

# UNTOLD MASSACRES AGAINST ETHNIC AMHARAS IN ETHIOPIA

Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Violations  
Against the Amhara People of Ethiopia:  
January – March 2021



**Amhara Association  
of America**

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## About Amhara Association of America (AAA)

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a non-profit civic organization located in Charlotte, North Carolina that investigates and documents human rights atrocities and repression against Amharas in Ethiopia. AAA seeks to inform U.S. policymakers, international human rights organizations, media, and all Ethiopian stakeholders to pressure Ethiopian leaders to change laws, policies, and practices in Ethiopia so perpetrators are held accountable and victims receive justice. AAA also collaborates with Amhara organizations in the U.S., supports independent Amhara organizations in Ethiopia, and provides humanitarian aid for Amharas impacted due to targeted ethnic attacks. AAA's funding comes directly from members and supporters; the organization is not affiliated with any Ethiopian or American political or governmental entities.

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## **Abbreviations and Administrative Area Conventions**

The following abbreviations are used in this report.

**AAA** Amhara Association of America

**EPRDF** Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front

**FDRE** Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**IDP** Internally Displaced Persons

**NAMA** National Movement of Amhara

**ODP/OPDO** Oromo Democratic Party/Oromo People’s Democratic Organization

**OLA** Oromo Liberation Army (Oromo Liberation Front-Shene)

**OLF** Oromo Liberation Front

**SAF** Sudanese Armed Forces

**SNNP(R)** Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People’s (Region)

**TPLF** Tigray People’s Liberation Front

Throughout this report references will be made to various regions and subregions in Ethiopia along with the local administrative subunit system. The country is divided into regions at the top level and each region is generally divided into zones, which are further divided into woredas (districts) and those are divided into kebeles (wards) at the smallest level. Of relevance in certain contexts is the division system prior to 1992, when Ethiopia was divided into kifle hagers (taklai ghizat or provinces), which were further divided into awrajjas (counties/sub-provinces), and then on to woredas. Some zones utilize Amharic terms for polar directions including “semien” or north, “dehub” or south, “mirab” for west and “misraq” for east. Lastly, some regional namings may have multiple spellings using the English alphabet, so “Wollega” is sometimes spelled “Welega” or even “Wellega”.

# 1 Executive Summary

While the world's attention is on the devastating Tigray Conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia, the country's multifaceted crises elsewhere continue to worsen. These crises are abetted by Ethiopia's defunct federal system that pits ethnic groups against each other. The 1995 Federal Constitution of Ethiopia dictates that borders of the regional states shall be drawn along ethnic lines, thus rendering regions as ethnic homelands. In addition to antagonizing people who lived peacefully for generations, this new constitution established a system of 'owner of the region/native' versus 'settler/nonnative'. The constitutional framework denies ethnic minorities in many regions of the country adequate minority protection and rights. Thus, identity-based attacks and ethnic conflicts have risen dramatically since the introduction of the ethnic federalism system in Ethiopia. As the most dispersed ethnic group living across the country in multiple regions, Amharas have been, minoritized, by this new ethnic federalist system and have been victims of targeted massacres since the early 1990s.

Three years after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) dominated government was replaced with Oromo dominated Prosperity Party, the targeted attacks against Amharas have intensified. Over the last two years, civilian Amharas particularly in the Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions have been victims of ethnically motivated massacres by the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and ethnic Gumuz militias with the support of regional administration and regional security forces. Though it received very little attention, in February 2021, the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional government admitted that many high-ranking regional officials were supporting the Gumuz militias<sup>1</sup>. In addition, in cities like Addis Ababa, targeted forced evictions and arrests of Amharas have increased.

