitiative.org

Afar Mothers and Child Care Organisation
Family Planning; care of orphans; income generating activities

Aids Resource Centre
Resource and Information centre
www.etharc.org

Care Ethiopia
Home-based care; paediatric AIDS research; voluntary counselling and testing; information education and counselling

Centro Volontari Marchiagiani
Information; education; STD control; blood safety services; education/training; clinical care; counselling

Children Aid-Ethiopia (CHAD-ET)
Children, education, PWA support

Christian Children's Fund

Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA)
www.crdaethiopia.org

Consortium of Family Planning NGOs in Ethiopia (COFAP)
Coordinating body of affiliated NGOs; training on reproductive health; prevention

Dawn of Hope
Socio-economic support; medical support; legal and human rights protection; counselling; emotional support; training on counselling; public education; community mobilisation through workshops.

Ethiopian Anti-AIDS Women Association
Condom; female condom; dental dam distribution; counselling

Family Guidance Association
Information; education; communication; condom distribution; STI diagnosis and treatment; counselling; voluntary HIV testing; treatment of opportunistic infections

Integrated Service for AIDS Prevention and Support (ISAPSO)
Training of peer educators; seminars; condom protection and distribution; development and distribution of IEC material

Mekdim HIV Positive Persons and AIDS Orphans National Association
Psychological and social support; home care; awareness raising

The MESOB HIV/AIDS Networking Project
Networking and information sharing; education

Nazreth Children's Centre and Integrated Development (NACID)
Prevention; training; IEC materials production and distribution; condom distribution; awareness training

Norwegian Church Aid
Works in partnership with local organisations and provides technical and financial assistance to allow them to deliver various services and activities to their target groups

Organisation For Social Services for AIDS (OSSA)
Umbrella NGO; information and education materials; community based care; testing and counselling; programmes for orphans; support; community economic project

Pro Pride
Health Education on HIV/AIDS and STDs; publication of monthly newspaper, brochures, posters and other IEC materials; radio sensitisation programme; drama and musical shows on HIV/AIDS; counselling services; psychosocial support of HIV/AIDS patients; voluntary counselling and testing
www.devinet.org/propride

Save Your Generation Association
Information; education; condom programming; empowerment of vulnerable groups; community economic project; advocacy

UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, Chair

Supports and expanded response and policy advice on preventing transmissions of HIV, providing care and support, reducing vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS Country Coordinator
Education/training; surveillance and research; empowerment of vulnerable groups; programmes for orphans and surviving dependants; community economic project. **[9aq]**

CANCER TREATMENT

27.40 BBC News reports in an article 'Developing world faces cancer crisis', dated 26 June 2003, that: "At least 50%-60% of cancer victims in the developing world can benefit from radiotherapy that destroys cancerous tumours, but most developing countries do not have enough radiotherapy machines or sufficient numbers of specialized doctors and other health professionals. Ethiopia, which has 60 million people, possesses just one such machine, while other developing countries have one machine for several million people." **[7y]**

27.41 The International Atomic Energy Agency has reported in an article 'Saving a mother's life: Radiotherapy offers new hope for women of child rearing age suffering cervical cancer in developing countries', accessed 7 on September 2006, that: "Ethiopia, cancer of cervix —the mouth at the entrance of the womb — is among the most common forms of cancer in women. It is usually fatal because of late detection and the lack of treatment facilities. Cervical cancer mostly affects Ethiopian women over 30 years old and peaks in the 40-45 year old age group." **[98]**

The report continues: "The Black Lion Hospital Radiotherapy Department opened in 1997. Ethiopia is the poorest country in the world to introduce radiotherapy. In its first four years the department has treated 1,300 patients and the number of patients being treated is growing steadily." **[98]**

27.42 AstraZeneca International has reported in an article 'Access to Medicines, Providing access to healthcare for everyone who needs it is one of the greatest challenges the world faces today', accessed on 14 August 2006, that: "AstraZeneca has begun a pilot project in Ethiopia that is designed to build local capacity in managing breast cancer - the second most common cancer among young women in that country. Ethiopia has only one cancer specialist for the entire population; there is no mammography; no easy access to chemotherapy or hormonal agents; no cancer screening and no national treatment protocol. In its first year, the programme focused on strengthening diagnosis and treatment capabilities at Tiky Anbessa University Hospital in Addis Ababa, (where the country's oncologist is based). This included the provision of mammography machine, the introduction of receptor tests, and the development of guidelines of diagnosis, treatment and palliative care. Astra Zeneca's breast cancer medicines are also being made available. This is the first project of its kind, and is still only in its early stages." **[93]**

MENTAL HEALTH

Overview

27.43 *The Ethiopian Herald* has reported in an article, 'Ethiopia: National Mental Health Policy Designed', dated 1 August 2006, that: "The Ministry of Health said a national mental health policy has been designed with a view to enhancing productivity of citizens. Over 13 million people in the country are exposed to mental disorder. While opening a two-day workshop in Adama town yesterday to develop the mental health policy, State Minister of Health Dr. Kebede Worku said mental health is the foundation to realize growth and development through enhancing citizens' productivity."

The report continues: "Accordingly, the government has designed the national mental health policy in a bid to attain the development objectives of the country through protecting the mental health of citizens, Dr Kebede said. The policy would also contribute for the human development strategy of the country, he said. The government has been exerting efforts to strengthen the mental health centres and has established in 53 health institutions in all states of the country since 1987 E.C., he said." **[91a]**

27.44 The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that:

"Mental Health is one of the most disadvantaged health programs in Ethiopia, both in terms of facilities and trained manpower. The average prevalence of mental disorders in Ethiopia is 15% for adults and 11% for children. The psychiatrist-to-population ratio for Ethiopia is 1:6 million. The only institutions that provide psychiatric services by specialist doctors are found in Addis Ababa; actually inpatient service is provided only at two hospitals. During the last decade, more than 150 psychiatrist nurses have been trained through WHO assistance." **[26c]**

WHO also noted in its Country Cooperation Strategy for Ethiopia, 2002–2005 that: "Mental illness is one of the health issues that has not received the attention it deserves. Health workers do recognize that mental illness is on the increase and the government and partners recently commissioned an assessment of the situation. The result, which is believed to serve as background information for the formulation of strategies for addressing mental health, is being awaited." **[26g]**

27.45 The Aemiro Tiena Kibkabe Mahber Ethiopia (Mental Health Society–Ethiopia) website indicates that it is "a non-religious, non-government and non-profit Society which aims to provide community-based support services to persons with mental illness, in particular to those people affected with schizophrenia and bipolar [sic] disorder. ATKME got its certification from the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia in August of 2003." **[29a]**

Mental Health Resources

27.46 WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005 notes that: "A mental health, substance abuse policy and national mental health programme is absent." **[26i]**

National Therapeutic Drug Policy/ Essential list of Drugs

27.47 WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005 notes: "A national therapeutic drug policy/essential list of drugs is present. Details about the year of formulation are not available. Shortage of essential drugs is a problem." **[26i]**

Mental Health Legislation

27.48 WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005 notes: "There is no mental health legislation in the country. Currently, individual rights are seen in unison with the family. Involuntary treatment only requires informed consent from the escorts. Though draft legislation was submitted for approval several years back, it has not yet been enacted. In 2004, the team working on mental health policy is also reviewing the draft legislation for submission." **[26i]**

Mental Health Facilities

27.49 WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005 notes: "Mental health is a part of primary health care system. Actual treatment of severe mental disorders is available at the primary level. Mental health has become part of the primary health care in 42 units spread throughout the country. The number is gradually increasing as trained professionals are assigned to new sites every year. Thus, actual treatment of severe mental disorders at the primary level is steadily expanding."

