



# The Amhara Genocide in Ethiopia





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## Preamble

In compliance with the directives outlined by the United Nations Genocide Prevention Guidelines, as stipulated by the Stop Amhara Genocide Association and Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience (CAP LC), this report has been meticulously prepared to analyze the undeniable ongoing Amhara Genocide in Ethiopia.

The aim of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the atrocities being committed against the Amhara people, including an examination of their current plight, the challenges they face, the opportunities for intervention, and potential solutions. It is imperative that this report serves as a clarion call to action, urging the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Genocide Prevention authorities, and member states to fulfil their moral and legal responsibilities in halting the egregious loss of innocent Amhara lives.

Throughout the following sections, readers will find a detailed presentation of the evidence at hand, compellingly illustrating the urgent need for decisive intervention to prevent further bloodshed and safeguard the fundamental rights of the Amhara people. This document stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to justice, human rights, and the protection of vulnerable populations worldwide.

It is important to note that this report is based on news and testimonies of the victims reported and ongoing incidents that we have gathered. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and objectivity, the findings and conclusions presented herein are subject to the limitations inherent in the available information.

We trust that this report will serve as a valuable resource for stakeholders, including international organizations, policymakers, human rights advocates, and concerned citizens. It is our sincere hope that this document will guide discussions, inform policy decisions, and foster a deeper understanding of the ongoing Amhara Genocide, ultimately leading to meaningful action to end this humanitarian crisis.



## Introduction

Many observers and human rights organizations now speak of a veritable genocide against the Amharas. This report aims to document these abuses, analyze their root causes and make recommendations underscoring the urgent need for intervention to protect their rights and safeguard their existence in all parts of the country in the context of the Universal Periodic Review.

The exact number of victims of the Amhara Genocide remains unknown due to the dangerous conditions hindering data collection, particularly as Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic country with over 76 different groups. The Amhara people are one of the largest ethnic groups with a history spanning over 4000 years in Ethiopia, distributed across various regions of the country. However, they have been impacted significantly by targeted attacks, displacement, and grave human rights violations. This report aims to address the widespread abuses faced by the Amhara community throughout Ethiopia.

For the past 34 years, there has been a systematic pre-genocide preparation against the Amhara people, particularly during the EPRDF era, where the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) held significant power and influence. The TPLF, along with the Oromo Democratic Party (ODPO), the Oromo wing of the EPRDF, actively participated in orchestrating this project. During the first 27 years, the killing and marginalization of the Amharas were carried out covertly. Immediately after TPLF secured governmental power in 1991, during the pre-Constitution area (the Constitution was adopted in December 1994), the Raya-Alamata, Welkait-Tegede, Humera, and Tselemt regions were annexed into the Tigray region. These lands have been ruled as southern and western parts of Tigray for three decades. Later, in 1995, they tried to legitimize the annexation by introducing Ethiopia's current Constitution, which divided the country into ethnic regions. The opposition from the Amhara inhabitants of these annexed regions and specially from Welkait was swift and fierce. People who kept their Amhara identity were systematically harassed, dispossessed, killed, arrested, kidnapped and deported. It is estimated that around 3 million Amhara lives were lost during those years.

After the Oromo wing took the upper hand in 2018, the Amhara people faced mass killings, ethnic cleansing mass displacements, and unprecedented warfare. This was orchestrated by the transitional government in the "foiled coup d'état" plot which took the lives of senior Amhara government officials in June 2018:

- a. Dr Ambachew Mekonnen: President of Amhara Region,
- b. Ato Gize Abera: Advisor to President of Amhara Region,
- c. Ato Ezez Wassie: Advisor to President of Amhara Region,
- d. General Asamenew Tsige: Security Head of Amhara Region, and



- e. Ato Migbaru Kebede: Attorney General of the Amhara Regional State.

This left the Amhara region and Amharas living in other parts of Ethiopia vulnerable to mass killings.

## **I. Elements of Genocide**

According to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group:

- a. Murder of members of the group.
- b. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group.
- c. Intentionally inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.
- d. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.
- e. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

In view of the repeated and systematic attacks specifically targeting the Amharas, with the clear intention of eliminating them from certain regions, it can be concluded that all criteria have been met as will be shown in this report. These are therefore acts of genocide under international law.

## **II. Pre-Genocide Tactics: Targeting and Marginalization of the Amhara Population**

1. False narrative accusing the Amhara population of all grievances and portraying them as oppressors of other ethnic groups, disseminated through government-owned mass media, official meetings, and educational materials including the Constitution.
2. Limiting Amharas to a designated region while disenfranchising over 20 million Amharas living outside of that region to reinforce their subjugation.
3. Employment discrimination against Amharas who did not align with the ruling party, resulting in job loss and limited opportunities for education and business.
4. Forced sterilization of Amhara women without their consent through community health programs.
5. Lack of accountability for violence against the Amhara community and impunity for crimes committed against them.





6. Undercounting the Amhara population to avoid accountability, manipulate resource allocation, and delay access to essential services.
7. Targeted killings, forced marriages, and land seizures perpetrated against Amhara individuals and families by government forces.
8. Suppression of dissenting voices through imprisonment, torture, forced disappearance, and extrajudicial killings, hindering efforts to expose ongoing atrocities.
9. Manipulation of religious institutions, including the appointment of hand-picked bishops, to consolidate control and undermine cultural and religious identity.

Following the contentious 2005 election in Ethiopia, where the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), suffered significant losses nationwide and particularly in Addis Ababa, allegations of electoral fraud triggered mass violence and widespread human rights abuses. Journalists and public figures faced harassment, torture, and imprisonment across various regions, including the Amhara region. In response to the crisis, the TPLF initiated drastic changes in its governance approach, implementing policy reforms, investing in development projects, and intensifying surveillance and anti-terrorism measures to suppress dissent and maintain control.

The year 2016 marked a significant turning point in Ethiopian politics, with a wave of protests erupting across the country against the central government, ultimately leading to the resignation of Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and the appointment of Abiy Ahmed as his successor. As part of the power transition, the TPLF relinquished its dominant position within the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), to the Oromo wing of the party.

However, since assuming power, the Oromo faction of the EPRDF has been implicated in planning and executing violence against the Amhara population. This has resulted in a series of massacres and atrocities committed against Amhara farmers, students, and civilians in various regions of Ethiopia. The attacks are one-sided, with the Amhara community being targeted without provocation or preparation for conflict, highlighting the asymmetric nature of the violence.

### III. Targeted Atrocities: Systematic Violence Against the Amhara People

#### A. Massacres: Brutal Killings of The Amhara Population

1. **The July 2016:** at least 30 Amharas killed by members of the mobs of Oromo ethnic group in Welkait.
2. **4–16 September 2018:** Burayu massacre: At least 65 people were killed out of which some were from the Amhara ethnic group by mobs of Oromo youth and Oromo Liberation Army.
3. **September 2018:** 58 Amharas massacred in Benishangul-Gumuz.



