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**UNESCO World Heritage Center
Paris, France**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing this letter to hear UNESCO's voice on the Karrayyu Abba Gadaas killing by government forces.

The Gada system, the indigenous democratic socio-political system of the Oromo people, has been inscribed on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

<https://ich.unesco.org › gada-system-an-indigenous-de...>

The idea is to have UNESCO condemn the [summary execution of Karrayyu Abba Gadaas](#) by government forces in broad daylight. The deed was confirmed by a state minister, an MP, and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.

In a live Facebook video, Hangasa Ibrahim, a member of the House of People's Representatives accused the head of Oromia

police commissions, commissioner Ararsa Merdasa of being behind the killings. Likewise, the state minister of peace, Taye Dendea, on [his personal Facebook page](#) with over half a million followers, the state minister implied that the Karrayyu Gadaa leaders were killed by elements within the regional government.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said there was “reasonable ground to believe” that the killing of Gadaa leaders constitutes “[extrajudicial killing](#)” by security forces and urged that members of the security forces who committed the killings should be brought to justice and that the victims and families of the victims should be compensated.

Let the world hear about how political and spiritual leaders of an indigenous society were killed like wild animals and UNESCO would have expressed its concern.

We take pride in the Gadaa system as Oromos, but our people suffered alone when it was under attack despite preserving our culture. This news was not even reported by any international outlet. Our people continue suffering in darkness.

The Karrayyu Abba Gadaas were taken from a place of worship and summarily executed. Bringing this to the international community such as rights groups including indigenous human rights defenders and UNESCO might pave the way for justice and accountability.

The UNESCO registers cultural heritages that have an ‘outstanding universal value’ and those that ‘transcend national boundaries and are of common importance for present and

future generations of all humanity.’ The Gada system has international significance and belongs to the world regardless of nationality.

The International Oromo Women’s Organization request UNESCO, to condemn the killings of the Karrayyuu Abba Gadaas.

Thanks,

Sincerely,

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Dinknesh D Kitila

IOWO Board Director