

Resolution

UNPO XV General Assembly

on UNPO Presidency Member Dr Shigut Geleta

- *Whereas*, on July 8 2020, several leading members of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) political party were arbitrarily detained by Ethiopian government forces;
- *Whereas*, amongst these leaders was Dr. Shigut Geleta, a German national and leading campaigner for dialogue and non-violence to resolve Ethiopia's long-running inter-ethnic crisis, who was serving as a member of the Presidency of the UNPO;
- *Whereas*, these arrests follow a similar round of arrests and disappearance of OLF politicians earlier in the year, which led to the international community demanding that Ethiopia account for their whereabouts;
- *Whereas*, these arrests also follow a tightening of basic civil and political liberties and a postponement of elections by the Ethiopian government over the past few months, under the pretext of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- *Whereas*, the publication of a report by Amnesty International that brought to light gross human rights violations committed by Ethiopian security forces between December 2018 and December 2019 in the Oromo and Amhara regions;
- *Whereas*, the UN Human Rights Council and the African Union have expressed concern, but have declined to formally become involved;
- *Whereas*, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 before he has actually delivered on the peace that he promised in Ethiopia and now appears to be using the cover of the prize to support the abrogation of rights in Ethiopia;

Therefore, we, the XV UNPO General Assembly:

1. *Express* our continued support for the resolution of ethnic tensions in Ethiopia and transition to democracy through negotiation, dialogue and democratic elections;
2. *Urge* the elections in Ethiopia to be held expeditiously and for the restrictions of communications and freedom of speech to be reversed;
3. *Strongly condemn* the repeated and verified attacks on members of the Oromo community by government forces and the arrests and detentions without valid reasons of OLF and other opposition party officials, including UNPO Presidency member Dr. Shigut Geleta;

4. *Reaffirm* the absolute commitment to non-violence and equal respect for self-determination of all peoples contained in the UNPO Covenant and the requirement that all actors must ensure that protests remain non-violent and do not threaten or harm lives and property of other people;
5. *Demand* that the Ethiopian authorities disclose information about the whereabouts and well-being of Dr Shigut Geleta immediately and guarantee to him and all of the detainees the basic rights to liberty and fair trial guaranteed under international law, as fully enumerated in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Luanda Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Policy Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa;
6. *Call* upon the international community, including the Nobel Committee, to hold Ethiopia and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed accountable for breaches of international law with regards to the violent crackdown on Ethiopian citizens accused of holding political affiliation to OLF or other opposition political parties.