

## **Ethiopian troops "massacre" civilians in country's Somali region**

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Reports that have reached the Ogaden Online service desk from Dolo province [Ogaden, Somali region] confirm recent mass murder carried out by the Ethiopian military deployed in the area. According to eyewitnesses the mass murder took place in the city of Korale on 24 July 2007.

Those reportedly killed in the murderous reign of the Ethiopian military at Korale are reported to include women, children, and the men of advancing age. Eyewitnesses in the city indicated that the Ethiopian military convened a gathering for all the city dwellers in the city centre.

Military personnel were said to have forced people from their homes and business centres in order for them to forcefully attend the gathering. When civilians gathered for the meeting called by the Ethiopian military, the Ethiopians read names from a list. These military personnel said that they were looking for the names they read out and they took away those whose names were in the list from the gathering.

After those in the list were rounded up, the Ethiopian military started to rampage the city. They are reported to have started a huge fire which later spread to many parts of the city. Also eyewitnesses add that the Ethiopians on the rampage tortured some of those they have encountered during their rampages in the city.

The bodies of many of the civilians who were rounded up by the Ethiopian military personnel in the area have been found in the outskirts of the city showing severe signs of torture. Some of the deceased were hanged from trees.

So far our reporters in the area were able to compile an initial list of the deceased that consists of eight individuals. [Passage omitted]

It is reported that only one young girl miraculously survived the mass murder carried out by the Ethiopian military. The rope used to hang this young girl is said to have broken off and the Ethiopians left the girl for dead.

This young girl who still had the rope in her neck is reported to have been found by the city dwellers that have gone to the outskirts of the city in order to see if anyone was left dead or alive by the Ethiopian military after they have vacated the area.

In a related news, it is reported that the Ethiopian military firebombed the

towns of Bobaase, Marsin iyo Samo [Ogaden Region]. Civilians are reported killed as a result but we have not been able to compile their names up to the time of going to press with this story.

An old man who was originally kidnapped by the Ethiopians from Warder city have been confirmed killed in the city of Kebri Dehar [Ogaden regions]. The name of the deceased elder is Husien Gacamay.

Our reporters throughout Ogaden indicate that the recent events of firebombs, extra judicial killings and blockade by the Ethiopian military and its associated militias appears to be systemic and is said to be intended to pile undue pressure on the Ogaden civilians.