



የኢትዮጵያ
ሰብአዊ መብቶች ኮሚሽን
ETHIOPIAN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION

PREPARED BY
ETHIOPIAN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION

Annual Ethiopia Human Rights Situation Report

Submitted to the House of Peoples'
Representatives

www.ehrc.org



Executive Summary

From June 2024 to June 2025

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Executive Summary

1. This 4th Annual Human Rights Situation Report of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) provides a comprehensive overview of the national human rights situation from June 2024 to June 2025. The report is drawing from the monitoring and investigations conducted by the EHRC, during the fiscal year, on various thematic human rights issues under the framework of international, regional, and national laws, regulations, and principles.
2. EHRC gathered information and evidence through interviews, group discussions, on-site observations, and document collection and analysis. The monitoring and investigation findings under this report are based on the standard of proof adopted by national human rights institutions, international human rights investigations, and international inquiry commissions or truth-finding bodies. The EHRC adheres to the "reasonable grounds to believe" standard of proof for human rights investigations and the "reasonable suspicion" standard of proof for monitoring activities.
3. This annual report provides a general overview of key findings and pressing issues as well as presents detailed positive developments and concerning issues along with recommendations on various human rights themes highlighted in this executive summary. The transitional justice and national dialogue processes initiated in Ethiopia have contributed to the protection and respect of human rights. As a national human rights institution, the EHRC has monitored the transitional justice and national dialogue processes. As a result, the annual report includes the positive developments and concerning issues identified by those monitoring as well as recommendations.

The Right to Life

4. Ongoing armed conflicts and recurring security problems in various parts of Ethiopia have led to violations of individuals' rights to life, the right to security of person, and other fundamental rights during the reporting period. Civilians have been killed and subject to injuries due to attacks during the armed conflict between Government forces and armed groups in the Amhara region (commonly known as "Fano") and the Oromo Liberation Army (commonly known as "OLF Shene") in Oromia region.
5. The report documents instances of death and bodily injuries of civilians as a result of the crossfire between Government forces and armed groups in the Amhara region (commonly known as "Fano"). Similarly, individuals who were not part of the conflict have been victims of human rights violations in the context of the continued armed conflict between government forces and the Oromo Liberation Army (commonly known as "OLF Shene") in Oromia region resulting in death, injury and destruction of property. In this fiscal year, the Oromo Liberation Army (commonly known as "OLF Shene") continued

kidnapping passengers traveling to Addis Ababa, demanding huge amount of ransom and committing numerous human rights violations, including killing of hostages who were unable to pay the requested ransom.

6. In addition to the impact of the ongoing armed conflict in Amhara and Oromia regions on people's lives, the report also covers death, injuries and destruction of property due to attacks by government forces and armed and other organized groups as well as unidentified groups in various woredas and zones in Central Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambela regions where conflicts and security concerns were recurring as a result of different reasons.
7. Natural disasters such as drought, floods, and earthquakes have caused deaths, bodily injuries, and displacements in various parts of the country, while widespread outbreaks of malaria, cholera, and measles have claimed many lives in different regions. As detailed in the social and economic rights section of the report, the situation has further deteriorated in conflict-affected areas where health institutions, basic infrastructure, and essential services such as ambulances are unable to provide adequate service.