4. **June 2019:** 250 Amharas killed in attacks in Oromia.
5. **October 2019:** 31 Amharas executed by an armed Oromo group.
6. **30 June–2 July 2020:** Shashemene massacre of at least 240 civilians mostly from Amhara ethnic group by mobs of Oromo youth and Oromo Liberation Army
7. **4-5 September 2020:** Bulan massacre of 150 Amhara civilian deaths in Metekel Zone in Benishangul-Gumuz by ethnic Gumuz militias.
8. **12 October 2020:** 40 Amhara civilians killed in Metekel Zone in Benishangul-Gumuz by ethnic Gumuz militias.
9. **2 November 2020:** Gawa Qanqa massacre killing 32-54 Amhara civilians in West Wellega by Oromo Liberation Army.

10. **14 November 2020:** Passenger bus attack between Wenbera and Chagni in Benishangul-Gumuz killed at least 34 Amhara civilians by ethnic Gumuz militias.
11. **2–23 December 2020:** Metekel massacre where 222 mostly Amhara civilians were killed by Gumuz militias.
12. **November 2020:** over 100 Amharas civilians massacred in Benishangul-Gumuz.
13. **9–10 November 2020:** Mai Kadra massacre of 1500 Amhara civilians in Mai Kadra (Humera) killed by Tigran youth called Samri and Tigrayan Police.
14. **December 2020:** at least 100 Amhara civilians were massacred in Bulen district of Metekel Zone Bekuji locality by Oromo regional state structure teamed up with Benishangul Gumuz region administration, including the region's president Ashadly Hassan.
15. **7 January 2021:** Debate district massacre in Balite kebele of Benishangul Gumuz region which killed at least 60 Amhara civilians and 22 wounded by Oromo Liberation Army Shene and Buadin (Gumuz Liberation Army).
16. **12 January 2021:** Daletti massacre in Benishangul-Gumuz of 80 Amhara civilians killed by unknown assailants.
17. **18–31 March 2021:** Ataye massacre of 303 Amhara civilians killed and 269 injured by Oromo militias and Oromo Liberation Army.



18. **16–18 April 2021:** Ataye massacre of 281 Amhara civilians killed and 197 injured by Oromo militias and Oromo Liberation Army.
19. **23 July 2021:** Raya Kobo Wereda 11 Amhara civilians killed by TPLF militia.
20. **24 July 2021:** Aderkay Wereda occupation during which at least 89 Amhara civilians were killed and at least 100 girls were raped by TPLF militia.





21. **6-29 August 2021:** Meket Massacre of 160 Amhara civilians by TPLF militia.
22. **August 2021:** Mersa and Habru Massacre of 102 Amhara civilians by TPLF militia.
23. **28 August- 29 September 2021:** in Horo Guduru Wellega Zone, in East Wellega 34 Amhara civilians were killed and 7 injured by Oromo Liberation Army.
24. **30 August – 7 September 2021:** in Were Babu Wereda of 25 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defense Forces in the Amhara Region.
25. **31 August – 4 September 2021:** Chenna massacre of 200 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defense Forces in and around the village of Chenna Teklehaimanot in the Amhara Region.
26. **1-2 September 2021:** Debark massacre in Amhara Region of 120 Amhara civilians were killed by the Tigray Defense Forces.
27. **9 September 2021:** Kobo massacre of more than 600 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defense Forces.
28. **20 October-7 December 2021:** Tehuledere and Haik massacre of 218 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defense Forces.
29. **30 October 2021:** Kombolcha massacre of 200 Amhara civilian youth mass extrajudicial and summary execution by the Tigray Defense Forces in South Wollo, in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia.
30. **1 November 19 December 2021:** South Wollo massacre of 105 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defense Forces.
31. **2 December 2021:** Antsokiya Gemza massacre of 66 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defense Forces and Oromo Liberation Army
32. **December 2021:** Gidami Woreda Massacre where Oromo Liberation Army killed 160 Amhara civilians.
33. **18 June 2022:** Tole-Gimbi massacre where 3000 Amhara civilians were killed by Oromo Liberation Army.
34. **4 July 2022:** Kelem Wellega massacre: Oromo Liberation Army killed 308 Amhara civilians.



35. **29–30 January 2024:** Merawi massacre of 100 Amhara civilians summarily executed by Ethiopian armed forces

## **B. Genocide committed on Amhara Children**

36. Another female eyewitness report from Wellega: “It is not Shene. It is the local officials at the Wereda who told us that all Amharic speakers must leave their area. They slaughtered the children and women. There was one woman who was 9-month pregnant. He cut her belly open, took out her baby and handed it to her, without her going into labor. They inserted sticks in the vagina of the teenage girls, those in their puberty and committed atrocities on them until they murder them by beheading them. It is the Oromia special forces who attacked us during the night at 4:00 am. They got us out of our houses and beat us up. Many of the elderly people and children were thrown into ditches. There are currently so many wounded children in the hospitals.
37. Female eyewitness report from Kellem Wellega now an IDP with her children: “A truck full of armed men came to our village with the order to seek all Amharic speakers and destroy them. They restricted our movements for 4 months and prevented us from fetching water and firewood. After witnessing the slaughter of 17 Amhara people and their body burnt by the local authorities, the women walked through the wilds for 3 to 4 days with the children crying from hunger and exhaustion.
38. Female eyewitness account of the June 2022 Wellega OLF massacre; “I found myself among the many dead bodies, when I looked up, I saw a girl of around 6 years surrounded by armed men. Even if I was close by, they did not pay attention to me. They were talking to the girl in Amharic. They were talking to her and laughing very

loudly. Finally, I heard the child scream: “Welahi, I will not be Amhara again”. What I heard next was the sound of multiple gunshots. They all shot at her tiny body.

39. According to Commissioner Abere Adamu in 2019, in Metekel a pregnant woman belly was cut open and her baby eaten by the local people.



40. Amhara people were also the greatest victims of the war by the Federal Government with the TPLF. According to media and Amnesty International reports, fighters affiliated with the TPLF deliberately killed Amhara people, gang-raped women and girls – some as young as 14 and as old as 72.



41. In the most recent attack of Debre Elias Selassie Monastery in East Gojam (Amhara Region) conducted on May 27, 2023, the ENDF/OLF/OLA army bombed the



monastery as part of the government's operation to arrest Eskinder Nega, a peaceful resistance fighter. The clashes which were centered in a local monastery have left around 95 percent of the estimated 600 people who used to live in the monastery dead, injured or dispersed, DW reported citing eyewitnesses. More than 100 civilians visiting the monastery for health purposes were massacred; 32 out of the 40 orphan children who were raised and educated at the monastery were also massacred.

42. Identity-based home demolitions in Addis Abeba have left close to 500 000 Amhara people homeless. Children coming back from school were left destitute and have been seen sleeping in the streets with their families. A family whose houses were demolished had also their baby eaten by hyenas.



### C. The Largest Number of IDP Were Amhara, Forced Relocation of IDPs who Survived Genocide and Lack of Access to Humanitarian Aid

43. From 2018-2022 more than 300,000 displaced Amharas from East Welega, West Welega, and Kamashi in Oromia and Benshangul regions were found in shelters in West Gojam were subjected to severe humanitarian conditions and are in a difficult



situation. They could not get daily humanitarian aid and since 2021, were exposed to hunger and diseases due to lack of any humanitarian aid from the government.

