



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Ethiopia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 3 March 2014

Information on an organisation called 'Ginbot 7 Popular Force' from 2005 to 2014

In December 2013 the *Committee to Protect Journalists* includes in a document the description of the:

“...banned opposition movement Ginbot 7, which the Ethiopian government designated a terrorist entity” (Committee to Protect Journalists (18 December 2013) *Annual Prison Census 2013 – Ethiopia*).

In January 2012 a report issued by *Human Rights Watch* notes:

“In June 2011 the Ethiopian House of Federations officially proscribed two armed groups – the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and one opposition party, Ginbot 7 – labeling them terrorist organizations” (Human Rights Watch (22 January 2012) *World Report 2012 – Ethiopia*).

A publication in August 2012 by *Landinfo* states:

“Ginbot 7 (G7) is a political party established in 2008. The party works for regime change, including the use of military means, and is therefore illegal. G7 mobilises Ethiopians in the diaspora and in Ethiopia, but it is uncertain how extensive the party's activities in Ethiopia are. Several people have been arrested, indicted and convicted of terrorist acts under the auspices of G7 in 2009 and 2011” (Landinfo (20 August 2012) *The Ginbot 7 party*, p.3).

This report also states:

“Ginbot 7 (referred to as G7) was established 15 May 2008. The name means 15 May in Amharic and refers to the date when the election for the parliament in Ethiopia was held in 2005. The party was established on an initiative from Berhanu Nega and Andargachew Tsige. Both have roots in the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP), and they were active in the opposition coalition the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) before and after” (ibid, p.6).

It is also pointed out in this report that:

“Since the establishment of the party, the leadership has mobilised Ethiopians in exile in Europe, Africa, Australia and North America. They want to mobilise support for the group's goals and create a cohesive network of Ethiopian opposition groups in exile” (ibid, p.6).

The website of the organisation is
<http://www.ginbot7.org/>

References

Committee to Protect Journalists (18 December 2013) *Annual Prison Census 2013 – Ethiopia*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=52b83be18>

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Human Rights Watch (22 January 2012) *World Report 2012 – Ethiopia*

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Landinfo (20 August 2012) *The Ginbot 7 party*

<http://www.landinfo.no/id/2224.0>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
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