Right to Liberty

8. The report shows that, deprivation of liberty and arbitrary detentions for reasons said to be "command post" or "current situation" continued to be a serious concern as a result of the armed conflict in the Amhara and Oromia regions as well as some areas affected by the recurring security problems in Central Ethiopia and Southern Ethiopia regions. EHRC confirmed that, although the state of emergency declared in the 2023/2024 fiscal year was lifted on June 5, 2024, in the Amhara Region, practices resembling a state of emergency were reportedly implemented across all areas, resulting in widespread, arbitrary, and prolonged detention. For instance, since September 28, 2024, many people subjected to arbitrary detention and mass arrests have been held in informal detention facilities located in Dangila, Chiliga (Seraba Military Camp), Kombolicha, and Shewa Robit. The detainees in these centers were released after undergoing what the government called 'rehabilitation training.' In addition to those informal detention facilities, people have been detained in various prisons, police stations as well as military camps, referred as "command post detainees" without being taken to court. In Oromia Region, related to the ongoing armed conflict, individuals have also been arbitrarily and unlawfully detained in police stations under "current situation." It is particularly alarming that arrests and illegal detentions are conducted without court warrants, with detainees frequently moved between different police stations.
9. Although the practice of suspending human rights without formally declaring a state of emergency by a government body mandated by law to do so is unacceptable under national, regional and international human rights

frameworks, the town of Wolkite and its surroundings have been placed under "command post" administration due to the security concern in Kebena Special Woreda of the Gurage Zone, Central Ethiopia Region. This situation has opened the door to human rights violations, including infringements on the right to liberty. Similarly, in various zones of the Southern Ethiopia Region, individuals who are designated as “suspected by the command post” are being subjected to prolonged arbitrary detention and the habeas corpus petitions submitted for their release were dismissed by the High Courts, citing Article 93 of the Constitution on state of emergency, even though no state of emergency had been declared at the time.

10. Alongside the unlawful and arbitrary detentions committed by the government, kidnapping carried out by armed groups and bandit groups have continued to undermine the right to liberty and other fundamental human rights. The perpetrators kidnapped civilians and moved them to unknown locations, subsequently demanding substantial ransoms for their release. Large number of kidnapped civilians who are unable to pay the requested ransom were subjected to multiple human rights violations, including loss of life. The report highlighted the human rights violations associated with kidnapping particularly in the Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, and Oromia regions. Of particular concern, the report indicates that women have been subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence while in captivity.

Human Rights and Treatment of Prisoners and Detainees

11. One of the powers and duties entrusted to the EHRC by law is monitoring the human rights of individuals deprived of their liberties in police stations, informal detention facilities and prisons. In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, EHRC monitored a total of 66 prison facilities, 473 police stations, and 9 informal detention facilities.
12. There are some improvements in conditions of detention in different regions following the implementation of recommendations previously given by the Commission. For instance, in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz and Sidama regions there has been reduction of inhuman treatment of detainees. In Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions individuals who have been detained in police stations, prison centers and informal detention facilities without following due process are being released and brought to court. Prisons located in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, South Ethiopia, Sidama and Somalia regions increased the food budget for inmates. The report noted, in some regions, the expansion and infrastructure development works are being carried out to address the situation where suspects and prisoners are held in overcrowded and unsanitary rooms.
13. Nevertheless, many of the challenges regarding conditions of detention of prisoners and detainees have either persisted or became worse. The main

challenges faced by EHRC in respect of detention monitoring which is vital in the protection of human rights are conflict, lack of security and denial of access to conduct monitoring in detention centers in areas affected by conflicts. As a result, EHRC managed to monitor only five prisons in Amhara region during the reporting period.

14. The major gaps identified during EHRC's detention centers monitoring include the fact that detainees are not provided with food in many police stations; prisoners are not provided with sufficient, quality and nutritious food although some regions have raised the daily prisoners' food budget; detainees are subjected to torture and ill treatment in some police stations and that there is no complaint procedure in place. Children in conflict with the law are detained with adults and there are gaps in the application of the principle of separate detention for other categories of detainees. While there have been efforts to expand prison and police station infrastructure in some regions, overcrowding, poor hygiene, and a lack of basic necessities continue to be major problems across many regions. In many prison facilities, there was a severe shortage of beds and mattresses, forcing detainees to sleep on the floor in unsanitary and uncomfortable conditions. Access to healthcare and quality education services also remains insufficient in most detention centers. Furthermore, the EHRC identified serious gaps in the provision of support to prisoners with special needs.