44. More than 10 000 Amharas were displaced from Tole (Wellega) only after the deadliest massacre in 2022, and more than 500,000 had been displaced in Western Oromia due to the conflict there. IDPs displaced from the various zones of Wollega occupied shelters across North Wollo and South Wollo in Amhara region. The IDPs are given shelter in structures such as schools and warehouses with no adequate facilities, with no access to food and health services.
45. Amhara IDPs were prevented from accessing international humanitarian aid. They only received 3 Kg of wheat every 3 months, which was later suspended. The food aid that was made available to Amhara IDPs through the Amhara Diaspora never reached them as well as some were looted by government officials and others destroyed.
46. Amhara Region Security officials implemented forced relocation to zones in western Oromia Region where IDPs survived genocide. IDPs there, would be transported to western Oromia zones including Horo Guduru Wollega, Western Wollega, and East Wollega where mass atrocities were still taking place. IDPs indicated they would like to return but there is no peace yet. “The official’s claim that there is peace is a lie. We receive information from our people there on a daily basis. They survive constantly having to protect and defend themselves.”





#### **D. Kidnapping, Rape, and Brutal Murder Targeting Amhara University Students in Oromia**

43. **Dembi Dollo university:** In 2019, 17 Amhara students (13 girls and 4 boys) were kidnapped from the University of Dembi Dollo and initially held at a location called Shinde are still not accounted for; 2 female students were raped out of which one was gang raped by 7 men and was taken to Addis Abeba Black Lion hospital where she died due to her injuries. This resulted to close to 35 000 Amhara students dropping out of universities in Oromia.
44. **Meda Walebu University:** 1000 Amhara students had their academic records destroyed; 150 female students were beaten; 30 female students were kidnapped and held at a Tekle-Haymanot Monastery.
45. **Oda Bultu University:** 60 students had their academic records destroyed; 151 female students were beaten.
46. **Haromaya University:** 20 female students were beaten; 24 female students were held hostage in their dormitories; 134 were kidnapped from public transportations at Dengego and Kobo. After checking their ID, all Amhara students were taken out of the public transportation and never seen again; 7 of the female students were raped.
47. **Jima University:** 40 students had their academic records destroyed; 14 female students were beaten; 80 female students were held hostage while trying to leave the university following threats on the lives of Amhara students.
48. **Dire Dawa University:** 200 students had their academic records destroyed; one female student was gang raped by 4 people.



49. **Arsi University:** 60 female students were beaten.

## E. Mass Arrests, Arbitrary Detentions, and Media Crackdowns

50. **September 2018 Mass Arrests in Addis Ababa:** In September 2018, the Ethiopian government arrested approximately 1,700 individuals around the capital, Addis Ababa, following their condemnation of the door-to-door mass killings in Burayu, reportedly committed by the Oromo Queero group. These individuals were subsequently detained at the Tolai military camp, known for its harsh conditions and infestation of vipers.
51. **Arrest of Temesgen Desalegn:** Temesgen Desalegn On May 26, 2022, Temesgen Desalegn was arrested from his office in Addis Ababa on charges of inciting violence and public disturbance. Despite being granted bail on July 4, 2022, he was held for 5 months and 21 days without immediate release.
52. **Arrest of Yayesew Shimelis:** Also on May 26, 2022, Yayesew Shimelis was arrested from his home in Addis Ababa, accused of instigating rebellion and discord among religious groups.
53. **Detention of Abay Zewdu:** Abay Zewdu was detained twice, first for 10 days on July 18, 2021, and then for 24 days on September 10, 2022, with charges unspecified. He was arrested again and remains in prison.
54. **Arrest and Re-arrest of Meskerem Abera:** Meskerem Abera was arrested on May 21, 2022, and released after 23 days. However, she was re-arrested on December 13, 2022, and released on January 5, 2023. Charges against her include dividing the national defense force and spreading hate, and she remains in prison without any judgment.
55. **Detention of Meaza Mohammed:** Meaza Mohammed was detained for the third time on September 7, 2022, for 37 days, with charges including inciting a riot.
56. **Arbitrary Arrests of Gobeze Sisay:** Journalist Gobeze Sisay was arrested and repatriated from Djibouti for the third time, facing charges of disclosing secrets of the national defense force.
57. **Arrest of Ashara Media and Nisir International Broadcasting Corporation Journalists:** On May 19-20, 2022, journalists from Ashara Media and Nisir International Broadcasting Corporation were arrested and detained for 49 days on accusations of inciting violence against the government.



58. **Repeated Arrest of Tadios Tantu:** Tadios Tantu was arrested for the second time on May 19, 2022, with charges including inciting disobedience among national defense force personnel and attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.
59. **Raid on Media Outlets in Bahir Dar:** security personnel in Bahir Dar city of Ethiopia's Amhara Region raided the studios of two media outlets, Ashara Media and Nisir International. The officers arrested several reporters and administrative workers. They also illegally seized media and office equipment. Three Ashara Media journalists Gashaye Nigussie, Getinet Yalew, and Habtamu Melese were arbitrarily detained. In addition, videographer and camera operators Kelemu Gelagay and Daniel Mesfin were also detained by regional security forces. Nisir International Broadcasting Corporation journalists Haile-Mariam Tizazu, Yared Awoke, and another staffer were detained by security personnel from the Amhara Region.
60. **Arbitrary Arrests in the Northern Amhara Region:** More than 4,000 people were arrested in the northern Amhara region and Addis Ababa, as reported by local state media in May 2023, reflecting a broader crackdown by Ethiopian authorities targeting Fanos, critics, and members of the press.

Among them **Alex Sheger** was arrested and taken to a local police station in Addis Abeba. **Dawit Begashaw** was kidnapped from a hotel in Bahir Dar and later flown to Addis Abeba by helicopter.







## F. Drone Attacks

61. **August 7, 2023**, a drone attack on Debre Birhan, led to civilian casualties and significant damage to properties.
62. **August 14, 2023**, in Finote Selam, at least 30 people had died in a suspected air strike by federal forces. In total 4 people died at the hospital, in addition 22 either died at the scene or on their way to hospital. Also 55 people were treated for injuries sustained in the explosion, 40 were gravely injured.
63. **On September 4, 2023**, a drone attacks killed more than 11 innocent citizens on Moseba Shime Abo Kebele Hall, Bibune District, East Gojam Zone.
64. **On September 4, 2023**, a drone attack killed more than 9 innocent civilians in Arafa Madhanemalem Kebele, Dega Damot District, West Gojam Zone.
65. **On Sunday September 17, 2023**, a drone attack was carried in Quarit, in Amhara Region. Civilians walking together were targeted in one of the attacks, and at least 30 of them were killed.
66. **On September 17, 2023**, at least 18 civilians were also killed in another drone strike in Dembecha town of Western Gojam, as they were returning from church service. The attack took place near Michael's church.
67. **On October 16, 2023**, morning targeting the police station of the woreda, which is located in Metebila town on Berehet woreda, situated in the North Shewa Zone, Amhara region, resulted in approximately 35 deaths and injuries to an additional 27.
68. **On October 16, 2023**, noon, targeting the center of four kebeles of the woreda, hitting a vehicle carrying civilians fleeing the town and children who were near. Among the dead, the three were 7 civilians under the age of 19, as well as a 40-year-old mother with her two-year-old child.
69. **On October 16, 2023**, drone attack in Minjar, North Shoa. At least 12 people are said to have killed in the attack.
70. **October 16, 2023**, a 19-month-old child was among the several civilian victims of a drone strike in the Metihteh Bila town of Berehet Woreda, North Shewa Zone. The attack left at least 35 Amhara civilians dead and an additional 27 injured.
71. **October 19, 2023**, a drone strike killed 8 civilians in Debre Markos town.



