

Ethiopia
Human Rights Congress (HRC)

Special Report #141

A Report on Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) Ethnic Cleansing and Genocidal Acts
Against the Amara citizens of the Wolqait Zone

Date:

The boundaries of Wolqait:

In the North: Tekezzie River/Eritrea

In the South: Tegedie

In the East: Tekezzie River/Tigrai

In the West: Armachiho/Sudan

Culture and Language

The citizens of Wolqait are Amara-Ethiopians that speak in an Amharic that has their own style. In addition, they speak the languages of neighborhood regions, such as Tigrigna, and those close to the border speak Arabic. Cultural songs, dances, mourning ceremonies, parables, and religious ceremonies are all performed in Amharic. The similarity of Wolqaite to Tigrawai is in the fact that both speak Tigrigna. However, the frequency of speaking Tigrigna diminishes in those areas further away from the borders of Tigrai and Eritrea. Also, The Tigrigna spoken in Wolqait is markedly different from that spoken in Tigrai. Outside of language, there is no affinity between the two communities historically and in the psychologic makeup of the peoples.

Economy and National Contributions

Most Wolqaite are farmers. They have overcome malaria, wild animals, snake and scorpion bites and cleared large swaths of Mezega, and Humera for farming. Wolqaite are pioneers in implementing commercial, mechanized farming in Ethiopia, using at one point, up to 1,000 tractors and producing cotton, sorghum, and oil seeds. In exile, they have since introduced their skills to other parts of the country.

According to Wolqaite elders, the question of Wolqaite ascertaining their Amara-Ethiopian identity goes back to the time when TPLF was a guerrilla force. When it took power in Ethiopia in 1991, the issue has been raised once again, but has not been resolved.

Human Rights Violations and Intimidations in Wolqait

In a letter addressed to HRC, the elders and a coordinating committee for Wolqait Amara-Ethiopian identity, they have identified the following violations and intimidations:

- They have been forced to use Tigrigna language, and their children are forced to learn in schools in Tigrigna
- Government offices in Wolqait have been forced to use only Tigrigna as a working language
- They have been forced to renounce the cultural traits of Amara identity and replace them with Tigrawi identity

- Past names of places, and towns have been re-christened and forcibly changed to new names
- In government offices in Tigrai, Wolqaites make up only 5% of the staff, whereas Tigreans make up 95%
- A few TPLF officials have jailed Wolqaite husbands and raped their wives and daughters
- They claim that they have been banned from active civic participation, and in the rare instances of participation, they are harassed and jailed as supporters of past systems.
- Those Wolqaites who affirmed their Amara-Ethiopian identity have their lands confiscated and given to Tigrean immigrants, and thus while Wolqaites are reduced to pauperism, those Tigreans have become the nouveaux riches.
- Historical lands farmed by Wolqaite families have been forcibly taken away from them and given to Tigrean organizations. Those Wolqaites who lost their lands have been exiled to such Amra areas as Soroqa, AbrahaJira, Abderafi, Metema, Quarra, Shehadi, and Benishangula nd Gambella. Those Tigreans who emigrated into Wolqait initially owned up to 2 hectares of land, and are now owners of 50-100 hectares of land taken from Wolqaites
- Where as in Tigrai, the road network connecting woredas and kebelles is impressive, in Wolqait, let alone a connecting road between two woredas, there is no road that connects a woreda with a kebele in many places. Basic health services such as maternal care for pregnant women is lacking in many areas
- Whereas most Tigrean areas are served clean water through piping, in Wolqait, citizens and animals are drinking from the same pools of water, and Tigrean immigrants in Wolqait are the beneficiaries of piped clean water while the citizens suffer from the shortage.
- There are not adequate health centers. Wolqait has no tertiary educational institution.
- Up to 300 Wolqaites who affirmed their Amara-Ethiopian identity have been disappeared taken in the dead of night from their homes.