The report continues: "Regular training of primary care professionals is carried out in the field of mental health. In the last two years, about 277 personnel were provided training. In the last two years, about 45 personnel were provided basic training, 160 primary mental health professionals participated in yearly refresher seminars and 72 on-the-job training programmes were conducted for those working at the different units in the country. There are no community facilities for patients with mental disorders." **[26i]**

Psychiatric Beds and Professionals

27.50 WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005 reports:

"Total psychiatric beds per 10 000 population 0.07
Psychiatric beds in mental hospitals per 10 000 population 0.06
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals per 10 000 population 0.01
Psychiatric beds in other settings per 10 000 population 0
Number of psychiatrists per 100 000 population 0.02
Number of neurosurgeons per 100 000 population 0.003
Number of psychiatric nurses per 100 000 population 0.3
Number of neurologists per 100 000 population 0.0006
Number of psychologists per 100 000 population 0.08
Number of social workers per 100 000 population 0.08"

The report continues: "There are different medical assistants for other fields, around 10 000, but not for psychiatry. There are 36 regional and district mental health units besides the mental hospital in Addis Ababa. These

hospitals are each staffed by at least 2 psychiatric nurses who are supervised by psychiatrists periodically. A system of referral and back-referral has been established. In some regional hospitals the psychiatric nurses admit and provide in-patient service to their cases in the medical wards when it is necessary. A postgraduate programme in psychiatry was started in Addis Ababa University with an initial intake of 7 residents in 2003." **[26i]**

Programmes for Special Population

27.51 WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005 note that: "There are no programmes for special population. Psychiatric services have been introduced to some police and army hospitals, one prison clinic, and some university and school clinics. Two substance treatment units were opened in the capital city in 2004." **[26i]**

Therapeutic Drugs

27.52 WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005 note that: "The following therapeutic drugs are generally available at the primary health care level of the country: carbamazepine, ethosumixide, Phenobarbital, phenytoin sodium, sodium valpoate, amitriptyline, chlorpromazine, diazepam, fluphenazine, haloperidol, lithium, carbidopa, levodopa. The essential list of drugs was revised recently. Some other medicines like cloimipramine and fluoxetine are also a part of the list. All drugs in the essential list are available in major cities of the country but not in all areas of the primary health care level." **[26i]**

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FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

28.01 The Constitution provides for freedom of travel and residence, both internally and abroad, and allows emigration and repatriation. **[4] (p11)**

28.02 The US State Department Report on Human Rights 2004 noted that: "The law requiring citizens and residents to obtain an exit visa before departing the country was eliminated in July [2004]. Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin had their status regularized by the Government." **[3b] (p12)**

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INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPS)

29.01 The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants' 2005 Report on Ethiopia noted that:

"In the Gambella region, violent conflict between ethnic Nuer and Anyuak resulted in the deaths of over 500 Anyuaks. A parliamentary commission found soldiers responsible for 13 Anyuak deaths. The Government announced

in March 2005 that it would prosecute six of them. Despite periodic calm, both Nuer and Anyuak groups continued to fight, displacing tens of thousands, including about 5,000 Anyuaks who fled to Sudan." **[48a]**

29.02 The Report added: "At year's end, there were about 132,000 IDPs. In the Tigray region, about 62,000 were displaced during the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, and in Gambella, the recent violence displaced 51,000. In the east, IDPs lived with relatives, either in camps or ethnically similar communities." **[48a]**

29.03 The Report further added: "About 15,000 people lived in the two main IDP camps in Fafen and Hartishek, where nearly half the residents did not receive water for three months. By April 2005, five percent of children under five at Hartishek were acutely malnourished and were dying at a rate of nearly 5 per 10,000 every day—more than twice the emergency mortality rate." **[48a]**

29.04 The Guardian newspaper reported on 3 March 2004 that:

"Ethiopia has begun a resettlement programme which aims to move up to a million people away from the country's drought-stricken and over-worked central highlands to more fertile regions. Tens of thousands of families are to be moved before the rains come in May as the result of a pilot project last year, which the government says resulted in improved harvests. Critics say the lands available for resettlement – mainly along Ethiopia's border with Sudan – are in areas notorious for diseases including malaria and kala azar or visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease transmitted by sandflies…Over the next three years the government aims to relocate more than 2 million people, including the million who are being moved in the coming months." **[49a]**

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FOREIGN REFUGEES

OVERVIEW

30.01 The US Department of State's 2005 Report further noted that:

"The law provides for the granting of asylum or refugee status in accordance with the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol, and the government has established a system for providing protection to refugees. A national refugee law was passed in August 2004 and took effect in May [2005]. In practice the government provided protection against refoulement, the return of persons to a country where they feared persecution, and granted refugee status or asylum. The government generally cooperated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in assisting refugees and returning citizens." **[3a] (p13)**

30.02 The Report further noted that: "As of September [2005] the country hosted approximately 100,200 refugees, down from 121 thousand refugees at the end of 2004. Conditions at the 10 thousand-person capacity camp improved, and refugees subsequently had adequate health, education, water, and sanitation

facilities. Throughout the year there was a steady influx of Eritrean refugees at a monthly rate of 200 to 450 persons. In response the government and UNHCR worked to find a site for a new camp." **[3a] (p13)** It also noted: "At year's end, approximately 32 thousand Nuer and Dinka refugees remained in Fugnido camp in the Gambella Region". **[3a] (p13)**

30.03 The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants' 2006 Report on Ethiopia noted that: "In 2005, there were no reports of refoulement from Ethiopia. During the year, 5,000 Eritreans and 2,200 Sudanese sought asylum in Ethiopia; additionally, The Office of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reported asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo-Kinshasa) and Burundi. The Government Eligibility Committee conducted individual refugee status determinations for new arrivals with assistance from UNHCR. At the border, local authorities identified most arrivals and referred them to the Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority (SIRAA). Failed asylum seekers could appeal to the Appeals Hearing Council, made up of the representatives of SIRAA and the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Federal Affairs. UNHCR acted as observer at both stages." **[48b]**