Freedom of Association and Civic Space

15. The proposed amendments to the Civil Society Organizations Proclamation No. 1113/2018 Amendment Bill, which was submitted for discussion in June 2025, should not adversely impact ongoing national issues that require the active participation and role of strong civil society organizations for their successful implementation, such as transitional justice, national dialogue, and the national general elections expected to be held in 2026. The report emphasized that the amendment to the Civil Society Organizations Proclamation should be based on research-driven and meaningful participation of civil society organizations and all stakeholders, and that it must be in accordance with human rights provisions to ensure it does not narrow civic space or hinder the implementation of the right to freedom of association.
16. During the fiscal year, although the lifting of the ban imposed on civil society organizations, particularly those working on human rights issues, following discussions held by EHRC with the Civil Society Organizations Authority and the banned civil society organizations is encouraging, other challenges identified during the fiscal year and detailed in the report have placed pressure on the activities of civil society organizations and the human rights sector.

Other Civil and Political Rights

17. The report details issues of serious concern regarding the right to freedom of expression, including the right to information, the right to assemble, peacefully demonstrate and petition, the right to access to justice, and the independence of the judiciary.
18. The House of Peoples' Representatives approved the amendment to Media Proclamation No. 1238/2021 in its regular session held on April 18, 2025. The report indicated that the EHRC provided detailed comments and recommendations on the provisions of the Amendment Proclamation, particularly regarding the organization, selection, appointment and composition of the Board, as well as the amended provisions related to the power to grant and revoke licenses. EHRC emphasized that the right to freedom of expression can be meaningfully protected only when the media can effectively fulfill their role in a democratic society. Ensuring the independence and impartiality of the media regulatory body by law is a primary step in safeguarding the free flow of information, ideas and opinions essential to a democratic system. This can be ensured by clearly stating in the law that the recruitment and appointment/placement of members of the media authority is participatory and representative of different segments of society. The report further explains that the media regulatory bodies should be independent and protected from any interference, especially political and economic interference. Strict precautions should be taken to ensure that amendments and their implementation do not adversely affect the right to freedom of expression and the independence of the media, especially in relation to the organizational, institutional and operational independence of the authority, as well as issues related to licensing and regulation.
19. Instances undermining judicial independence and access to justice have been observed in various parts of the country. In particular, violations of rights committed against judges at all level of courts in the Amhara region, including illegal detention, intimidation, and interference by government executive bodies due to decisions and orders given by judges in connection with their judicial work. Similarly, in the Oromia region, judges and prosecutors have faced harassment for allegedly granting or cooperating in granting bail to suspects. The report also explores concerns about the independence of courts and the right to justice in various regions of the country, including Central Ethiopia, Sidama, Southern Ethiopia, and Tigray, where civil administration has not been established and justice institutions are not fully functioning.

Complaints Submitted to EHRC

20. As a national human rights institution, EHRC has the mandate to initiate and conduct investigations into human rights violations. In addition to initiating investigations on its own, the EHRC is also empowered to receive and

investigate complaints submitted by individuals or groups. This mandate extends to all alleged human rights violations, except for cases that are pending before the House of Peoples' Representatives, the House of Federation, Regional State Councils, or any level of court.

21. During the budget year, the EHRC received and handled a total of 1,258 complaints submitted by 1,524 persons, either individually or in groups. The highest number of complaints was registered at the Head Office (416), followed by the Jimma Office (273), Hawassa Office (168), and Bahir Dar Office (121). Of the complainants, 77.2% male and 22.8% female, with 79 individuals identified as persons with disabilities. A majority of the complaints (55.3%) pertained to alleged violations of civil and political rights. Of the 1,258 cases received, 968 were resolved, while 39 were referred to other relevant institutions for resolution.

