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News

Conflict

OLF claims responsibility for bomb blast

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NAIROBI, 26 June 2002

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) has claimed responsibility for a bomb blast in the eastern Ethiopian town of Dire Dawa, an OLF spokesman told IRIN on Wednesday.

The small bomb had exploded in a building in the town belonging to the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway, AFP reported on Tuesday. Quoting the national radio, AFP said the building had been slightly damaged, but there were no injuries. It added that Ethiopian police were searching for those suspected of having been responsible for the bombing.

Lencho Bati, the OLF spokesman, called IRIN to say that the bomb blast was in retaliation "for the continuing harassment of Oromo students, merchants, and farmers by the Ethiopian regime". Lencho said his group would persevere with its activities "until the regime stops its campaign of harassment, intimidation and repression of the Oromo people". He said the OLF would not harm civilians, but would attack "government installations and military targets".

The Ethiopian government considers the OLF to be a terrorist organisation, and has told IRIN that the spokesman was not proven to be representative of any interests in Ethiopia.

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