

Ethiopia Captures Two Swedish Journalists in a Fight with ONLF

Written by NewBusinessEthiopia.com

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BY NEW BUSINESS ETHIOPIA REPORTER

The Ethiopian government today (July 3, 2011) announced that two Swedish journalists are wounded and captured this week in a fight between the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and Ethiopian forces.



According to the press statement newbusinessethiopia.com received from the Office of Government Communication Affairs, 15 members of the ONLF soldiers (insurgents) group are killed while the two Swedish journalists are injured and captured.

ONLF has been fighting for over 20 years for the succession of the Ogaden region from Ethiopia. According to what is written in their passports, the two Swedish journalists are named Martin Schibbye and Joahan Persson. Joahan Persson was previously deported from Ethiopia for engaging with ONLF, according to the statement. The two sides went to war at Chellelo and Libel areas last Thursday.

Including the two Swedish journalists, there were a total of 23 insurgents in the group. The insurgents crossed Ethiopian border from Somalia with numerous weapons and short-range radio communications equipments, noted the press statement. It was only a few weeks since the Ethiopian Parliament officially included ONLF, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and Ginbot 7 into the list of terrorist groups along with Al Shaba and Al Kaida.

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Founded in 1984, the ONLF describes itself as a nationalist movement that seeks self-determination for ethnic Somalis in the Ogaden region. This is in contrast to other national movements in the Horn of Africa, which have sought to create a "Greater Somalia" in which all areas populated by Somalis are unified into one country. The ONLF also claims that the Ethiopian government has committed human rights abuses in the Ogaden, including interfering with relief work and international aid intended for the area, and that it wants retribution. Ethiopian officials have repeatedly denied such charges and allege the ONLF is responsible for the abuses.