The report further continues: "A 2004 Refugee Proclamation established the right to asylum and incorporated the provisions of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention) and the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The Proclamation prohibited the Government from refusing entry to expelling, or returning refugees or asylum seekers to any other country where they would be at risk of persecution or harm. Three refugees died in a conflict between Nuer clans in Fugnido camp. UNHCR assisted the repatriation of 5,600 Somali refugees and closed Aisha refugee camp in July. More than 16,000 Sudanese returned during the year. During the year, 600 refugees resettled to third countries. **[48b]**

SUDAN

30.04 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states that: "The largest group of refugees in Ethiopia originate from Sudan (approximately 90,500). However, efforts are now being made to repatriate refugees from Sudan. In the first quarter of 2006 long-term Sudanese refugees began to return to home under agreement signed between UNHCR and the governments of Ethiopia and Sudan. An initial 4,000-5,000 are projected to leave by the end of May 2006. So far about 14,000 people have expressed a desire to return home, and it is predicted that the remaining refugees—some of whom arrived in Ethiopia in the 1980s – will eventually all return home." **[107](7.1.1)**

30.05 IRIN News report in an article, Ethiopia: Repatriation programme suffers funding shortage – UNHCR, dated 21 September 2006, that: "The United Nations refugee agency has warned it will be forced to suspend the repatriation of 3,000 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia unless it receives additional cash. Despite a tripartite agreement between the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ethiopia and Sudan, signed in February, only 2,500 refugees has returned to south Sudan. The UN agency fears it will have to suspend operations completely if the financial problems are not rapidly resolved, the deputy representative of the UNHCR in Ethiopia told IRIN."

The article continues: "In total, 2, 545 refugees returned from Ethiopia in April and May, and then we had to stop because of the rainy season. Now we are really hoping to be able to go ahead, but the money is crucially missing." Fernando Protti said. "The money left is so small now, that we can't even go with the registration activities, and even if we were registering them, we can't pay for their transport, "he warned. About 70,000 Sudanese refugees are living in five camps in Ethiopia, some since 1980s. The repatriation programme followed the signing in January 2005 of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, the former rebel group that waged a two-decade-long military campaign for greater autonomy for southern Sudan. Since the start of the repatriation operation in December, only 12,000 refugees have gone back to southern Sudan with UNHCR assistance." **[9ba]**

SOMALILAND AND SOMALIA

30.06 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states, that: "From 1988 to 1991, due to the instability in northern Somalia (now the self proclaimed Somaliland republic) and the collapse of the central Somalia government in 1991, Ethiopia was host to some 630,000 refugees from Somalia. Eight refugee camps were established, but in recent years camps have been closed due to returns and reintegration. In 2005 two camps remained, namely Kebri Beyah and Aisha. Aisha was closed in 2005, and now only Kebri Beyah remains with 10,500 residents (as of mid 2005) mostly 'Ethiopian Somalis' and certain clans and minority groups for whom return to Somaliland or Somalia would prove difficult under current circumstances." **[107](7.1.2)**

ERITREA

30.07 UNHCR noted in its Global Appeal 2006 that: "In 2005, some 5,000 Eritreans sought asylum in Ethiopia, with the influx continuing at a rate of some 400 persons per month. Ethiopia had also received over 2,200 asylum-seekers from Southern Sudan and another 43 from other countries. During the course of the year, 594 refugees were resettled and almost 6,000 Somali refugees repatriated." **[42a]**

30.08 The report continued:

"Due to the continuing influx from Eritrea, there are over 10,000 refugees in Shimelba, which is crowded and cannot be expanded. Joint efforts are under way with the Ethiopian authorities to identify a site where a new camp could be developed. In the east, the remaining 5,600 Somali refugees were repatriated to 'Somaliland' and the Aisha camp was closed in June 2005. Only one camp, with some 10,000 refugees from southern Somalia, will remain

open. The situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to be tense and has provoked a significant increase in the number of Congolese asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. An increase in the arrival of Burundian asylum-seekers has also been noted." **[42a]**

30.09 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states: "A significantly growing number of refugees arriving from Eritrea are arriving in Ethiopia. In addition to the existing refugee population as a result of the 1998 - 2000 border war, for some time now, at least 200-250 persons of Eritrean origin per month have been arriving in Ethiopia. Recent estimates have put the figure much higher, at 400 per month. During 2005, 5,000 Eritrean sought asylum in Ethiopia, and the predicted number of Eritrean refugees for December 2006 is put at 11,700. Over 10,000 refugees are living in difficult conditions at the Shimelba camp." **[107] (7.1.4)**

DIJIBOUTI

30.10 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states: "There are several reasons for possible increases in numbers of displaced persons arriving in Ethiopia in Dijibouti. However, it should be noted that the prospects for political asylum seekers from Dijibouti arriving in Ethiopia may be problematic, given the rendition last year of Ethiopian air-force pilots seeking political asylum in Dijibouti back to Ethiopia." **[107] (7.1.4)**

KENYA

30.11 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 state that: "It is unlikely that Kenya will produce large number of refugees in Ethiopia. However, actions against suspected OLF groups operating from Kenya could cause population displacement." **[107] (7.1.5)**

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CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY

NATIONALITY

31.01 According to Article 6 of the Constitution any person shall be an Ethiopian national where both or either parent is Ethiopian and foreign nationals may acquire Ethiopian nationality, although there is no provision for dual nationality. It also affirms that the law shall determine particulars relating to nationality. **[4] (p4)**

PROCLAMATION ON ETHIOPIAN NATIONALITY: ERITREANS IN ETHIOPIA

31.02 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states: "It is clear that once war broke out between Ethiopia and Eritrea the definition of citizenship in relation to Eritreans or Ethiopians of Eritrean origin — the co-called dual nationals — gave rise to legally anomalous situation. " **[107] (6.4)**

The UNHCR report continues: "The definition of Ethiopian citizenship especially in relation to people of Eritrean origin has also been regularized. In 2003 the Ethiopian government issued Proclamation No. 378/2003, Proclamation on Ethiopian Nationality which repealed the previous Ethiopian Nationality Law of 1930. A consideration of the Proclamation is useful in relation to the definition of Ethiopian Citizenship, and the rights to the citizenship and residence of dual nationals, Ethiopians of Eritrean origin, and full Eritrean citizens." **[107] (6.4)**

DIRECTIVE ON RESIDENCE FOR ERITREAN NATIONALS

31.03 The United Nations High Commission for Refugees report Ethiopia: A Sociopolitical Assessment, a Writnet report written by Cedric Barnes, May 2006 states that: "Although the Nationality Proclamation clearly stated who was and who was not considered a national, it did not explicitly addresses the problem of dual nationality. However, in January 2004 the SIRAA issued a Directive on Residence for Eritrean Nationals in Ethiopia." **[107] (6.5)**