Socio- Economic Rights

22. One key progress during the fiscal year in social and economic rights is the provision of school feeding for 6.3 million students nationally, ranging from pre- primary school to 8th grade. Efforts were also made to expand and improve educational infrastructure, including the construction of new schools and the renovation of existing ones. In this regard, 45 schools in the Amhara Region and 4 in the Afar Region that had been destroyed by the northern conflict were constructed. Furthermore, EHRC, together with federal and regional education bureau and stakeholders conducted consultation and reached a consensus for the rebuilding of schools destroyed by various causes, including conflict, and on facilitating the return of out-of-school children to schools. Moreover, during the fiscal year, some legislation which has contributed positively to the promotion of social and economic rights has been enacted. For instance, the Health Service Administration and Regulation Proclamation No. 1362/2024 and the General Education Proclamation No. 1368/2025 incorporate provisions to ensure access to health and education services which aligned with human rights principles.
23. The ongoing armed conflicts and security issues in different regions of the country, along with the destruction of property and infrastructure, restriction on movement and disruption of production, inflation, and natural disasters such as droughts and floods, have continued to negatively affect social and economic rights. The report also mentioned several key areas of concern that require attention, including the right to adequate food, education, healthcare, and labor-related rights.
24. Food insecurity and malnutrition in Ethiopia remained a serious concern in the 2024/2025 fiscal year, particularly affecting children under the age of 5. The problem was exacerbated by the disruption of services provided by

organizations providing food and other humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups, including IDPs and returnees.

25. In the 2024/2025 academic year, over 7.8 million students were out-of-school across the country and more than 3,700 schools were non-functional in the Amhara region alone due to the ongoing conflict. In Ethiopia, gaps in the realization of the right to education persist as a result of delayed payment of teachers' salaries, the closure of schools in areas affected by displacement due to man-made and natural disasters, and other related issues. The monitoring of EHRC indicates that out-of-school children, especially girls, are vulnerable to a wide range of human rights violations and abuses, including early marriage. They also migrate from rural to urban areas and are exposed to labor exploitation, various addictions, and psychological, social, and economic problems.
26. The outbreaks of malaria, cholera, and measles have been reported across different regions of the country. The Ethiopian Health Cluster's April 2025 report documented 1,978,505 malaria cases, 4,056 cholera cases, and 3,908 measles cases between January and April, resulting in 77 deaths from malaria, 42 from cholera, and 22 from measles. The partial or complete closure of health facilities, infrastructure, and essential services such as ambulances due to the conflict, restrictions on movement, and the lack of access to medicines and medical supplies have exacerbated the situation. The report noted that healthcare professionals' strikes over better salaries, benefits, professional development, decent working conditions, and workplace freedoms, negatively affected the right to health during the fiscal year.
27. The report also highlighted ongoing challenges in enforcing labor and related rights. In several regions, including parts of Amhara, Southern Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, Southwestern Ethiopia, Sidama, and Tigray, government employees such as teachers and healthcare professionals have experienced delays in receiving their salaries, leading to extensive problems. While Labor Proclamation No. 1156/2019 establishes the legal foundation for setting a minimum wage; however, no such minimum wage had been established during the fiscal year.

Women's and Children's Rights

28. The Ministry of Justice developed a strategy to ensure the participation of victims and vulnerable groups including women and children in the implementation of the transitional justice policy; the Afar Regional State's draft family law has been prepared for the approval process, subsequent to necessary amendments based on the recommendations of EHRC and other stakeholders; as part of efforts to eliminate harmful traditional practices causing severe physical and psychological harm to women and children,

advocacy and awareness-raising activities were undertaken including a public hearing platform organized by the EHRC on female genital mutilation(FGM) in the Afar and Central Ethiopian regions; and the cessation of child labor and use of children in coffee picking in certain agricultural development projects in the Oromia region based on recommendations of EHRC are among the key achievements in the area of women's and children's rights during this fiscal year.