In conclusion, the Wolqait Amara-Ethiopian coordinating committee has submitted various reports to HRC in the hope that their complaints can be legally and democratically addressed; to get their citizen rights which are guaranteed under the constitution; to be allowed to freely discuss their issues with members of their community; to get legal protection; to ensure their legal representatives and families are not harassed and subject to property confiscation.

The victims state that the standard response they are getting from the government is a blanket statement stating that the land is Tigrean and if they don't like it, they are free to leave the land and go live in Amara kilil (region).

The Universal Human Rights Code, which Ethiopia claims to have accepted, at Article 3 ensures that every human being has a right to life and security. The covenant of international civil and political rights too at Articles 6(1) and 9(1) provides same and states that governments have a duty to respect their citizen rights and ensure that they are respected within their sovereignty (Article 2). Similarly, the African Charter of Human Rights states the same thing at Article 4 by noting the inviolability of the rights and security of every citizen. The federal democratic government of Ethiopia has codified these right at Article 14.

Further, the Universal Human Rights Code which Ethiopia has ratified prohibits discrimination based on race, color, language, religion, political belief, heritage, wealth, or any other basis at Article 2. The African Charter at Article 20(1) states that all human beings have a right to following their legal political beliefs and self- determine the economic and social system they select. Ethiopia has accepted these international and regional guidelines and has also codified at Article 39(1) that nations, nationalities and peoples have rights of self-determination to develop their culture, language and preserve their history.

1.1 Areas Covered During the HRC Team's Investigation

In response to the Wolqait citizens Amara-Ethiopian identity issue, the team investigated the alleged human rights violation in Wolqait, Gonder, Soroqa, and other villages. The team did not have full access to all the complainants who lodged the complaints due to constraints relating to political, security, cultural and resource issues.

1.2 Investigation Methods and Sources of Evidence

HRC Team's main sources of evidence include the complainants, their family members, eye witnesses and the representatives of the community. Repeat attempts to discuss with local officials of Tigray region, Western Tigray Zone administrators and Wolqait woreda administrators were not successful. HRC plans to continue to get access to the local officials in the future. Additionally, the Team of investigators has also studied various reports on the issue before they were deployed to the areas mentioned above.

Based on these sources and findings, this report was prepared.

1.3 Problems Encountered During the Investigation

- Following the general political tension in Ethiopia, investigation in areas like Wolqait was even harder as a result of harassment by government security forces.
- HRC has severe financial constraints to launch investigations and do follow-up visits in areas where human rights violations are alleged. The investigations entail transportation, per diem and lodging costs.

Despite these formidable problems, HRC was able to complete the investigation in Wolqait thanks to its dedicated members some of whom took out personal loans to offset the expenses.

2. Human Rights Violations Triggered by the Identity Issue in Wolqait

The rights of the following citizens of Wolqait have been violated because they have identified themselves and the region as an Amara-Ethiopian identity region.

2.1 Extrajudicial Killings

Citizens of Wolqait, the victims, their families and the Amara-Ethiopian identity coordinating committee members have stated that their position on the issue has been well known to TPLF since the latter's guerrilla days. Following TPLF's capture of state power, the citizens have continued to demand a response to their identity quest. However, the following citizens of Wolqait have been killed by local TPLF leadership, and armed security men of Tigray region.