The UNHCR report further continues: "This directive directly addresses the situation of Ethiopians of Eritrean origin, dual nationals, and Eritreans, in a way that the 2003 Proclamation on Nationality does not. Part 1 of the Directive notes: Numerous persons of Eritrean origin have continued to reside in Ethiopia since long before Eritrean independence. Since it has been found necessary to determine the residence of those Eritrean nationals who have continued to live in Ethiopia, the Security and Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority has issued this directive." **[107] (6.5)**

The UNHCR report further notes: "Part 2 of the Directive notes under Objective: The Objective of this Directive is to provide the means to any person of Eritrean origin who was resident in Ethiopia when Eritrea became an independent State [1993] and has continued maintaining a permanent residence in Ethiopia up until this Directive is issued to confirm whether he or she has acquired Eritrean nationality, and to determine his or her status of residence in Ethiopia." **[107] (6.5)**

The UNHCR report also notes: "Given these basic assumptions the Directive, (Part 2, Issues of Nationality and Registration) defines what constitutes Eritrean nationality. It also states how Ethiopian nationality is defined or acquired by those who have come to acquire Etritrean nationality by default:

A Person having an Eritrean passport or documents [non-specified] conferring Etritrean nationality or person serving the Eritrean Government in a sector reserved exclusively for Eritrean nationals is considered as having Eritrean nationality.

A person of Eritrean origin who has not opted for Eritrean nationality shall be deemed as having decided to maintain his or her Ethiopian nationality and his or her Ethiopian nationality shall be guaranteed.

An Eritrean registered in accordance with this Directive and who desires to regain his or her Ethiopian nationality may be readmitted to his or her Ethiopian nationality based on Article 22 of the new Nationality Proclamation." **[107] (6.5)**

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EXIT/ENTRY PROCEDURES

32.01 Proclamation regulating the Issuance of Travel Documents and Visas, and Registration of Foreigners in Ethiopia, No. 271 of 1969 states:

"Article 7
Type and Issuance of Visas.

(1)Visas shall be issued to foreigners as follows:

(a)Transit Visa:

(i) A transit visa shall be issued by our diplomatic and consular mission or by our Minister of Foreign Affairs abroad or by our Minister of Interior at a port of entry.

(ii) A transit visa shall upon issuance be valid for not more than seven (7) days.

(b)Tourist Visa:

(i) A tourist visa shall be issued by our diplomatic and consular missions or by our Minister of Foreign Affairs abroad or by our Minister of Interior at a port of entry.

(ii A tourist visa shall, upon issuance, be valid for not more than three (3) months.

(iii) No foreigner entering Ethiopia with a tourist visa shall be allowed to take up local employment within Ethiopia.

(c) Entry visa:

(1) An entry visa shall be issued by Our diplomatic and consular missions abroad or by Our Minister of Foreign Affairs to a foreigner who intends to come to Ethiopia for purposes other than those specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) above; provided, however, that before issuing an entry visa to any foreigner falling within any of the following categories, Our Minister of Foreign Affairs shall consult with the appropriate Government Department to

determine whether or not an Ethiopian or Ethiopians in sufficient number are available to do the work or to occupy the post of such foreigner:

i) persons who are to be employed by Our Government;

(ii) persons who are to be employed by private business enterprises;

(iii) persons who intend to establish private business or industries or to engage in other independent enterprises within Ethiopia;

(iv) persons who are to serve in private schools and hospitals established within Ethiopia;

(v) persons who intend to take up residence in Ethiopia with or without their dependants without being engaged in any gainful activity provided, further, that the actual period of residence of the foreigner shall be determined in accordance with Article 11 hereof.

(2) Where serious or unforeseen difficulties arise, application for an extension of the validity of transit and tourist visas may be submitted to Our Minister of Interior who may, where he deems it appropriate, grant such extension for a total of fifteen (15) days, in the case of a transit visa, and nine (9) months in the case of a tourist visa.

(3)Our Minister of Interior shall, from time to time, prescribe ports of entry to Ethiopia.

(4)Our Minister of Foreign Affairs may revoke any visa after its issuance but prior to the entry into Ethiopia of the foreigner to whom issued, if he deems such action necessary in the best interests of the country.

Article 8

Refusal of entry.

Any foreigner who has been declared an undesirable foreigner shall not be allowed to enter into Ethiopia.

Article 9

Departure from Ethiopia.

(1)No person shall depart from Ethiopia unless he is in possession of:

(a) A valid travel document;

(b) A more valid exit visa;

(c) A valid visa and international health certificate as required for entry to the country of destination.

(2) Our Minister of Interior may refuse to issue an exit visa:

(a) If a court of competent jurisdiction has ordered that the person stay in Ethiopia; or

(b) If a court of competent jurisdiction has summoned the person to appear within one (1) month as a witness in a pending civil or criminal case.

(3) Our Minister of Interior shall at his discretion issue a re-entry visa to any resident-foreigner who wishes to leave Ethiopia for a temporary period.

(4) Our Minister of Interior may, after the issuance of an exit visa or a re-entry visa, revoke the exit or re-entry visa at any time, if he deems such action necessary in the best interests of the country.

Article 10
Deportation.

(1) Any foreigner may be ordered to leave Ethiopia by Our Minister of Interior:

(a) if he has entered Ethiopia in violation of any provision hereof or of any Regulations issued hereunder; or

(b) if he is lawfully in Ethiopia but whose visa or residence permit, as the case may be, has expired and not been renewed.

(2) Our Minister of Interior shall issue a deportation order and effect the deportation of any foreigner who has been declared an undesirable foreigner.

(3) Upon issuance of a deportation order, Our Minister of Interior shall inform the foreigner to be deported for the reasons thereof, the date and the route by which he is to leave Ethiopia.

4) Any property owned by a foreigner being deported may be applied to the payment of transportation expenses.

(5) Our Minister of Interior may in addition order the deportation of any dependants of the person being deported." **[108]**

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EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

33.01 The US Department of State, in its Human Rights Report 2005, stated that:

"There is no national minimum wage. However, some government institutions and public enterprises have set their own minimum wages. For example, public sector employees, the largest group of wage earners, earned a monthly minimum wage of approximately $23 (200 birr); employees in the banking and insurance sector had a minimum monthly wage of $27 (230 birr). According to the Office of the Study of Wages and Other Remuneration, these wages did

not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. Consequently, most families in the wage sector required at least two wage earners to survive, which forced many children to leave school early. Only a small percentage of the population was involved in wage labour employment, which was concentrated largely in urban areas." **[3a] (p21)**

33.02 The report further noted that: "The law provides for a 48 hour legal workweek (with a 24 hour rest period), premium pay for overtime, and prohibition of excessive, compulsory overtime. Although the government did little to enforce the law, in practice most employees in the formal sector worked a 40 hour workweek." **[3a] (p22)**