72. **On 6 November 2023**, a drone launched by government forces struck a primary school in the Wadera district in North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region, killing 7 people, including 3 teachers.
73. **On November 9, 2023**, another drone attack hit a bus station in Waber town in East and West Gojam zones, killing 13 people who were waiting to board a bus. The attack killed at least thirty civilians. The targeted areas included a school and a bus station.
74. **November 9, 2023**, a drone attack in Amhara Region, East Gojam Zone, Bibugn Wereda killed at least sixteen people.
75. **On November 27, 2023**, evening, a drone attack in Amhara Region, East Gojam Zone, Bibugn Wereda carried out on Tarekegn Restaurant killed at least 20 people. They were buried in a mass grave.
76. **On November 27, 2023**, Waber area in East Gojam, in Ethiopia's Amhara region, resulting in the tragic loss of over 30 lives, including several civilians. Residents confirmed that the drone, which was reportedly engaged in combat air patrol, launched the fatal attack.
77. **On November 29, 2023**, there were two drone attacks in North Wello, Bugena Wereda, DariaYesus Kebele. The attacks claimed the life of at least 65 people including civilians as well as many injured as the attacks were perpetrated during the market day.
78. **On November 30, 2023**, a deadly drone attack evening at approximately 5:00 p.m. killed 30 people out of which 5 were civilians in the town of Wegel Tena, located in the Delanta district of the South Wollo zone, in Ethiopia's Amhara region. An ambulance carrying crucial medical supplies from Desse town to Delanta Primary Hospital was targeted by a drone upon its arrival in the town. Eyewitness described how "bodies were burned so badly they had turned to dust. I saw the finger bones of one of the victims still shaped as though it was still clutching a mobile phone". The drone fired on an ambulance as it approached the Delanta Primary Hospital in Wegel Tena and obliterated it. Hospital staff, including a doctor and the ambulance driver, as well as employees from a nearby construction site died instantly.
79. **On November 30, 2023**, there were two drone attacks in Delanta Woreda which left 5 civilians killed including a medical doctor, & other civilians injured. The target was an ambulance that was transporting medication and staff from Dessie.
80. **On November 30, 2023**, the second drone strike hit Goshiamba Kebele – not far from the scene of the first incident. But no casualties are reported from this one, according to the source.



81. **On December 5, 2023**, a drone attack allegedly targeting militants in an area between Menz and Merhabete areas of North Shewa Zone killed 10 people with no involvement in the fighting. Among the victims, 6 were described as children who were looking after cattle as shepherds, the remaining victims were women.
82. **On December 5, 2023**, a second drone strike occurred near Wegel Tena town in South Wello zone, again resulting in 10 fatalities, including civilians.
83. **On December 5, 2023**, a drone attack in Lasta kills 73 people killed in the Ayena and Bugna districts of Lasta, North Wollo Zone in the Amhara region of Ethiopia.
84. **December 10, 2023**, drone attacks in Amhara Sayint Wereda, South Wello Zone, in Amhara Region killed 30 to 40 people.
85. **December 10, 2023**, at around 6 pm, ENDF forces conducted 3 air strikes including 2 drone attacks killing at least 57 civilians in Mehal Sayint Woreda.
86. **December 22, 2023**, two successive drone attacks in Kork town of Baso Liben Woreda, in East Gojam, Amhara Region killing at least 8 civilians and wounding others.
87. **January 3, 2024**, regime forces killed at least 9 civilians through the use of drone strikes and gunshots in Beto and Derega Kebeles of Kelela Woreda in Amhara Region.
88. **January 12, 2024**, ENDF conducted a drone strike on a recreation center near a high school in Alem town, Merabete Wereda, North Shewa, causing 2 reported fatalities and several civilian injuries.
89. **19 February 2024**, Drone strike of a large Isuzu truck in Mojana district, North Shewa Zone killed at least 30 civilians coming from a baptism ceremony, more than 20 people were wounded.

## **G. Ethiopian Orthodox Church Targeted: Genocidal Assault Linked to Perceived Amhara Cultural and Religious Identity**

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is facing an unprecedented wave of violence and persecution, resulting in a humanitarian crisis of alarming proportions. Across various regions, Orthodox churches are being deliberately targeted, vandalized, and burned down, symbolizing a systematic assault on religious freedom and cultural heritage. Clergy members, along with their families, are subjected to barbaric acts of violence, with many being brutally slaughtered in appalling attacks. Innocent believers, including women and children, are not spared from the horrors, as they fall victim to merciless killings and atrocities.

It is evident that Orthodox believers from various ethnic backgrounds are being persecuted simply for their affiliation with the faith, with attackers considering them sympathizers of the Amhara population. Shockingly, the assailants have explicitly stated their intention to destroy the Orthodox Church to eradicate the Amhara people. Such genocidal actions against a religious group that is not a minority in Ethiopia underscore the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for intervention.

#### **90. Attacks on Churches and Christians Surge After Hachallu Hundessa's Assassination in Ethiopia**

Coordinated attacks targeting Christians of various ethnic backgrounds, including Oromo Christians, have intensified following the assassination of popular Oromo singer Hachallu Hundessa on June 29, 2020. Members of the Oromo ethnic group, traditionally Muslim, associated with the Qeerroo movement, have engaged in door-to-door attacks on Christian households, resulting in gruesome deaths and extensive property damage.



#### **91. Government-Induced Divisions Threaten Ethiopian Orthodox Church Unity**

Government interference in the governance of the church has led to the formation of a breakaway Synod group by breakaway Archbishops who refer to themselves as the Holy Synod of Oromia and Nations and Nationalities. The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church declared fasting for 3 days on February 3rd, 2023, and wore black to protest against what it said was a government-supported coup attempt to overthrow the Holy Synod by the "illegal group." The breakaway Archbishops have taken over dioceses in different cities of the Oromia region with the support of officials. In various places, people and religious leaders who opposed the breakaway bishops were beaten, harassed, kicked out of churches, violently restricted from the right to move, and illegally arrested. In total, eight people were killed, and many who participated in the fasting were fired from their jobs.





Now, these divisive efforts are extending to Tigray, where bishops are initiating the formation of a separate Holy Synod. This move threatens the unity of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, which historically has served as a unifying force across ethnic lines, promoting tolerance and peace. The escalating conflict underscores the pressing need to safeguard religious institutions and uphold unity in Ethiopia amidst growing political agendas.

## **92. Cultural Heritage Under Constraint: Government Restrictions on Orthodox Christian Celebrations in Ethiopia.**

Most Orthodox Christian celebrations in Ethiopia are outdoor events, with one of the most famous being the Epiphany festival, a UNESCO recognized celebration due to its significant cultural and religious heritage. During the festivities, church regalia is prominently displayed, typically in the tricolor of the church, which coincides with the colors of the Ethiopian flag.