No.	First name	Father's name	Place	Cause
1	Yibeyin	Tegegn	Wof Argif Adgasegn	Amara Identity Assertion
2	Ferede	Zeray	Kolitano Tabia	"
3	Mihret	Gebtew	Kolitano	"
4	Arefaynei	Mekonnen	Dengocha	"
5	Priest Belete	Tesfaye	Wof Argif	"
6	Gebremariam	Zelege	Kolita Tabia	"
7	Merid	Afterari	Wof Argif	"
8	Alene	Birara	"	"
9	Adanew	Ristie	"	"
10	Addisey	Tejie	"	"
11	Tegegn	Nega	Kolita Tabia	"
12	Gebre-medhin	Zerfu	Bilanba	"
13	Mamay	Belay	Adigaba	"
14	Araya	Mengistu	Kolita	"
15	Endalkachew	Teju	Wof Argif	"
16	Eyassu	Alene	"	"
17	Nega	Asresie	Adigaba	"
18	Grazmach	Woldie	"	"
19	Tedla	Tirunch	Qaftia Woreda	"
20	Atnafegne	Alemayehu	Balamba qebelle	"
21	Lijalem	Taye	Bombia	"
22	Yalem	Eshet	Bombia	"
23	Dejen	Mamo	Kokora Mariam	"
24	Bahta	Demissew	Wof Argif	"
25	Angaw	Menber	Dansha	Died in jail
26	Nigussie	Menber	Dansha	"
27	Merid	Gebremichael	Wolqait Kuletta	"
28	Fetene	Gebre	Dansha	"
29	Gebre	Geshunch	Wolqait Kuletta	"
30	Atalay	Alem	"	"
No.	First name	Father's name	Place	Cause
31	Kegnash	Woldie	Wolqait Kuletta	Died in jail

32	Gifachew	Dagne	“	“
33	Nigussie	Yehuwalla	Qafta	“
34	Ristie girmay	Tesfay	Maikadra	“

2.2 The Disappeared

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's constitution at Article 17(1) states that no citizen would be deprived of their freedom. International human rights law also states that no man or woman can be arbitrarily jailed or disappeared. In violation of these laws, the following have been kidnapped and disappeared. No one knows their fate since their disappearance.

No.	Full Name	No.	Full Name	No.	Full Name
1	Berei Addisu	17	Ayahuney Wond	33	Yazew lakew
2	Jotew Tamirei	18	Dereje Angaw	34	Yigzaw Zegeye
3	Sisay Tesfahunei	19	Alehegn Eyesus	35	Mulaw Kassahun
4	Bayew Biyadiglign	20	Wondim Haile	36	Tsehay Woldie
5	Atalay Zenebe	21	Emyew Awhara	37	Berhei Hagos
6	Sisay Zenebe	22	Asmamaw Belete	38	Alebachew Mebratu
7	Gebremedin Yehula	23	Awoke Tiqu'e	39	Goitom Hadgu
8	Mamo Zewdie	24	Enyew Awhara	40	Hailu liyunch
9	Malede Nega	25	Endeshaw Taferre	41	Alebachew Defersha
10	Goshu Haile	26	Wagnew Abatalew	42	Gebrheit Bahta
11	Alebel Haile	27	Alem Baye	43	Shitey Ayalneh
12	Wogahtay G/Selasie	28	Ayalew Semu	44	Malei Zenebe
13	Haftai Zenebe	29	Abrha Nega	45	Fantu Tegegn
14	Adane Tadesse	30	Goitom Haressa	46	Chalu Workneh
15	Mamu Desta	31	Habtu Yirga	47	Sefi Sisay
16	Meshesha Molla	32	Desta Lijalem	48	Serebe Beyene Bitowlign
No.	Full name	No.	Full name	No.	Full name
49	Woldekess Ya'ebiyu	81	Tegegn Belay		
50	Beyene Ayelegn	82	Enyew Wubneh		
51	Gebreselasie Redda	83	Nega Tebeje		
52	Haftai Yirga	84	Yirsaw Zewdie		
53	Dirar Gessesse	85	Tefera Sisay		
54	Sisay Hadgu	86	Getu Tele		
55	Riskey Haile	87	Worku Aytegeb		
56	Asamane Atalay	88	Ferede Tsehay		
57	Tebeje Bekele	89	Alemaw Zenebe		
58	Hayelom Yirga	90	Tekalign Tsegay		
59	Gerei Redda	91	Aleka Baye		
60	Ayalew Semu	92	Leul Mesfin		
61	Fantu Sisay	93	Yesaw Zewdie		
62	Tekalign Tesfaye				
63	Hagos Atalay				
64	Alehegn Tsegaye				