33.03 Additionally the report noted:

"The government, industry, and unions negotiated to set occupational health and safety standards; however, the inspection department of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs did not effectively enforce these standards, due to a lack of resources. A lack of detailed, sector specific health and safety guidelines also inhibited enforcement. Workers had the right to remove themselves from dangerous situations without jeopardizing their employment; however, most workers feared losing their jobs if they were to do so." **[3a] (p21)**

33.04 The 1994 Constitution and the 1993 Labour Law give the majority of employees the right to form and join trades unions and bargain collectively. **[4] (p17)**

33.05 The US Department of State, in its 2005 Human Rights Report, stated that:

"The law provides most workers with the right to form and join unions, and the government allowed this in practice. However, the law specifically excludes teachers and civil servants (including judges, prosecutors, and security service workers) from organizing unions. There was government interference in trade union activities during the year. According to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, many trade union leaders have been removed from their posts and/or forced to leave the country, while others have been sent to prison." **[3a] (p20)**

33.06 The report added: "The minimum number of workers required to form a union was 20. While all unions had to be registered, the government retained the authority to cancel union registration. There were no reports that the government used this authority during the year. The law stipulates that a trade organization may not act in an overtly political manner. Approximately 300 thousand workers were union members." **[3a] (p20)**

33.07 The report also noted that: "Seasonal and part time agricultural workers did not organize into labour unions. Compensation, benefits, and working conditions of seasonal workers were far below those of unionized permanent plantation employees. **[3a] (p20)** "Despite government recognition of the independent Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA), authorities required all public school teachers to subsidize a separate government created and controlled teacher's union (also called ETA) through mandatory withholding of $0.23 (2 birr) from their monthly salaries." **[3a] (p20)**

33.08 The US Department of State, in its Human Rights Report 2003, stated that:

"There was no requirement that unions belong to the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU), which included all nine federations organized by industrial and service sectors rather than by region. Despite its claims to the contrary, CETU leadership was aligned with the ruling party and did not fight vigorously for workers' rights. Findings of widespread corruption in 2002 within CETU's leadership had not resulted in any disciplinary actions by year's end [2003]. In January, four members of CETU's nine-member executive committee, who criticized the majority five-member block's decisions were forced from office and replaced by four members hand-picked by the Government." **[3c] (p25)**

33.09 The same report stated that:

"The law prohibits anti-union discrimination by employers against union members and organizers; however, unions reported that union activists frequently were fired. Unlawful dismissal suits often took years to resolve because of case backlogs in the labor courts. According to labor leaders, a number of court cases in which workers were terminated for union activities were pending after 4 or 5 years. There were grievance procedures for hearings on allegations of discrimination brought by individuals or unions. Employers found guilty of anti-union discrimination were required to reinstate workers fired for union activities." **[3c] (p25)**

The US Department of State, in its Human Rights Report 2005, stated that:

"There is no national minimum wage. However, some government institutions and public enterprises have set their own minimum wages. For example, public sector employees, the largest group of wage earners, earned a monthly minimum wage of approximately $23 (200 birr); employees in the banking and insurance sector had a minimum monthly wage of $27 (230 birr). According to the Office of the Study of Wages and Other Remuneration, these wages did not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. Consequently, most families in the wage sector required at least two wage earners to survive, which forced many children to leave school early. Only a small percentage of the population was involved in wage labor employment, which was concentrated largely in urban areas." **[3a] (p21)**

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33.12 The 1994 Constitution and the 1993 Labour Law give the majority of employees the right to form and join trades unions and bargain collectively. **[4] (p17)**

33.13 The US Department of State, in its 2005 Human Rights Report, stated that:

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33.16 The US Department of State, in its Human Rights Report 2003, stated that:

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Employers found guilty of anti-union discrimination were required to reinstate workers fired for union activities." **[3c] (p25)**

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Annex A: Chronology of Events

1930s Emperor Haile Selassie wrests power from old aristocracy and establishes modern autocracy. **[1a] (p424)**

1935 Italy invades Ethiopia. **[1a] (p424)**

1941 Allied forces end Italian occupation. **[1a] (p424)**

1952 Former Italian colony of Eritrea, which had become a UN mandated territory after World War II, federated with Ethiopia. **[1a] (p424)**

1962 Eritrea formally annexed by Ethiopia. **[1a] (p424)**

1970s Increased Eritrean resistance to Ethiopian control by ELF and EPLF. **[1a] (pp424-425)**

1974 **September:** Calls for democratisation, army mutinies, Eritrean resistance, economic problems and famine culminate in overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in a military coup. Haile Selassie dies in military custody in 1975. The Dergue takes control of Ethiopia and establishes Provisional Military Government (PMG) under Lt-Gen Aman Andom. **[1a] (p425)**
November: Gen Aman assassinated. Fifty seven former civil and military officials, including two former Prime Ministers executed without trial. Brig-Gen Teferi Benti, Chairman of the Dergue, becomes Head of State. Major (later Lt-Col) Mengistu Haile Mariam one of two Vice-Chairman of the Dergue. **[1a] (p425)**
December: Dergue declares Ethiopia a socialist state. PMG replaced by Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC). **[1a] (p425)**

1975 Col Mengistu emerges as most influential member of the Dergue. PMAC embarks upon "Ethiopia Tikdem" (Ethiopia First) reforms – nationalisation of land, financial institutions and large firms, literacy drive and establishment of peasant co-operatives. Power struggles within Dergue, continuing into 1976, between supporters of MEISON and EPRP. Joint ELF/EPLF attack almost captures Eritrean capital Asmara. Severe retaliation taken against Eritrea. Tigrean support for Eritrea grows. TPLF formed. **[1a] (p425)**, **[1c] (p1566)**

1977–1978 TPLF grows stronger with EPLF support, defeating EPRP opponents in Tigre. **[1a] (p425)**, **[1c] (p1566)**

Mid-1977 'Red Terror' campaign turns on MEISON. EPRP and MEISON neutralised by end of 1978. Ethiopia under Mengistu moves increasingly closer to Soviet Union. **[1a] (p425)**

1977 **February:** Col Mengistu assumes control as Head of State and Chairman of PMAC. Gen Teferi Benti and five other Dergue members executed. 'Red Terror' campaign launched against Mengistu's political and armed opponents, particularly the EPRP. Tens of thousands killed or tortured. **[1a] (p425)**
July: Somalia invades Ethiopia's Ogaden region. **[1a] (p425)**

1978 **February:** Ethiopia counter-attacks with large-scale Soviet and Cuban support; Somalia withdraws in early 1978. **[1a] (p425)**
June: Large Ethiopian offensive launched in Eritrea; most towns recaptured and EPLF retreats to Nakfa. **[1c] (p1566)**

1979 Mengistu sets up Committee for Organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE); all other political groups abolished. **[1a] (p425)**

