



## STOP FUNDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ETHIOPIA

### HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK IN ETHIOPIA

When Ethiopians took to the streets in November 2015 to oppose an official development plan, the government hit back, detaining 20,000 women and men without trial. Human Rights Watch estimates that state security forces have killed up to 600 protesters. A state of emergency, called in October 2016, curtails human rights, banning even peaceful expression of critical views by media or civil society groups.

### ETHIOPIAN WOMEN SUFFERING FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY STATE ACTORS

Women Ethiopian activists are calling for our support in raising awareness of the sexual violence being inflicted, mainly on women, in the regions of Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Ogaden, Oromia and Sidama. Women are not only raped but also subjected to sterilization, sex-trafficking and forced labour. Research suggests that most of this abuse, which targets women of opposition parties and civil groups, is perpetrated by state security forces. The gender-based violence, here as elsewhere, is being used strategically as a weapon of war, to terrorize and divide communities. The exact number of victims is unknown because many women remain silent for fear of reprisals and due to cultural taboos concerning rape. Few victims receive medical or psychological care because humanitarian aid, including from the EU and member states, is not reaching the most affected regions.

### IS UK AID FUNDING A RIGHTS-ABUSING GOVERNMENT?

In 2015 Ethiopia received almost £350 million in aid from the UK, making it the second most favoured country in the world. Much of this will have been channelled through a government that is denying human rights to its people. We seek assurance from HM Government that our giving is not fostering abuse.

### We urge you to join Women in Black in appealing to the UK Government.

**To: The Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA. We call on you urgently to:**

- Support the request by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to be given access to investigate the abuses in the areas affected by violence;
- Join the European Parliament in calling for a United Nations-led independent investigation into the recent violence, including sexual violence;
- Review UK aid to Ethiopia to ensure that any assistance is tied to unlimited access to the affected areas by humanitarian and human rights organisations;
- Make sure that UK aid to Ethiopia is used in ways that improves the livelihoods and security of women, as well as their access to justice and reparation.

Name: ..... Signature: .....

Address: .....

**Women in Black** invite you to donate your time, knowledge or money to **Voices of African Women**, a UK WILPF campaign led by diaspora African women in London. They put pressure on UK and African governments to end sexual violence in conflict, stop the proliferation of small arms and implement legal frameworks for the rights of women. Visit: <http://www.ukwilpf.org>

**Contact Women in Black at: <[wibinfo@gn.apc.org](mailto:wibinfo@gn.apc.org)> <[www.london.womeninblack.org](http://www.london.womeninblack.org)>  
<Twitter @WIB\_London> <[www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london](https://www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london)>**

Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6 and 7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St. Martin's Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. Come and join us.