65	Tekle Lijalem				
66	Fantahun Gebeyehu				
67	Ferede Zeray				
68	Enquayene Legesse				
69	Alemu Legesse				
70	Ritbey Atsebha				
71	Dereje Angaw				
72	Wondim Haile				
73	Tekaligne Tesfaye				
74	Tedla Haile				
75	Lelemu Ferede				
76	Mihretey Abebe				
77	Nigatu Terfay				
78	Teklay Lijalem				
79	Abebe Teferra				
80	Damte Takelle				

The Issue of Ato Sisay Berhanie Beyene

His age is 39 years old, and is a member of the Wolqait Amara-Ethiopian Identity coordinating committee. He is a businessman, and is known for his peaceful advocacy of the identity issue by raising it with government officials for a resolution. On March 16, 2016 at about 2 p.m. while traveling from Gonder to Humera in a public bus, the vehicle was stopped by security forces near Maildelo and Ato Sisay was forced to get off the bus and taken away. The driver of the bus, the conductor and the assistant were jailed for 2 months and released for daring to make the news of his kidnapping public and testifying in court about the incident.

The citizens of Wolqait held a public demonstration in Dansha on March 19, 2016 protesting the kidnapping and demanding to know his whereabouts, and for him to appear in a court of law if he is deemed to have committed any crime. Because of the continuing protest, the government was forced to bring him before a woreda court in Humera on April 4, 2016. The court postponed the hearing to April 19, 2016. However, a higher court in Humera heard the matter and ordered Ato Sisay to be released for lack of evidence. However, at the time of this writing, Ato Sisay still languishes in a Humera woreda prison.

2.3 Beatings and Torture

FDRE's constitution at Article 16 states that no man should be vulnerable to bodily injury. Article 14 emphasizes the sanctity of the human body and person. Regardless, in contravention of the laws, the following citizens have suffered torture and beatings:

1. Ato Leulay Nega: Age 40; resident of Wolqait woreda, in Adiremet. While he was staying at a hotel in Adiremet on September 1, 2005, the police commander of the city pistol whips him, and shoots him at the nose telling him that Wolqaites are not welcome at this hotel. Ato

Leulay's nose has sustained damage and he has been getting medical help to repair the damage. The offending officer has not still been held accountable.

2. Ato Tadesse Goitom: Age 30; married and a father of two kids. On the evening of March 24, 2015, he was dragged out of his home in Adigoshu by security forces telling him that he is a ringleaders of the Wolqait Amara-Ethiopian identity movement. They took him to Axum prison in Tigray state. While in prison, he was badly tortured on April 3, 2015. After a 5-month imprisonment and torture, On August 23, 2015, he was released by a court for lack of evidence of any crime.
3. Ato Mebratu Takelle: Age 48; On the evening of January 19, 2016 at Kaftia hotel, the kebele chairman of Kaftia threw a glass at him and damaged the victim's nose. On top of that, the vice kebele chairman and the militia commander beat him so badly, he needed treatment at Chechela hospital in Gonder. They keep threatening him that unless he ceases his activities related to the Wolqait Amara-Ethiopian identity cause, they would disappear him too as they did his uncle.

2.4 Illegal Imprisonment

FDRE's constitution at Article 17(1) prohibits the denial of any citizen's liberty in extra judicial manners. Furthermore, Article 13(3) states that those citizens alleged to have committed a crime must appear before a court of law within 48 hours. In stark violation of these provisions, the following citizens have been unlawfully detained.

No.	Prisoner's name	Date jailed	Jail location	Comment
1	Bayehu Kahsay	April 23, 2016	Humera	
2	Goitom Amare	April 27, 2016	Humera	
3	Goitom Ristey	May 8, 2016	Humera	
4	Aligaz Ayele	May 19, 2016	Humera	
5	Molla Hailu	May 19, 2016	Humera	
6	Ashagrew Gezahegne	May 19, 2016	Humera	
7	Setegn Arero	May 19, 2016	Humera	
8	Solomon Gizatei	May 19, 2016	Humera	
9	Mamaye Desalegn	May 19, 2016	Humera	
10	Bahta Teju	May 27, 2016	Humera	
11	Tadesse Goitom	April 4, 2015	Axum	Released after 5 months in jail
12	Leulay Nega	September 20, 2006	Adiremet	Released after 2 days of jail
13	Nigussie Demissew	September 3, 2007	Gonder	Released after 9 months in jail
14	Tassew Kasegn	February 2016	Dansha	Taken by armed militia; jailed in Humera police station

