



June 29, 2020

Press release

The Oromo Community of Colorado Condemns the targeted assassination of Hachalu Hundessa. We would like to express our shock, anger, pain and heartache on the assassination of Hachalu Hundessa with the strongest term possible. The Oromo Community of Colorado mourns the death of an icon as a Community. Hachalu was a living legend, our hero, and the voice of the people; an artist who was able to contemplate and express the aspiration of our people. His Music is a living testament for who Hachalu Hundessa was and his commitment to the Oromo struggle. His music will forever echo the voice of this generation and generation to come.

What makes his death tragic and more painful to our community is that Hachalu's death came after Oromo people fought and toppled an authoritarian regime only to be replaced with another. Ethiopia has had a long history of taking-out key Oromo legends. We believe Hachalu was targeted because of his identity and for sharing his beliefs unapologetically. The system of oppression enshrined in every corner of Ethiopia has always been a dangerous place for those who sought to dismantle it in various forms. He was no different. He was assassinated for being Oromo and for having unshakable stand an orommuuma.

Oromos have had a long history of systemic marginalization, abuses, killings, imprisonment, and being a second-class citizen within Ethiopia. Hachalu's identity is our identity. Today we lost Hachalu Hundessa in inhumane and cruel circumstances. When would our killings stop? When will Ethiopia and its government recognize and value Oromo's existence? The Oromo Community of Colorado is searching for answers; when will the killing of Oromo people on their own land stop?

We call all community leaders to come together and act with unison on (1) combating the misinformation and legacy of subjugation and (2) creating a united front to fight for our existence. The Oromo Community of Colorado urges all Oromo communities around the world to organize, mobilize, and strategize on how we can go forward. Hachalu's legacy is that of unity and togetherness. We have to stand together and forge a path forward.

We demand the immediate release of all political prisoners of conscience starting with Jawar Mohamed and Bekele Gerba without preconditions. The government must stop the censorship of media and Journalists. The killing of Oromo must stop.

Oromo Community of Colorado.