1981 Civil war in Eritrea between ELF and EPLF. **[1a] (p425)**

1982 EPLF, with TPLF allies from Tigre, force ELF into exile in Sudan. **[1a] (p425)**

1984 Mengistu establishes the Worker's Party of Ethiopia (WPE) and the country is engulfed in famine

1989 **September:** TPLF establishes EPRDF as united front with Amhara-based EPDM. Unsuccessful peace negotiations between Government and EPLF. **[1a] (p426)**

1990 EPLF captures Masawa. Peace talks between Government and EPLF broken off. **[1c] (p1566)**
Peace talks between Government and TPLF collapse. Socialism effectively abandoned by Mengistu Government; Moves towards market economy begin, but economy close to collapse. **[1c] (p1566)**

1991 **January:** EPRDF announces moderate, non-Marxist programme, which wins United States support. **[1a] (p426)**
21 May: Mengistu flees Ethiopia and goes into exile in Zimbabwe; **[1a] (p426)**, **[1c] (p1566)**
28 May: EPRDF forces enter Addis Ababa, with public support of United States; EPRDF establishes interim Government. At the same time EPLF establishes provisional administration in Eritrea, effectively seceding from Ethiopia. **[1c] (p1566)**
July: National conference attended by 20 political groups establishes Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE); TPLF leader and EPRDF Chairman Meles Zenawi becomes President, with Tamirat Layne Prime Minister. Thirty two political groups represented on Council of Representatives, including the OLF, which also holds four Ministerial positions on Council of Ministers. **[1a] (p426)**
November: 14 new autonomous administrative regions established, broadly reflecting ethnic boundaries. **[1c] (p1567)**

1991–2 Relations between EPRDF and OLF deteriorate; clashes between rival EPRDF and OLF supporters in Oromo region. US and EPLF broker cease-fire between EPRDF and OLF supporters in April 1992. **[1c] (p1567)**

1992 **June:** OLF and other groups boycott regional elections. EPRDF and allies win over 90 per cent of votes cast. OLF withdraws from TGE and goes into armed opposition. OLF forces capture Asbe Teferi but government forces retake the town. **[1c] (p1567)**

1993 **April:** Referendum in Eritrea approves independence from Ethiopia. **[1c] (p1567)**

24 May: Eritrea achieves formal independence, with recognition from Ethiopia. **[1c] (p1567)**

1994 **June:** EPRDF wins large majority of seats in elections to new Constituent Assembly. Polls boycotted by OLF, AAPO and CAFPDE. **[1c] (p1567)**
October: Constituent Assembly inaugurated. **[1c] (p1567)**
December: Constituent Assembly approves new Constitution, establishing federal system of government with nine ethnically-based national states and the federal capital territory. Constituent Assembly replaced by bicameral Federal Parliamentary Assembly (FPA), made up of the Council of People's Representatives (CPR) and the Council of the Federation. **[1a] (p427)**
December: Trial of Dergue officials begins, including Mengistu. Trials held by SPO, created in 1992 to investigate and try cases of human rights abuses committed under the Mengistu administration. **[1c] (p1567)**, **[3i] (p10)**

1995 **May:** Elections to the CPR and national state assemblies, boycotted by most opposition parties, produce landslide win for EPRDF and allies. Elections deemed to be neither free nor fair by international observers. **[1a] (p427)**
21 August: Legislative power transferred to new Federal Parliamentary Assembly. **[1c] (p1567)**
22 August: TGE wound up as new Constitution becomes effective. Country renamed the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). Dr Negasso Gidada, an ethnic Oromo, elected first President of FDRE by FPA. **[1c] (p1567)**
23 August: Meles Zenawi, President under TGE, elected first Prime Minister of FDRE by CPR. **[1c] (p1567)**

1996 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Tamirat Layne removed from office on suspicion of corruption. **[1a] (p430)**

1998 **May:** Border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea leads to armed clashes along the border, centred on the Badme area. **[1a] (p431)**
June: Eritrea aircraft bomb Mekele in northern Ethiopia. Ethiopia launches air attacks on Asmara airport in Eritrea. **[1a] (p431)**
June: Ethiopia and Eritrea accept a US-brokered agreement to halt air-strikes against each other. **[1c] (p1569)**

1999 **February:** Resumption of heavy fighting in border dispute with Eritrea. **[1a] (p431)**

2000 **May:** Ethiopia launches all-out offensive against Eritrea to recapture land occupied by Eritrea since May 1998; Ethiopia recaptures all occupied land by end May 2000. **[1c] (p1570)**
May: Ruling EPRDF coalition wins national elections but loses ground to opposition parties and independents in some regional elections. **[1a] (p428)**
June: Ethiopia and Eritrea sign ceasefire agreement; Eritrea agrees to UN border monitoring force within its territory. **[1a] (p431)**
12 December: Ethiopia and Eritrea sign peace agreement ending border war, which establishes commissions to mark the border exchange prisoners, to return displaced people and to hear compensation claims. **[1c] (p1570)**

2001 **22 February:** Ethiopia announces it has completed its troop withdrawal from Eritrea in accordance with a United Nations-sponsored agreement to end the border war. **[1c] (p1570)**

March: Meles Zenawi says he has thwarted an attempt to cause political upheaval by a dissident group in the dominant Tigre People's Liberation Front. **[1c] (p1568)**
April: Thousands of demonstrators clash with police in Addis Ababa in protest against police brutality and in support of calls for political and academic freedom. **[1c] (p1568)**
May: Intelligence and security chief Kinfe Gebre-Medhin – a key ally of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi – assassinated as he entered an armed forces officers' club in Addis Ababa. **[1c] (p1568)**
June: Dr Negaso Gidada is expelled from the ruling coalition EPRDF. He continues to serve as Head of State until October 2001. **[1a] (p413)**, **[1c] (p1568)**, **[9aj]**

2002 **March:** Clashes in Tepi involving members of two minority ethnic groups, the Sheko and Majenger
April: The Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission announces the border decision awarding Badme to Eritrea. **[1a] (p432)**
May: Violence in Awassa. **[1c] (p1568)**
June: Police arrest several hundred students, teachers, and others whom it accuses of being supporters of OLF. **[11d] (p2)**

2003 **March:** Ethiopia voices its opposition to the Boundary Commission ruling. **[1a] (p432)**, **[1c] (p1570)**
December: Ethnic violence in Gambella region targets the Anuak. **[3b] (pp19-20)**

2004 **January:** Mass arrests of university students in the capital, Addis Ababa as Oromo students protest about the government decision to transfer the regional state capital of Oromiya from Addis Ababa to Adama. **[10l]**
November: Ethiopia accepts "in principle" a long-disputed ruling on its border with Eritrea but still thinks it is illegal and unjust. **[7v]**

2005 **May:** Prime Minister Meles Zamawi accuses opposition parties of fomenting ethnic hatred ahead of May general elections. **[7d]**
15 May: Ethiopia holds general elections. **[7w]**
May: Ethiopia's national election board investigates allegations of fraud in 15 May general elections. **[7x]**
June: Over 30 killed and 3000 people arrested in post election related violence. **[7f]**
Ethiopia allowed for the first time foreign diplomats to visit about 2,000 prisoners who were picked up during the violent protests. The conditions are reportedly no worse than in other Ethiopian jails, but that the prisoners wanted to know why they were being held without a change. **[7z]**
November: Over 40 protesters killed and thousands arrested, including leading opposition figures, in government crack down.
December: Ethiopian prosecutors charge 131 politicians, journalists and civil society members, who were detained in a crackdown on opposition groups in early November. (IRIN) **[9af]**
More than 80 people, including journalists and many opposition leaders, are charged with treason and genocide over November's deadly clashes. International commission, based in the Hague, rules that Eritrea broke international law when it attacked Ethiopia in 1998.