2.5 Confiscation of private property and farmlands

FDRE's constitution at Article 40 (1) (4) respects the rights of citizens to own private property, and entitles peasants to own land and prohibits the confiscation of their lands. However, in violation of

these laws, the following and others not listed here have illegally lost farm lands, tractors, produce and other property by orders of the local TPLF officials.

1. Ato Kassa Yirsaw: Age 50; a resident of Humera kebele 01, and a family man living off the land he farms. He has been farming 700 hectares of land for which taxes have been paid for 55 years in Kaftiya, Humera, at Rawyan land that he inherited from his father. On October 3, 2010, all his land was taken away without any cause or compensation. After protracted court proceedings, he got back just 100 acres of his land. The victim complains to HRC that he was victimized solely because of his Wolqait heritage, and that his family has been subjected to financial problems.
2. Ato Yilef Beyene: Age 28; his 250 hectares of farm land located in Kaftia woreda at Dika station near Maikaddir was taken away without cause or compensation from him and the land was given to a few Tigreans. Also, in 2002, over 200 cattle that belonged to his father Beyene Tiruneh and uncle Tedla Tiruneh were stolen by TPLF and taken to Tigrai. He was victimized because of his Wolqait heritage and his assertion of his Amara-Ethiopian identity. As a result of this identity assertion, his uncle Tedla Tiruneh was murdered by TPLF and is listed in this report.
3. Ato Riskay Adfeme: Age 40; father of 3 and a resident of Kaftia, Maikaddira. In December 2010, his 30 hectare farm land was confiscated by an ex-TPLF captain. He also lost 126 quintals of sorghum. The victim claims because of his Wolqait heritage, he has been forced into exile and faces serious financial problems.
4. Ato Sisay Zenebe: Resident of Kaftia, Humera. He claims 18 cattle and his gun have been taken away in the evening of July 2001 at 8 p.m. by armed militia of the TPLF, and to date, his property has not been returned to him. He himself has been disappeared as reported elsewhere in this report.
5. Ato Beriley Tebeje: Age 65; a resident of Kaftia, Aderbaeker. He lost 30 hectares of his land by the edict local authorities. His incessant complaint to the authorities about the land illegally taken from him resulted in him being jailed for 4 days in June 2013.
6. Ato Adem Ali: Age 66; a resident of Humera Kebele 01. He was a wealthy farmer and known for helping the poor in his area. He has reported to HRC that he has lost farming land, produce and farming machinery at various times. He adds that the local officials pressure him not to sell his produce, and as a result his children have been exiled, and he lives in constant fear for his life as the TPLF militia continue to threaten his life unless he stops his Amara-Ethiopian identity agitation.
7. Ato Nuru Ibrahim: Age 54; he is a farmer and manages an extended family of 25. He reports that because of his assertion of Wolqait's Amara-Ethiopian identity, 100 hectares of farmland and tractors were taken from him in January 2008. He adds that his land has been parceled out and given to Tigrean immigrants. Effective November 2014, he says he has been forced under pressure to live in forced exile.
8. Ato Ashagre Zewdie: A resident of Kaftia, Humera; he is a farmer. He says that just because he is Wolqait, his gun and tractor have been taken away by local TPLF officials.