29. In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the human rights situation of women and children continues to be a major concern, particularly in areas where conflict persists, in post-conflict parts of the country where necessary reconstruction has not taken place, and in areas affected by natural disasters, including droughts and floods as well as other challenges and in regions facing other challenges, including displacement of persons.
30. As indicated in various sections of the report, women and children have been killed in attacks carried out by different actors during armed conflicts and security incidents. They have also been subjected to physical and psychological violence, including rape. Partial and complete disruptions of essential services such as health, education, and others services persisted for various reasons and remained a serious concern throughout the fiscal year. These persistent disruptions, combined with the widespread outbreaks of diseases such as measles, malaria, and cholera, as well as interruptions to humanitarian services, including food assistance, have had a significant negative impact on the rights of women and children to life, health, education, and an adequate standard of living.
31. The report highlights several concerning issues, identified through EHRC's monitoring conducted in line with international, regional, and national human rights frameworks. These include the response of the criminal justice system to victims of violence against women and children; the implementation of women workers' rights in factories and industrial parks; the treatment of children in foster care institutions; the treatment of children in conflict with the law within rehabilitation centers; and the situation of children's rights to education. In particular, the systemic investigation conducted by EHRC on the issue of FGM in the Afar and Central Ethiopia regions held in Addis Ababa on June 25 and 26, 2025, using a public hearing methodology, details the serious human rights violations caused by FGM, particularly against women and children's rights to life, health, physical and mental well-being, and other fundamental rights.

Rights of Persons with Disability and Older Persons

32. Among the notable measures taken in the 2024/2025 fiscal year under the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons were the African Older Persons' Rights Protocol to which Ethiopia is a signatory, achieving the required number of

signatory countries for its entry into effect; the drafting of the Older Persons' Proclamation; the preparation of the first draft of the Disability Policy; drafting of the 10-Year Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities; and the development of a National Palliative Care Guideline by the Ministry of Health in the previous fiscal year to ensure older persons receive adequate care and pain relief, in line with the African Older Persons' Rights Protocol. Additionally, the Ethiopian Statistics Service prepared a draft guideline to collect up-to-date and reliable statistical data on disabilities systematically. Legislative bodies demonstrated a greater commitment to incorporating recommendations from various stakeholders, including the EHRC. The other positive development is the drafting of new legislation integrating the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities effectively, compared to the previous legislations. Notably, the General Education Proclamation, enacted during the fiscal year, was one of these laws.

33. On the other hand, the report highlights challenges, such as the non-submission of the draft Disability Proclamation prepared by the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs to the House of People's Representatives. Although countries are obligated to maintain accurate data on persons with disabilities and older persons to provide tailored responses, the lack of demographic data on PWDs and older persons in Ethiopia continues to hinder the full realization and protection of their human rights. EHRC's monitoring in special boarding and inclusive education schools across various cities has revealed physical, institutional, and information accessibility barriers, challenges in providing books and other educational materials tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities, as well as lack of qualified teachers who possess the necessary skills and training. The report further highlights that female students with disabilities do not receive supports that take into account their multiple vulnerabilities, and particularly, there are situations in some special boarding and inclusive schools that expose female students with disabilities to gender-based violence.
34. Violence against persons with disabilities and older persons in areas affected by the ongoing conflict and related security issues continued to be a serious concern in the 2024/2025 fiscal year. As a result of the conflict and related issues, the capacity of older persons' care centers in these conflict-affected areas have been negatively impacted, significantly disrupting the provision of essential services for older persons.

The Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

35. Millions of Ethiopians are displaced due to armed conflicts, security issues, and natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, and are residing in shelters, temporary settlements, or have been integrated into host communities across various regions of Ethiopia.