However, the government has placed restrictions on celebrations, such as limiting access to some places of worship and preventing members of the religion from wearing anything that connects them to the colors of the Ethiopian flag.

## **93. Attack on St. George Church in Addis Ababa**

On March 2nd, 2023, St. George Church in the heart of Addis Ababa faced a harrowing attack, leading to the death of one person and injuries to many. The incident occurred during the Ark procession of St. George's Day, where tear gas was thrown into the church premises by government security forces.

The attack unfolded as Ethiopians gathered at Menelik Square for a celebration, which was abruptly disrupted by unnecessary tear gas fired by security forces. Subsequently, tear gas was thrown into St. George Church during the religious ceremony, causing the event to be halted. One person died from suffocation, and numerous others were injured.

His Grace Abune Henok, Archbishop of Addis Ababa, condemned the government's actions, citing previous instances of tear gas fired inside churches. He criticized the government's failure to address the root causes of such attacks, exacerbating tensions with the populace.

## **94. Massacre of Orthodox Christians in Shashemene**

The death toll from the massacre of Orthodox Christians in Shashemene has risen to over 30, with dozens more injured and hospitalized in Hawassa, some in critical condition. Abune Petros, Secretary of the Holy Synod, confirmed the fatalities during an interview with Anchor Media.



### **95. Ethiopian Orthodox Priest Stoned to Death**

On March 24, 2023, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Kesis Abay Melese, a priest of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, was stoned to death on his way home from a church service. The incident, near Haile Garment's locality, underscores a disturbing trend of violence against the church under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration. Despite ongoing threats and attacks, authorities have yet to comment on the priest's killing.



### **96. Assaults on Ethiopian Monasteries: Threats to Religious Heritage and Live**

In May 2023, the Debre Elias Monastery fell victim to an assault by Oromo Forces, resulting in significant damage to the church and injuries, fatalities, or displacement of over 600 monks and students. Similarly, in February 2024, four monks at Zequala Abune Gebre Menfes Kidus Monastery were killed, threatening the rich religious heritage of Ethiopia.



### **97. Targeted Violence: Ethiopian Orthodox Church Members Killed in Oromia's Arsi Zone**

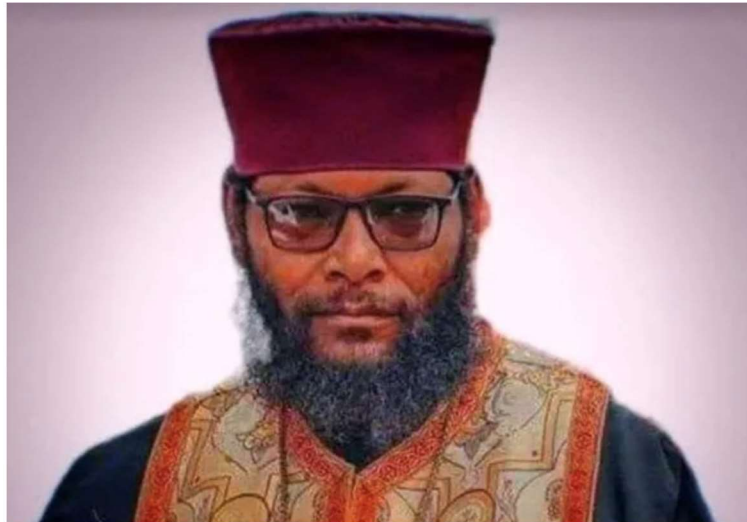
In November 2023, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church reported the killings of 36 church members across various districts of the Arsi zones in the Oromia region. These killings were accompanied by reports of damage to church property and possessions belonging to church members and parishioners. At the time, the head of Oromia Regional Communications stated that the attack was perpetrated by the Oromo Liberation Army, a faction referred to as Shane by the government.

Additionally, a church leader in the eastern Arsi zone informed the BBC that no fewer than 80 people have lost their lives in the area since September 2023 in attacks targeting the church and its members.

### **98. Priest Shot While Serving at Church in Addis Ababa**

Abba Ermias Weldetsadik, a renowned priest and head of Bole Bulbula Holy Abba Samuel Church in Addis Ababa, was shot while serving at the church, according to sources. Abba Ermias, who previously served as head of Debre-Tshai St. George Church, was attending a two-day conference at the parish on November 11, 2023. During an evening meeting after the

conference, while blessing the congregation, he was shot and sustained severe injuries. He is currently receiving medical treatment in a hospital.



### **99. Deadly Attack Targets Ethiopian Orthodox Pilgrims Returning from Feast**

In a tragic incident on December 29, 2023, gunmen ambushed Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church pilgrims returning from the annual feast of the Archangel Saint Gabriel at Kulubi, a renowned pilgrimage site in East Hararghe Zone, Oromia Regional State. The ambush occurred outside Metehara town, specifically at Lege Benti in East Shewa Zone.

According to a report by Mahibere Kidusan Television on Sunday, December 31, 2023, one pilgrim lost his life in the attack, which took place around 11:00 PM, while four others sustained injuries. The pilgrims were reportedly from Arba Minch, located in Southern Ethiopia. Witnesses disclosed that additional buses carrying Orthodox passengers sought refuge at St. Michael's Church in Metehara town until the security situation improved. These witnesses also recounted similar attacks that occurred three days earlier in the same area, targeting civilians leaving the town for work.

### **100. Ethiopian Orthodox Christians Under Siege: Religious Students Slaughtered, Systemic Discrimination Persists**

Additionally, over 20 religious students aged 11 to 18 were brutally murdered by the OPDO army in February 2024, with their teacher critically injured. Furthermore, Orthodox Christians in Ethiopia have faced systemic discrimination and marginalization, including restrictions on their religious practices, interference in their religious affairs, and denial of their



rights to worship freely and openly. Such discriminatory practices not only violate their basic human rights but also perpetuate division and discord within Ethiopian society.



### **101. Tragic Massacre at Zequala Debre Kewakibt's Abune Gebre Mefes Kidus Monastery: Clergy and Students Brutally Slaughtered in Appalling Attack**

Just recently, on February 20, 2024 in the horrific attack on Zequala Debre Kewakibt's Abune Gebre Mefes Kidus Monastery, (approximately aged 500 years old) beloved members of the clergy were brutally murdered along with more than 20 students and their teachers.

Among the victims were:

- a. Aba Tekele Asrat, the Head Priest of the Monastery,
- b. Aba Kidanemariam Tilahun, the Monastery's administrator,
- c. Aba Gebremariam Abebe, the Book instructor at the Monastery
- d. Aba Hailemariam Wolde Senbet, an employee of the Monastery.

Before the attack the monastery security equipment and their food were taken by force. And then the victims were slaughtered in the same manner Ethiopian Christians were slaughtered in 2015 by ISIS in Libya.

### **102. Coercive Agenda: Prime Minister's Intimidation Tactics Against the Ethiopian Orthodox Church**

During the meeting, Church leaders raised concerns about the illegal removal of the secretary of the Holy Synod, the recent killings of four monks from Zequala monasteries, and



the deaths of Abnet students at the hands of government soldiers. However, the Prime Minister's responses appeared dismissive and controlling.