2006 **May:** Six political parties and armed groups form an opposition alliance, the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy, at a meeting in Netherlands. **[7z]**
Several bomb blasts hit Addis Ababa. No organisation claims responsibility. **[7z]**
June: The United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for four months but reduced the force from 3,373 to 2,300 troops. **[9ak]**
August: Several hundred people are feared to have died and thousands are left homeless as floods hit the north, south and east of the country. **[7z]**

Annex B: Political organisations

All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP)
Faction of the older All-Amhara People's Organization (AAPO). President Hailu Shawel. **[1a] (p444)** Leading member of the CUD coalition of which Hailu Shawel is also President.

Al-Ittihad al-Islamia (Islamic Union Party)
Somalia-based armed opposition group seeking self-determination for the Somali-populated Ogaden district. **[1a] (p427)**

All-Amhara People's Organization (AAPO)
In August 2002 most of AAPO became the All-Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP) but some elements remained and joined the UEDF opposition alliance. **[1a] (p444)**, **[28] (p168)**

Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM)
Represents the Amhara people within the EPRDF party; formerly the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM); adopted present name in 1994; Secretary-General Tefera Walwa. **[1a] (p444)**

Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia (CAFPDE)
Formed 1993, broad based coalition of groups opposed to the EPRDF. Chair Dr Beyene Petros (later Chair of SEPDC). **[1a] (p444)**, **[28] (p168)**

Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF)
Fought in alliance with TPLF/EPRDF against Mengistu Government; formed provisional administration of Eritrea May 1991 and Government of independent Eritrea May 1993. **[1a] (pp425-426)**

Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP)
Replaced the WPE in March 1990 and abandoned the WPE's reliance on Marxist-Leninist doctrine. Leader was Ras Mengesha. Joined EDP in July 2003 to create UEDP. **[1a] (p444) [1b] (p426)**

Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM)
See ANDM. **[1a] (p444)**

Ethiopian People's Patriotic Front (EPPF)
A rebel group; operates in Northern Ethiopia and there are increasing reports of its activities. **[107] (5.2.3)**

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)
Formed 1989 by the TPLF as an alliance of insurgent groups. Ousted Mengistu Government May 1991 in alliance with EPLF. Dominant party in the TGE from July 1991 onwards. Present governing party of the FDRE. Leader Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The EPRDF comprises the TPLF, ANDM,OPDO and SEPDM.
[1a] (p444 & p426)

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)
See COEDF. **[1a] (p444)**

Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL)

Formed 1994 by the merger of 11 Ethiopian Somali organizations. Merged with other Somali groups June 1998 to form the Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP) – see SPDP. **[1a] (p444)**

Gambela People's Democratic Movement (GPDM)
Pro-government group based in the Gambela region. Chair Akilo Nigilio. **[1a] (p444)**

Hadiya National Democratic Organization (HNDO)
Founded in 1991, a regionally-based party with wider alliances. Won five seats in the federal House of People's Representatives in 2000. Leader Beyene Petros. Part of the Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coaltion (SEPDC) **[28] (p169)**

Islamic Unity Party
See al-Ittihad al-Islamia. **[1a] (p427)**

MEISON
See COEDF. **[1a] (p444)**

Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF)
A party based in Somali state. The OLF and the ONLF signed a military co-operation agreement in July 1996. They demand greater autonomy. The ONLF received support from another Somali organisation, the Islamic Union Party (al-Ittihad al-Islam), which has been fighting for an Islamic state in Somalia. **[1a] (p427)**

Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)
Clashes between members of the OLF and members of the OPDO (an EPRDF member-party) during the run-up to elections led to a final break with the EPRDF in 1992, after which the OLF went into armed opposition. In alliance with armed wing of the ONLF from July 1996. They advocate self-determination for the Oromo People and the use of Oromo language and culture. Member of UOLF. Chairman Daoud Ibsa Gudina. **[28] (p169)**, **[1a] (p425)**

Oromo National Congress (ONC)
Founded in 1996. Exists to oppose the OPDO through legitimate electoral channels. Member of UEDF. President Merera Gudina. **[28] (p169)**, **[1a] (p444)**

Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO)
Formed 1990 by the TPLF to campaign in Oromo areas; opposed to the OLF. Represents the Oromo within the ruling EPRDF. Leader Abedula Gemeda. **[1a] (p444)**

Rainbow Ethiopia
Leader Berhanu Nega. Member of the CUD opposition alliance.

Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP)
Formed in 1998 by merger of elements of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Ethiopian Somali Democratic League (ESDL Secretary-General Shu'abi Ibrahim. **[1a] (p444)**

Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Coalition (SEPDC)
Opposition alliance; Chair Dr Beyene Petros. **[1a] (p444)** Leading member of UEDF opposition coalition. Evolved from the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Union (SEPDU), an alliance formed in 1992 by 10 ethnically-based political groups in Southern Ethiopia represented in the Council of Representatives. **[1a] (p444)**

Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (SEPDM)
Represents the people of the Southern Region within the ruling EPRDF. Evolved from the Ethiopian National Democratic Party (ENDP), formed 1994 by the merger of five pro-government organisations with members in the Council of Representatives: the Ethiopian Democratic Organization, the Ethiopian Democratic Organization Coalition, the Gurage People's Democratic Front, the Kembata People's Congress and the Wolaita People's Democratic Front. **[1a] (p444)**

Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)
Formed 1975. Dominant group within the EPRDF, formed in 1989. Chair Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Vice Chair Seyoum Mesfin. **[1a] (p444)**, **[28] (p170)**

United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF)
Formed August 2003 as a coalition of 15 opposition parties to challenge the current Government in the 2005 elections. **[14g]**

United Ethiopian Democratic Party-Medhin (UEDP-Medhin)
Originally formed in 1998 as the Ethiopian Democratic Party; Secretary General Lidetu Ayalew. Joined with EDUP in July 2003 to create UEDP. **[1a] [p444l] [28] (p169)**
Subsequently merged with Medhin party to form UEDP-Medhin.
Head is Dr Admasu Gebeyehu. Member of the CUD opposition alliance. **[1a] (p444)**

Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE)
Formed 1984 by Mengistu; renamed the EDUP in March 1990; the sole legal party until May 1991. **[1a] (p425)**, **[1b] (p426)**

Annex C: Prominent people: past and present

Abadula Gemada
Minister of Defence and Chairman of the OPDO. **[1a] (p430 & pp443-444)**

Adisu Legeso
Deputy Prime Minister and Rural Development Minister. **[1a] (p443)**

Dr Admasu Gebeyehu
Head of the UEDP. **[1a] (p444)**

Ismail Ali Sirro
Leader of the APDO. **[1a] (p444)**

Dr Beyene Petros
Chairman of UEDF opposition alliance. Also of CAFPDE and the SEPDC; President of the Hadiya National Democratic Organization (HNDO). Dr Beyene is a Member of the Ethiopian Parliament and a Professor at Addis Ababa University. 1 **[1a] (p444) [16] (p169)**

Daoud Ibsa Gudina
Chairman of the OLF. **[16] (p169)**

Fekadu Gedamu
Chairman of the ENDP. **[1a] (p444)**

Girma Wolde Giorgis
Current Ethiopian President; ethnic Oromo. **[1a] (p430 & p443)**

Hailu Shawel
President of AEUP and Head of the CUD opposition alliance. **[1a] (p444)**

Meles Zenawi
TPLF leader and Chairman of the EPRDF; President of Ethiopia July 1991-August 1995; Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia August 1995 to the present. **[1a] (p443 & p444)**

Emperor Menelik
Modernising and unifying ruler in late nineteenth century; died 1913. Founded Addis Ababa in the late 1880s, defeated the Italians in 1896. **[1a] (p424)**

Lt-Col Mengistu Haile Mariam (Col Mengistu)
Assumed power February 1977; Secretary-General of the WPE from 1984; President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1977 until he fled in May 1991; lives in exile in Zimbabwe. **[1c] (p1566)**

Merera Gudina
President of ONC. **[1a] (p444)**

Mohamoud Dirir Gheddi
Chair of the SPDP. **[1a] (p444)**

Dr Negasso Gidada

President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1995 until October 2001; Independent member of House of Representatives since 2005. **[9]**

Emperor Haile Selassie
Regent 1916; King 1928; Emperor from 1930 until deposed in 1974; died in military custody 1975. **[1c] (p1566)**

Tamirat Layne
Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia in 1991; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in 1996. Dismissed and detained in 1996 and tried on corruption charges. Sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in 2000. **[1b] (p410 & p413)**

Dr Taye Woldesemayat
Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association; arrested June 1996 and held in detention until his release in May 2002. **[1a] (p428), [1c] (p1567)**

Tefera Walwa
Secretary-General of the EPRDF-allied ANDM. **[1a] (p444)**

*It is customary for people in Ethiopia and Eritrea to be addressed by the first name. This is reflected in this list and at times in the text of this Report.

Annex D: List of abbreviations

AI	Amnesty International
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
EU	European Union
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FH	Freedom House
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IAG	Illegal Armed Group
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICRC	International Committee for Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
NA	Northern Alliance
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non–Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
ODPR	Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STC	Save The Children
TB	Tuberculosis
TI	Transparency International
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USSD	United States State Department
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Annex E: Results of the General Election held on 15 May 2005

Party	Seats
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)	327
Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)	109
The United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF)	52
Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM)	11
Benishangul Gumuz People's Democratic Unity Front (BGPDUF)	8
Afar National Democratic Party (ANDP)	8
Gambela People's Democratic Movement (GPDM)	3
Sheko and Mezenger People's Democratic	
United Organization (SMPDUO)	1
Somali People's Democratic Party (SPDP)	23
Hareri National League (HNL)	1
Argoba Nationality Democratic Organization (ANDO)	1
Independent	1
Total out of 547 seats	**545**

[14a]

SEATS BY REGION		
Regions	**House of People's Representatives**	**Regional Council/City Administration**
Tigray	38	152
Afar	8	87
Amhara	138	294
Oromia	178	537
Somali	23	147
Benshangul Gumuz	9	99
Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP)	123	348
Gambela	3	82
Harari	2	36
Diredawa	2	-
Addis Ababa	23	138
Total Seats	547	1920

[14a]

Annex F: List of registered political parties

The parties that won parliamentary seats in their own right or as part of a bigger coalition are shown in bold

Full name	Abbreviation
All Amhara People's Organization (member of UEDF)	**AAPO**
All Ethiopian Democratic Party	AEDP
All Ethiopia Unity Party (CUD member)	**AEUP**
Afar Liberation Front Party	ALFP
Amhara National Democratic Movement (EPRDF member)	**ANDM**
Argoba Nationality Democratic Organization	ANDO
Afar National Democratic Party	**ANDP**
Argoba People's Democratic Movement	**APDM**
Agew Peoples' Democratic Movement	APDM
Agnwaha People's Democratic Organization	APDO
Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Front	ARDUF
Benishangul-Gumuz Peoples' Democratic Unity Front	**BGPDUF**
Baherwork Mesmes Nationality Democratic Unity Organization	BMNDUO
Baher Work Mesmes People's Democratic Organization	BWMPDO
Coalition for Unity and Democracy	**CUD**
Denta, Debamo, Kitchenchala Democratic Organization	DDKDO
Dube and Degene Nationality Democratic Party	DDNDP
Donga People's Democratic Organization	DPDO
Dil Wabi People's Democratic Movement	DWPDM
Ethiopian Berta People's Democratic Organization	EBPDO
Ethiopian Democratic League (CUD member)	**EDL**
Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (UEDF member)	**EDUP**
Ethiopian National Democratic Party	ENDP
Ethiopian National Unity Party	ENUP
Ethiopia Pan Africanist party	EPAFP
Endegagene People's Democratic Movement	EPDM
Ethiopian Peace and Democratic Party	EPDP
Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front	**EPRDF**
Ethiopian Social Democratic Federal Party	ESDFP
Ethiopians' Unity Democratic Organization	EUDO
Gamo Democratic Union	GDU
Gamo-Gofa People's Democracy Unity	G-GPDU
Gurage People's Democratic Front	GPDF
Gambela People's Democratic Movement	**GPDM**
Gedeo People's Democratic Organization	GPDO
Geda System Advancement Party	GSAP
Hadiya Nation Democratic Organization	HNDO
Hareri National League	**HNL**
Harari People Democratic Party	HPDP
Independent	Independent
The Joint Political Forum	JPF
Kembata People's Congress	KPC
Konso People's Democratic Union	KPDU
The Mixed Nations, Nationality One Ethiopia Democratic Party	MNNOEDP
Mezenger People's Democratic Organization	MPDO
Nuwer People's Democratic Organization	NPDO
Oromo Abbo Liberation Front	OALF

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