36. The development of a national strategy to provide durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the facilitation of national ID registration for displaced persons in the areas where they are sheltered are among the positive developments during the fiscal year. The report also highlighted other key improvements such as, in the Afar region, relocation efforts and humanitarian assistance were carried out for communities affected by recurrent droughts and earthquakes, particularly in high-risk areas where displacement threats persisted. Furthermore, in the Amhara region, the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Coordination Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), formulated a durable solutions strategy to address the needs of IDPs in various localities. Meanwhile, in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, ongoing support and protection efforts continued for IDPs who had not yet secured a full and durable solution or achieved self-sufficiency. Despite these positive developments, Ethiopia fails to approve and implement the draft law to domesticate the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention). The absence of this national legal framework has contributed to exacerbating the legal and institutional barriers in protecting the human rights of IDPs.
37. EHRC had monitored the situations of IDPs and returnees in various zones and districts, including Afar, Amhara, Central Ethiopia, Southwestern Ethiopia and Tigray regions. IDPs and returnees living in shelters and integrated with host communities are facing severe challenges due to lack of adequate, timely, accessible, and needs-based humanitarian assistance, including education, healthcare and other essential social services. It is concerning that IDPs are in a state of prolonged displacement, reliant on humanitarian assistance that does not adequately meet their needs without finding a durable solution; for example, in the Southern Ethiopia Region, South Omo Zone, Dasenach Woreda, there are more than 79,000 IDPs who have been displaced since 2012 and are living in 12 displacement camps. The durable solutions for the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) implemented in some regions have shown gaps in ensuring the safety of returnees, addressing the root causes of displacement, and providing humanitarian assistance and basic services until IDPs and returnees can sustainably recover and return to their normal lives.

Refugees and Asylum seekers

38. In Ethiopia, numerous refugees from Eritrea, Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, DR Congo, and other countries reside in urban and regional refugee camps. There are key developments in the area of refugee rights during the fiscal year. The Ethiopian government has maintained its open-door policy, particularly for those fleeing the Sudan conflict. The government facilitated access to national identity cards, education and health services for refugees in Addis Ababa, developed programs to integrate refugees and asylum seekers in

Ethiopia into economic and social services, and enacted legislative amendments to enable refugees to support themselves and their families through various forms of employment, particularly the adoption of a directive on the right to work for refugees and asylum seekers. The report also notes the positive measures taken to address security concerns regarding Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in the West Gondar Zone of the Amhara Region, as well as South Sudanese refugees from the Murle tribe in the Okugu refugee camp in the Gambella Region, who were at risk but were able to reduce their exposure by relocating them to other locations.

39. The most concerning issues highlighted in the report include the following. Asylum seekers face difficulties in accessing registration services. For instance, in the Afar region, which host significant number of refugees, absence of registration service the closure of several previously operating reception centers in the region have been closed. Conflicts and related security issues in the country have also impacted the safety of refugees. For example, in the North Gondar Zone of the Amhara region, specifically in the Debark Woreda, refugees at the Alem wach refugee camp have suffered various human rights violations, including violations of the right to life and right to physical integrity, due to attacks by armed forces entering the camp. Refugees are also forced to stay in reception centers for extended periods without having their asylum claims processed, lacking adequate basic services, with shortages in humanitarian and social services for refugees.

Migrants

40. The beginning of efforts to expand overseas employment destination countries, particularly with Ethiopia's focus on improving existing bilateral employment agreements with current destination countries, the establishment of bilateral agreements with additional destination countries and recruiting agencies, additionally the enactment of a revised Overseas Employment Proclamation are among the positive developments observed during the fiscal year which can help to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration.
41. In the Afar region, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) monitoring has confirmed that the discontinuation of the protection services previously provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to victim and vulnerable migrants and the closure of the Migrant Response Center (MRC) have exposed returnees and assistance-seeking victim migrants to various human rights violations; the plan by IOM to hand over the protection and support services through a Migrant Response Center in the Somali region to the government and unpreparedness of government bodies to receive and continue these services remain among the most critical human rights protection concerns for IDPs, refugees, and migrants.