In addressing questions about the killings of monastic community members, the Prime Minister implied that some monasteries near Addis Ababa were involved in training armies. This response is seen as potentially increasing the vulnerability of the Church, particularly in the Oromia region.

### **103. Tragedy at St. George Church: Priests Abducted and Murdered by ONG Shene Forces**

In the Southwest Showa Diocese, Ilu District, Asgori Repa, tragedy struck at the St. George Church during the commencement of mass. Just as the priests were preparing to begin the service following a prayer covenant, armed forces belonging to the ONG Shene stormed the temple premises, abducting five priests and eight parishioners who were on duty.

Afterwards, the eight parishioners and the parish manager were released, albeit only after the payment of a demanded ransom. However, despite similar efforts to secure the release of the remaining priests, they were mercilessly murdered by their captors on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

The names of the slain priests are as follows.

- a. Kesis Cherenat Muluwork,
- b. Kesis Gebez
- c. Kesis Samuel Wedajo, Kadash Kahn (mass leader)
- d. Marigeta Jared, the parish priest and,
- e. Deacon Beza Baye who is in charge of the general services of the parish.

Eyewitnesses stated that they cut off the hands of the parish priest and gave them to a dog, and then cut each of his body parts with a dagger. In addition, the other ministers were killed in the same manner in a very gruesome manner. In addition, in Becho District, a priest named Kesis Melaku was kidnapped on the night of March 26, 2024, from Soyema Egziyabher Ab Church. It was known that they kidnaped a Deacon from Tole District and demanded 1 million Birr ransom money for his release.

#### **104. Two Orthodox Church priests and their families were killed by gunmen in the West Arsi and East Arsi zones of the Oromia region on March 25, 2024**

Two Orthodox Church priests and their families tragically lost their lives in the West Arsi and East Arsi zones of the Oromia region on March 25, 2024. According to church sources, the incident unfolded on Monday, March 25, 2024, around 9:00 PM, when two priests from the Church of Debre Kidusan Gebre Kirstos in Dodola, accompanied by five family members, were brutally attacked by unidentified assailants. Among the victims were five family members, including a leader and a deacon, who served as ministers of Debre Kidusan Gebre Kirstos Church, all of whom were mercilessly massacred. The victims, comprising two church priests, their wives, and children, fell prey to a despicable act of violence that has left communities overwhelmed with grief and apprehension. Identified victims include Merigeta Simret, his wife, and two children: Deacon Daniel and his wife. A third victim, whose identity remains unknown, also perished in the attack. The assailants callously riddled their victims' bodies with bullets.

#### **105. Government Interference and Ecclesiastical Turmoil: The Case of Abune Lukas and Abune Petros**



His Grace Abune Lukas, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Abune Lukas, a prominent member of the Holy Synod, faces opposition and government interference following his vocal criticism of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration. Despite being scheduled for a visit to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Diocese of Washington DC, Abune Lukas finds himself embroiled in controversy as a memorandum issued by Patriarch Abune Phanuel prohibits his reception. This move, seemingly influenced by government pressure, stems from Abune Lukas's condemnation of the administration's actions, including military orders to harm civilians and target the church.

In response to the regime's actions, Abune Lukas delivered impassioned sermons denouncing the government's drone strikes, targeted attacks on monasteries, and deceptive rhetoric. Subsequently, legal proceedings were initiated against him, accusing him of





obstructing justice and peace. Furthermore, the government called on the Holy Synod to condemn Abune Lukas, and his salary was suspended.

The government's interference extends beyond Abune Lukas, as evidenced by the refusal of entry to Abune Petros, the secretary of the Holy Synod, upon his return to Ethiopia. These incidents underscore the challenges faced by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in maintaining its autonomy and addressing government overreach.

For comprehensive details and insights into the ongoing crisis, refer to the Report of Jubilee Campaign on Ethiopian Orthodox.

## **H. Systematic Starvation and Destruction: A Genocidal Strategy against the Amhara Population**

The Amhara region in Ethiopia has been subjected to a systematic campaign of deprivation and destruction, orchestrated by government authorities. This campaign, under the guise of administrative shortcomings, has resulted in dire consequences for the Amhara farmers, pushing them to the brink of survival. In this report, we delve into the deliberate actions taken by the authorities, resulting in widespread starvation and destruction within the Amhara population, and the failure of the international community to adequately address this crisis.

### **106. Fertilizer Shortage and Unfair Distribution**

The Amhara farmers, crucial for the agricultural backbone of the region, have faced severe obstacles in accessing fertilizers, essential for their livelihoods. Despite the outcry of hundreds of protesting farmers flooding the streets of Bahir Dar, demanding immediate action to address the fertilizer shortage, the government's response has been insufficient. Deputy Head of the Amhara Region's Agriculture Bureau, Ajebe Seneshaw, revealed that out of the required 9.2 million quintals of fertilizer, only 5.2 million quintals were procured and distributed, with reports of theft exacerbating the shortfall. This shortage, coupled with unfair distribution practices, has left many farmers destitute, unable to sustain their crops and families.

### **107. Crops and livestock Targeted and Destroyed**

The plight of the Amhara farmers extends beyond mere deprivation of resources. Reports from North Shewa detail targeted attacks on crops belonging to Amhara farmers, resulting in deliberate destruction. Groups such as Oneg Shene have resorted to burning down crops, further exacerbating the food insecurity faced by the Amhara population. Moreover, the

onslaught by the Oromo Army, through drone attacks and shelling, has led to the destruction of crops, further deepening the crisis.



## I. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

### 108. Abduction of Amhara Children

In a horrifying turn of events, reports have surfaced detailing the abduction of Amhara children by OLA forces following the brutal murder of their parents. Witnesses attest to the traumatic scenes where Amhara parents were killed in front of their children in Wollega. Subsequently, these vulnerable children were forcibly taken by OLA forces, adding another layer of anguish to their already shattered lives. This calculated act of violence not only deprives these children of their families but also subjects them to untold horrors at the hands of their captors. The abduction of Amhara children represents a grave violation of human rights and

underscores the urgent need for international intervention to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

## The Mogassa Tradition

This despicable practice of abduction and enslavement is not a new phenomenon but rather a deeply ingrained aspect of Oromo culture, known as "Mogassa." For centuries, Oromo forces have employed Mogassa as a means of asserting dominance over rival tribes, including the Amhara. The essence of Mogassa involves the systematic killing of men from opposing tribes while enslaving or killing women and children. These abducted children are often indoctrinated into the Oromo cause, promised a future as soldiers or assimilated into Oromo society. This historical context sheds light on the deeply entrenched nature of the atrocities being perpetrated against the Amhara population today.







