# Korodegaga General Election 2010

## Male research officer

The issue of election is hot in the kebele. The community is in a frequent meetings while officials propagating to convince them to vote for the party in power. The community are fed up of the meetings that they could not perform their agricultural tasks properly. They are told to close their doors not to allow the entrance of any candidate of opposition party. They are also warned of exclusion from the safety net program unless they are registered and take the election card. Accordingly almost every resident has been given the card. The gerie and gott officials were continuously trying to mobilise for registration moving door -to –door with their warning.

The observers are either members of the leading party or those that have close relation with the kebele officials. Till then there was no registered candidate of opposition parties. However, the officials are in a high suspicion that candidates of the opposition party will come lately and change the whole thing as had been in the 2005 year election. Residents who are relatives of those 2005 election candidates of opposition parties are warning them through telephone not to come to the kebele as candidate of opposition party in fear of being killed or jailed by officials of the leading party observing their intention. One of the gerie members told me that he has already informed one of his relative living in town who was a candidate of Oromo people’s congress in the past election not to be a candidate and come to the kebele in fear of being killed. Moreover, if his relative is found coming being candidate of opposition party, he also may be considered as opposition and lose advantage he obtains from the kebele. A kebele official also told me, while chatting informally after we trust each other, that what the people saying in meetings and what they really think about the election are different i.e. from their heart people are supporting opposition parties but telling you supporting the leading party. Women are really supporting the party in power owing to the privileges they got through gender laws and related advantages.

## Female research officer

Everybody whose age is above 17 years old should take election card from kebele office. This is happening at a great interest. People are patiently waiting to take the card. There is segregation of ideas between males and females as before in the 1997 election. Most women support the EPRDF and male and youths lean towards the opposite parties. In this year there is no opposite party in the area as well as within the wereda. However, people are hopefully waiting the opposing party. Some males said that; ‘they talk a lot, but we decided within a minute what we select’ they assured that, they will never elect EPRDF, even if opposite party will not present there. Women have different idea from this, they are ready to elect it as before. They said that it helps us to know our legal right and we are able to practise it. In this gov’t women become powerful, economically, socially and politically.

Women said to men; ‘we won in the past, and we do the same now’ men reply that; ‘you are ‘bitemtota’ (yetegezachhu) and it is ‘yeset mengst’ (a woman’s party).