9. Ato Gebre Tegegne: He reports that in 2015, his 50 hectares of farmland were illegally taken from him and given to a farmer who came from Axum (Tigray).
10. Ato Chalachew Haile: Age 60 and a resident of Metema woreda in Shehedi. In November 1990, his 151 cattle and 92 goats were illegally taken away by the then TPLF area commander who has since been transferred to Azezo, Gonder. Although the administration of Semien Gondar and the city council of Metema woreda have made decisions and written letters (HRC notes the authenticity of the letters) for his property to be returned, to date, he remains a victim.
11. Ato Tessema Retta: Age 68, a resident of Humera, and a member of the identity coordinating committee. Just because he is a member of the coordinating committee, he was forced to pay taxes on 130 hectares of land although his farmland is only 70 hectares. The local officials had demanded payment of \$983,000 birr in what they illegally say back taxes. Because of the pressure, he was forced to leave Humera and live in exile.

2.6 Those Whose Arms Were Illegally Confiscated

The following individuals, on account of asserting the Wolqait Amra-Ethiopian identity alone, have been subjected by TPLF officials to the loss of their personal weapons as also corroborated by other witnesses in addition to their testimony:

1. Ato Abay Mamay – Adiremet: February 20, 2016
2. Ato Yebirshum Ademe –Adiremet: February 1, 2016
3. Ato Mekete Mebratu-Dansha: February 29, 2016
4. Ato Berhanu Ferede-Dansha: February 29, 2016
5. Ato Ahmed Mohammed Nur-Dansha: February 29, 2016
6. Ato Anegaw Tirunch – Dansha: February 29, 2016
7. Ato Yirga Azanaw-Dansha: February 29, 2016
8. Ato Gorefey Asgedom- Baeker: January 19, 2016
9. Ato Tsegay Wubneh-Kaftia: January 19, 2016

In addition, HRC has received eyewitness testimony that others not listed above have been subjected to the same weapon confiscation in January and February 2016 on the ground that they are Amara identity believers and hence did not deserve the possession of weapons.

2.7 Displaced Citizens

The following is a list of residents of Wolqait and Tegede that have been forcefully displaced from their homes and farmlands effective March 2016 for asserting the Amara-Ethiopian identity of Wolqait. Some of the listed could not bear the difficulty of exile and have since returned; others continue to live displaced lives. The HRC Team has verified the internal exile and displacement by talking to the displaced in their new areas.

No.	Full name	No.	Full name	No.	Full name		
1	Wondimey Goitom	29*	Dagnew Tsegahun	55	Mekonnen Desta		
2	Mulu Adugna	30	Gebre Abebe	56	Yeshifana Azezew		
3	Yenehun Berihun	31	Guanche Mamay	57	Esayas Malede		
4	Tigabu Berihun	32	Berhanie Yaebiyo	58	Baye Nigussie		
5	Shumiye	33	Yenehun Baye	59	Leul Rezeme		
6	Ato Jajaw Berihun	34	Ambatchew Berie	60	Yilef Beyene		
7	Ato Dagnew Chaklu	35	Bahire Berie	61	Simachew Wagnew Adane		
8	Kassahun Eshetie	36	Mrs. Alu Mamo	62	Sisay Tilahun		
9	Eshetie Addisu	37	Melaw Yismaw	63	Priest Endalyew Baye		
10	Shibabaw Asmare	38	Workneh Berhane	64	Yordanos Mesfin		
11	Ms. Tilanesh Mebratu	39	Gizachew Berhane	65	Maru Berhane		
12	Markeshaw Aynekulu	40	Aleba Berhane	66	Sisay Ayele		
13	Abate Addisu	41	Fetalew Mamo	67	Gidey Assefa		
14	Alekegn Achamyelch	42	Fisseha Demoz	68	Fisseha Desta		
15	Serebe Mulu	43	Yideg Agizew	69	Fitalew Mamay		
16	Sefefe Kassie	44	Mekete Mebratu	70	Gizachew Berhanu		
17	Babey Nega	45	Eshetie Addisu	71	Mekete Mebratu		
18	Gidey Assefa	46	Frew Amsalu	72	Efraim Amsalu		
19	Yegnawlij Eshet	47	Aleka Tsegaye Worku	73	Lijalem Kebede		
20	Mekonnen Yazezew	48	Yizezew Malede	74	Bahta Wagnew		
21	Melaku Chekol	49	Chalachew Tsehay	75	Mulu Mesfin		
22	Kassa Tiru	50	Setegn Mamay	76	Shibabaw Wolde		
23	Babu Legesse	51	Tigabu Berihun	77	Mengistu Fente		
24	Aleba Tekle	52	Mera Belay	78	Abate Addisu		
25	Tsegaye Agidew	53	Haile Yirga	79	Siyum Berihun		
26	Tsega Feleke	54	Mebratu Amare	80	Atalay Tadege		
81	Tsegaye Habtu	90	Eneney Abdulkadir	99	Temesgen Berihun		
82	Berhanu Ferede	91	Meseret Demissew	100	Shambel Atalay		
83	Taye Melesse	92	Marei Belay	101	Molla Mebratu		
108	Dejen Lemlimu	121	Sisay Dagnew	134	Mesfin Asmare		
109	Mrs. Lielt Chekol	122	Mulu Nigussie	135	Kassegn Lemma		
110	Endeshaw Angaw	123	Muluberhan Nigussie	136	Nega Bantiyhun		
111	Angaw Mamu	124	Tsegaye Wubneh Wondatir	137	Tessema Retta Tekola		
112	Awoke Zenebe	125	Zeudu G/Egziabher	138	Gidey Asmare		
113	Berei Wondimagegn	126	Mengistu Endalew	139	Shihay Gebre Chirkos		
114	Molla Abebe	127	Tesfaye Mewusha Hagos	140	Tesfahun Haile		
115	Teju Gobezie	128	Abrha Mebratu				
116	Ayenew Atalay	129	Mesfin Asmare				
117	Tigabey Bayew	130	Ademha Jiali				
118	Mamo Adane	131	Mebratu Getahun				