## J. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the Amhara

Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group	
TPLF/EPRDF	Prosperity Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Unconnected Acts of Sterilization Targeting Amhara Women (Under Tewodros Adhanom as Minter of Health)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coerced Vaccination: Targeting Amhara Women and Girls with Threats of Service and school Exclusion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male Genital Mutilation: An Alarming Suppression of Reproduction"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amhara Women Trafficking: Deceptive Promises of Employment in Arab Countries (500 000)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forced Rape and Marriages in Welkait and Raya: Manipulating Ethnic Demographics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male Genital Mutilation: An Alarming Suppression of Reproduction"</li> </ul>

## IV. Relationship of “Tigray War” and the Amhara Genocide

**The connection between the Amhara genocide and the Tigray conflict is intricate and multifaceted.**

Here's how they are intertwined:

- **Territorial Expansion, Ethnic-Based Mass Killings, and Violence:** TPLF and Oromo nationalist groups pursued territorial expansion into Amhara regions, marked by ethnic-based mass killings, ethnic targeting, and widespread violence against the Amhara population. For example, the TPLF forcibly occupied areas like Welkait and Raya, resulting in acts of ethnic cleansing and genocide against the Amharas residing there.
- **Shared Apprehension of Accountability:** Both the TPLF and Oromo nationalists were responsible for atrocities against the Amhara population. They shared a common fear of being held accountable for their actions. The Amhara population, if granted representation in leadership, held the potential to demand justice for the crimes perpetrated against them. This shared apprehension of accountability became a unifying factor, prompting these groups to temporarily set aside their differences and collaborate on certain occasions.



- **Strategic Maneuvering:** Both the TPLF and the Ethiopian government strategically manipulated the conflict.

**109.** They utilized the war to weaken the Amhara population by sending inadequately equipped Amhara men into battle and engaging in protracted conflicts in areas contested by Oromo nationalists for territorial expansion.

This strategic maneuvering contributed to the perpetuation of violence and the forced displacement of Amhara communities. The Amhara genocide and the Tigray conflict are intricately linked through a complex web of territorial disputes, ethnic-based mass killings, shared concerns about accountability, and strategic calculations. These elements collectively form different facets of a broader, intricate conflict landscape in Ethiopia.

## V. Ethiopia's International Obligations

Ethiopia has ratified the main international and regional human rights instruments, including:

1. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
2. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
3. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.
4. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
5. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
6. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
7. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
8. International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
9. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Under these texts, Ethiopia has an obligation to protect all its citizens without discrimination, to investigate crimes and to bring the perpetrators to justice. It must take all necessary measures to prevent genocide, combat it and punish those responsible. It is clear that Ethiopia has failed in these duties.

Ethiopia is also violating several articles of its own Constitution, which guarantees the equality of all citizens, prohibits ethnic discrimination, and promises protection for minorities.

## VI. Responses from the Ethiopian government

In the face of this violence, the Ethiopian government's response appears to be highly inadequate and even complicit in its inaction:

- I) **Hate and Violence inciting speech:** Oromo elites, notably including Shimelis Abdisa, the head of Oromia Region, have been implicated in delivering speeches that explicitly



incite violence and propagate hatred against the Amhara people during public addresses and regional meetings. Despite the gravity of these actions, there has been a conspicuous lack of accountability for these individuals.

- II) Reluctance of the federal government to condemn ethnic violence:** The federal government's response to the violence appears to be timid and evasive. It has not taken clear and strong measures to condemn ethnic violence or implement effective action plans to address the situation. Most of the time, incidents are totally ignored by the government, further exacerbating the lack of accountability and perpetuating impunity for the perpetrators.
- III) Telephone and internet blackouts immediately before each massacre:** The shutdowns disconnect Amhara civilians from the rest of the country as the government uses this method to prevent mobilization for help and to stop the news about the massacre from emerging. Electricity is also shut down which makes it difficult for victims to navigate their way out of the attacks.
- IV) Passivity or complicity of local security forces:** There is evidence suggesting that local security forces have failed to intervene to stop the massacres targeting Amhara civilians. In some cases, these forces are reported to be actively participating in the atrocities. Additionally, it has been reported that the Federal Defense Forces, sometimes present in the area, were ordered to leave before the attacks, indicating a potential complicity or facilitation of the violence.
- V) Lack of serious investigation and prosecution:** Despite overwhelming evidence implicating individuals responsible for the killings, there has been a failure to conduct serious investigations and prosecute those accountable. Many perpetrators, including officials, remain at large.
- VI) Restrictions on media and NGO access:** The government has imposed restrictions on access to the affected areas for media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking to document the situation. Journalists and human rights activists have been threatened or arrested for attempting to report on the violence.
- VII) Disarming of Amhara populations:** Amhara populations are often disarmed carefully by the government before an attack so that they will not defend themselves, leaving them vulnerable to violence and unable to protect themselves from attackers.
- VIII) Suppression of dissenting voices:** The government has jailed any voice that speaks or writes about the ongoing Amhara Genocide, accusing individuals of fabricated crimes or detaining them without presenting them before a judge. This suppression of dissenting voices further contributes to the lack of accountability and perpetuates a climate of fear and intimidation.
- IX) Obstruction of international investigation:** The government has obstructed investigations by international experts on Ethiopia assigned by the United Nations Human Rights Council during the northern war. This obstruction prevents the





international community from gaining crucial insights into the human rights situation in the region and impedes efforts to address the ongoing atrocities.

This inaction is tantamount to a denial, or even tacit approval, of the genocide in progress. It is in total contradiction with Ethiopia's human rights obligations.

## VII. International Response and Accountability

**These atrocities have not gone unnoticed by the international community.** Reports of systematic starvation and destruction have been brought to the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and representatives of member states and other international actors. Despite this, meaningful action to hold the perpetrators accountable and provide adequate aid to the affected population has been lacking. Instead, attempts to attribute the food shortage to climate change, while ignoring the deliberate actions of government authorities, are not only untruthful but also serve to deceive and deflect attention from the true cause of the crisis.

**"Asking the wolf to grade the sheep":** Despite the Ethiopian government's advocacy for a locally driven transitional justice process to address past war crimes and human rights abuses, tensions persist and have escalated dangerously.

Urgent international intervention is imperative to prevent further bloodshed, protect civilian lives, and facilitate a credible and impartial transitional justice process. Failure to act now will only lead to a catastrophic increase in violence, loss of life, and unimaginable devastation for all involved.

## VII. Further Consequences of Inaction Of the International Community

- The country stands on the brink of renewed and devastating internal conflict, fueled by deep-rooted animosity between the Amhara population and other ethnic groups, including supporters of the ruling Oromo Prosperity Party.
- The emergence of Amhara freedom fighters, known as Fanos, reflects not only a loss of faith in international intervention but also the desperate determination of the Amhara people to safeguard their survival in the face of mounting threats. With both the Amhara and other ethnic populations possessing substantial resources, including weapons, the potential for widespread violence and bloodshed is alarmingly high.
- Providing financial and military support to entities like the TPLF and the current Prosperity Party under the guise of humanitarian aid only serves to exacerbate the suffering of innocent civilians, particularly the Amhara population.



- The Ethiopian government has the capacity to mobilize additional fighters, particularly among Oromo youth, and to supply arms and ammunition, potentially contributing to further mass killings of Amhara civilians in regions like Oromia and Addis Ababa.

