Massacres in Southern Ethiopia
by a source in Ethiopia
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Ethiopia is one among the poorest countries in the world. The ravages of violent conflict stand at the forefront in the explanation of Ethiopia's backwardness and poverty. A series of internal and international conflicts have significantly devastated the country. Within Ethiopia, certain ethnic groups are discriminated against and subjected to harsh repression and wide-ranging infringement of human rights. Among others, the Oromo ethnic group, comprising of about 40% of the total population in the country, is hosting multifaceted oppression from the minority-dominated government.

Recently, a violent incident believed to be spearheaded by government authorities has claimed the lives of more than 150 citizens in Southern Ethiopia. This violence was of two types; mass killing and armed clashes.

The mass killing was inflicted on innocent citizens having a variety of ethnic and clan backgrounds inhabiting the gold mining areas located between Shakkiso and Arero Districts of the Guji and Borana administrative zones respectively. Within a couple of days, about 100 persons were killed by gun shots, some 15 burnt in their huts, one man was hanged from a tree and used as an object for practicing shooting accuracy, four persons had their ears cut before being killed, and numerous others were killed and thrown into hand dug ditches. Government officials are resistant to outsiders who attempt to uncover the underlying realities. The result is that the killings are ignored in the international media and no attempts are made to uncover the reality by human rights groups.

In addition to these massacres by government troops, an armed confrontation that took place between the Guji and Borana Oromo communities reportedly cost more than 35 lives.