119	Tsegaye Sisay	132	Nega Yenehun		
120	Alachew G/Giorgis	133	Abrha Mebratu		

*numbers 27 and 28 are missing from the table, therefore the total number of victims is 138, not 140.

2.8 Deliberate Change of Place Names

HRC has received reports from Wolqait elders, the identity coordinating committee members and the broad community that one of the main efforts to destroy the identity of Wolqait Amara-Ethiopian identity is to deliberately change names of places by TPLF.

The following table shows the effort underway

No.	Previous name	Newly given name
1.	Kibabo	Hiwot
2	Embagalla	Ahforum/Maichew
3	Woynat	Dedebit Lekatit/Division
4	Shumeri	Selam
5	Maileile	Hayelom
6	Lilab	Alem Genet
7	Maksegno Gebeya	Ketema Nigus
8	Kurba Lomi	Naylomi
9	Dishka	Selam
10	Giyit	Maiwoini
11	Menshel	Maileham
12	Banat	Hiwot Ersha Mechanization

A Summary of the Violations:

Wolqaite have suffered human rights violations since the early days of the TPLF's armed struggle because they have asserted the Amara-Ethiopian identity of the area and the community. In summary, the following are the main violations incorporate din this report:

- Killings: 34 Wolqaite who have asserted their Amara-Ethiopian identity have been unlawfully killed by TPLF.
- Kidnapping: up to 93 Wolqaite have been kidnapped and disappeared and their whereabouts are to this day unknown.
- Beating and Torture: Local officials have engaged with impunity with the beating and torture of Wolqaite citizens
- Illegal Detention: 17 Wolqaite have been unlawfully imprisoned because of their identity beliefs.
- Illegal confiscation of farmlands, houses and property: farmers of Wolqait have at various times been victims of expropriation of their land, produce and property by local officials.

- Confiscation of weapons: Those who dared to affirm their Amara-Ethiopian Wolqait identity have been forced to give up their weapons and for confiscation.
- Displacement: Wolqaite affirming their identity have been subjected to unbearable political pressure by TPLF, forcing them to flee their homes.
- Injustice and Prejudice: Wolqaite have faced bias based on their culture, language and belief.