Compliance with Regional and International Human Rights Obligations

42. During the reporting period, Ethiopia did not sign or ratify any new international or regional human rights instruments. Consequently, among the core United Nations human rights treaties, the Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families were not signed or ratified. Similarly, Ethiopia did not ratify the African Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from the 12 core African Union human rights treaties.
43. During the reporting year, Ethiopia initially failed to submit its reports on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) during the 81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held in October 2024. Subsequently, Ethiopia submitted an initial report on the implementation of these treaties and the Maputo Protocol at the 83rd Ordinary Session of the Commission, which took place in May 2025. In this context, EHRC, as a NHRI, also submitted a supplementary report to the Commission.
44. At an international level, during the 4th cycle UPR session on Ethiopia at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) held in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 12 to 15, 2024, Ethiopia submitted its national report on the implementation of recommendations it had previously received on May 14, 2019 from its 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR). As a National Human Rights Institution, EHRC submitted a supplementary report to the Council. A total of 114 UNHRC member states participated in the review, providing 316 recommendations based on progress and challenges seen in light of human rights protection over the past 5 years. Of these, 252 recommendations were supported by Ethiopia, 12 were partially supported/noted, and 52 were noted.

National Dialogue

45. National dialogue plays significant role in promoting respect of human rights, both during the process and in the outcome, as it involves a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors, including segments of society vulnerable to human rights violations, and help to resolve political and social conflicts and differences, thereby contributing to the establishment of peaceful relations based on consultation. The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission held public consultations in 11 regions and 2 city administrations between May 2024 and May 2025, gathering input from various sections of society. The participation of women, person with disabilities, older persons, internally displaced persons, and many other sections of society in the processes is a positive step towards ensuring the right of vulnerable sections of society to

participate in public affairs. The fact that the group moderators gave all participants an equal opportunity to present their agenda without any discrimination, and that steps were taken to encourage greater participation by women, even though the overall participation remained below 50 percent, are a positive step identified by EHRC in its monitoring.

46. However, the report indicated that stakeholders expected to meaningfully participate in the national dialogue, including armed groups and political parties, excluded themselves from the process, creating challenges to its inclusiveness. It also found gaps in ensuring the privacy, security, and independence of those participating in the agenda-setting processes, which were among the concerning issues identified by EHRC during its monitoring.

Transitional Justice

47. The Ethiopian Transitional Justice Policy, adopted in April 2024, along with its Implementation Roadmap announced in June 2024, marks significant progress. EHRC welcomes positive developments such as the drafting of proclamations establishing the main institutions referred to in the Transitional Justice Policy, the drafting of the International Crime bill, which is essential for implementing the Policy in a way that can also be used sustainably after the Transitional Justice Process, and the preparation of a draft strategy to guide the participation of victims and vulnerable sections of the society in the process.
48. Conversely, it is concerning that the planned activities for 2024/2025 fiscal year outlined in transitional justice implementation roadmap, such as the establishment of a transitional justice institutional coordination platform, the development of a comprehensive sequencing and implementation plan, and the reinforcement of civil society organizations along with the public and stakeholders' support and sense of ownership, have not been executed as scheduled. The fact that the draft laws and documents prepared have not yet been tabled for public discussion, and that the Ministry of Justice is not providing adequate communication regarding the work being undertaken and the overall process being overseen, are additional challenges that need attention.

Recommendations

49. EHRC outlined the necessary measures to be taken to address the concerning human rights issues identified in the 2024/2025 fiscal year. In particular, EHRC urges respecting human rights and humanitarian laws within the context of armed conflict, seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts, ensuring the implementation of the existing peace agreements, focusing on reconstruction and rebuilding, preventing and responding to man-made and natural disasters, and guaranteeing the provision of humanitarian assistance. Additionally, EHRC provides recommendations relating to the transitional justice, the

national dialogues process, the upcoming 7th General Election scheduled for 2026, as well as measures to address legal and institutional barriers that undermine the full realization of human rights.

About EHRC

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an independent federal state body established as per the Federal Constitution and reporting to House of People's Representatives as a national human rights institution with the mandate for promotion and protection of human rights. (Article 55/14 of FDRE Constitution cum Proclamation No. 210/2000, as amended by Proclamation No. 1224/2020)