## VIII. Transitional Justice

The Ethiopian Government and the TPLF's control over government apparatus, institutions, and resources raises significant concerns about their involvement in leading or controlling a transitional justice process in Ethiopia:

- 1. Control Over Government Apparatus:** Both parties exert considerable influence over key government institutions and apparatus. Entrusting them with leadership or control over a transitional justice process within this context risks political manipulation and interference, compromising the process's impartiality and credibility.
- 2. Influence Over Institutions:** Their reach extends to crucial institutions involved in justice and accountability, such as the judiciary, security forces, and law enforcement agencies. This influence may undermine the independence of these institutions when pursuing justice.
- 3. Access to Weapons and Resources:** Their control over military and security resources, including weapons and finances, provides them with significant leverage. This control could potentially be used to intimidate or exert pressure on victims, witnesses, and those seeking justice.
- 4. Risk of Evidence Suppression:** Parties accused of human rights abuses, including genocide, may exploit their control over government apparatus and institutions to suppress evidence that could implicate them, obstructing the pursuit of truth and accountability.
- 5. Coercion and Intimidation:** The accused parties' dominance over security forces may lead to the intimidation and coercion of victims, witnesses, and those seeking justice, creating a climate of fear that deters individuals from coming forward with crucial information.
- 6. Unequal Power Dynamics:** The unequal power dynamics created by their control over government institutions and resources leave targeted populations vulnerable to further harm, with limited avenues for justice.
- 7. Conflict of Interest:** Allowing parties accused of direct involvement in the conflict and facing serious allegations to control the transitional justice process would constitute a conflict of interest and a lack of impartiality.

In summary, the control exercised by the Ethiopian Government and the TPLF over government apparatus, institutions, weapons, and financial resources highlights the imperative



of involving independent and external entities in the transitional justice process. This approach helps mitigate the risks associated with evidence suppression, coercion, intimidation, and harm against vulnerable populations while upholding international standards of justice and accountability.

## IX. Conclusion

In conclusion, the evidence presented paints a stark and horrifying picture of the relentless and systematic violence perpetrated against the Amhara people solely based on their ethnic identity. The Amhara community has become the target of heinous crimes including targeted killings, rape, mutilation, and imprisonment, leaving scars that will never fully heal. The atrocities committed against them are not isolated incidents but part of a deliberate campaign to instill fear, crush resistance, and erase their existence from the fabric of society.

In recent years, the situation has deteriorated rapidly, with mass killings, forced displacement, and destruction of property becoming alarmingly commonplace. The Amhara people find themselves trapped in a nightmare, their homes marked for destruction before attacks, reminiscent of the darkest chapters of human history. The burning of homes, desecration of churches, and abduction of children serve as painful reminders of the horrors they endure on a daily basis.

Despite overwhelming evidence pointing to genocide, the international community has remained disturbingly passive, perhaps swayed by the cunning propaganda aimed at deflecting attention from the true perpetrators. This inaction is not only a betrayal of the fundamental principles of human rights but also a tacit endorsement of the atrocities being committed against the Amhara people.

It is imperative that the international community rise to the occasion and fulfill its moral and legal obligations by taking immediate and decisive action. The voices of the oppressed and marginalized cannot be ignored any longer. We urgently call for the establishment of an independent investigation to uncover the full extent of the atrocities and hold the perpetrators accountable under international law.

The time for empty rhetoric and half-hearted condemnations has passed. Lives are hanging in the balance, and every moment of delay brings us closer to irreparable loss and further suffering. The Amhara people deserve justice, dignity, and the right to live free from fear and persecution.











## **X. Recommendations**

Given the seriousness of the situation, an urgent response commensurate with what is at stake is essential. We call on the UN, the US Government, and the EU to:

1. Publicly acknowledge the existence of genocide against the Amharas and condemn it unambiguously.
2. Ensure an open door for international independent investigation into the genocide, regardless of whether the government admits or denies its occurrence.
3. Ensure all perpetrators of the genocide, regardless of rank or affiliation, are brought to justice.
4. Establish an independent and impartial justice system free from government influence and control to ensure fair trials and serve justice.
5. Compensate victims of the genocide for their losses and suffering.
6. Implement measures to prevent future atrocities, such as promoting ethnic equality, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence through education and media initiatives.
7. Provide humanitarian aid and support to ALL displaced populations affected by the genocide.
8. Guarantee freedom of the press and protection for human rights defenders who document abuses.
9. Liberate immediately all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners, ensuring their rights and freedoms are upheld.
10. Collaborate with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international bodies to implement these recommendations effectively.
11. Call for the UN Human Rights Council, as well as the United States and European Union, to impose sanctions and draft a resolution addressing the Amhara Genocide in Ethiopia if the government fails to cooperate with the investigation and take meaningful steps to address the situation.





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Appeal for Urgent Action to Stop the Ongoing Violence, Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide Against the Amhara People of Ethiopia

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52nd regular session of the Human Rights Council Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on the situation of human rights in Ethiopia

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/52nd-regular-session-of-the-human-rights-council-item-4-interactive-dialogue-with-the-international-commission-of-human-rights-experts-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-ethiopia/>

### **October 2022 ICCPR 136th of the Committee of Human Rights Geneva session on Ethiopia**

Statement delivered 136th session Human Rights Committee (10 Oct 2022 – 04 Nov 2022) on Ethiopia Incidents targeting the Amhara community in 2022



<https://freedomofconscience.eu/statement-delivered-136th-session-human-rights-committee-10-oct-2022-04-nov-2022-on-ethiopia-incidents-targeting-the-amhara-community-in-2022/>

Statement submitted 136th session Human Rights Committee (10 Oct 2022 – 04 Nov 2022) on Ethiopia Incidents targeting the Amhara community in 2022

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/statement-submitted-136th-session-human-rights-committee-10-oct-2022-04-nov-2022-on-ethiopia-incidents-targeting-the-amhara-community-in-2022/>

### **October 2022 Human Rights Council 51th session**

Oral statement at the UN 51 Human Rights Council Session Massacres of and attacks against Amharas

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/oral-statement-at-the-un-51-human-rights-council-session-massacres-of-and-attacks-against-amharas/>

HRC 51st Session : About the 18 June 2022 mass massacres of Amharas at Gimbi (Western part of Ethiopia)

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/hrc-51st-session-about-the-18-june-2022-mass-massacres-of-amharas-at-gimbi-western-part-of-ethiopia/>

Call for submissions International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/call-for-submissions-international-commission-of-human-rights-experts-on-ethiopia/>

June 2022 Human Rights Council 50th session

HRC 50 : Incidents targeting the Amhara community

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/hrc-50-incidents-targeting-the-amhara-community/>

HRC 50 : Item 4 Interactive dialogue on the oral briefing of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/hrc-50-item-4-interactive-dialogue-on-the-oral-briefing-of-the-international-commission-of-human-rights-experts-on-ethiopia/>

### **March 2022 Human Rights Council 49th session**

ETHIOPIA: Massacres of Amhara civilians in war and non-war zones

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/ethiopia-massacres-of-amhara-civilians-in-war-and-non-war-zones/>

### **September 2021 Human Rights Council 48th session**

Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the oral update by the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/item-2-enhanced-interactive-dialogue-on-the-oral-update-by-the-high-commissioner-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-tigray-region-of-ethiopia/>

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