This report focuses on human rights violations and abuses committed against the Amharas in parts of the Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, SNNP, and Amhara regions, plus the nation's capital of Addis Ababa, in the first three months of 2021. Between January 1st and March 31st,

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<sup>1</sup>[Addis Standard \(February 2021\) News: Benishangul-Gumuz Region Ruling Party Admits Ethnic Targeted Killings In Metekel, Issues An Apology & Sacks Senior Members](#)

the Amhara Association of America (AAA) documented 38 incidents of targeted massacres against Amharas and other human rights violation incidents. AAA recorded 25 incidents in the Oromia Region, eight incidents in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, two incidents in the Amhara Region, two incidents in the SNNP Region, and one incident in Addis Ababa. As a result of these human rights violation incidents:

- At least 491 ethnic Amhara civilians were killed and 314 injured, mainly in Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz and Amhara regions. Out of these 805 documented casualties, in at least 100 cases the victims belonged to vulnerable groups (children [40], women [50], elderly [9] and persons with disabilities [1]).
- Hundreds of thousands of people were internally displaced. Most of the internally displaced fled to Amhara Region, which was hosting at least 500,000 internally displaced Amharas by the end of March 2021.
- Over 1,517 ethnic Amharas were forcibly evicted from settlements in Addis Ababa without the appropriate legal and procedural safeguards, including prior and adequate consultation, adequate notice, and the provision of adequate alternative housing.
- At least 12 ethnic Amharas were kidnapped in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions, including seven children and women.
- More than 60 ethnic Amhara have been arbitrarily detained in the Oromia Region.
- Assets of ethnic Amhara valued in the millions of dollars have been destroyed, vandalized, or looted in the Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Amhara regions.

While state agencies were responsible for the forced evictions in Addis Ababa, most of the massacres in this report were attributed to the Oromo Liberation Army and other non-state armed groups. With the weakening state capacity since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power and the current conflict in the Tigray Region, the capacity of these insurgent groups to mount massacres against minoritized Amharas in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz Region,

and lately within Amhara Region, has dangerously grown. Survivors consistently blame the local administration in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions of complacency and neglecting their responsibility to protect citizens.

AAA warns that given the weakened state capacity and lack of agency among vulnerable Amharas in many regions of Ethiopia, the massacres against Amharas will continue unabated and cost more Amhara lives. Already, in April 2021, AAA has documented several attacks against Amharas by the OLA and Gumuz militias, killing 20 in East Wollega Zone, Oromia and killing 13 in Metekel Zone, Benishangul-Gumuz Region respectively. The OLA carried out another large-scale attack in North Shewa Zone in mid-April that lasted several days, overwhelming the local security forces. AAA is still gathering data on the deaths and displacements from this latest attack, but whole villages and towns have been razed to the ground. The North Shewa Zone of Amhara Region is now under a federal command post. At the time of this writing, hundreds of thousands of Amharas have protested across the Amhara Region against these massacres and against Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. We therefore urge all stakeholders to take note of the detailed recommendations included in this report and publicly pressure the Ethiopian government to end the killing of innocent Amharas and ensure justice and accountability for these heinous crimes.

## **2 Political Context: A Constitutional Framework at Fault**

While the world's attention is on the Tigray Conflict in Northern Ethiopia, the country's multifaceted crisis elsewhere continued to worsen abetted by the defunct ethnic federal system that pits ethnic groups against each other. The 1995 Federal Constitution of Ethiopia dictates borders of the regional states shall be drawn along ethnic lines, thus rendering regions as ethnic homelands. In some cases, the regions are further divided into lower-level administrations in a way that allocates territory as homeland of an ethnic group. Despite the total compartmentalization of the country along ethnic lines in its ethnic federalism system, none of the regions and their sub-administrations are ethnically homogenous. The decision to designate certain

ethnic groups as ‘indigenous’ or rightful owners of regions has created rigid ethnic stratification in which some residents are reduced to second class citizenship status. This system of “ethnic apartheid” enables regional majorities to dominate regional minorities and antagonizes inter-communal relations by designating ethnic groups in a false ‘native’ vs ‘settler’ dichotomy. Thus, the constitutional framework is both controversial and highly criticized by Ethiopians <sup>2</sup>.

Unlike most other ethnic groups, the Amhara people were not represented in the Council of Representatives which worked under close scrutiny and guidance of the inner circle of the ruling party, the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) to pass the 1995 Constitution. Again the Constitution ushered Ethiopia into an ethnic federation, or a federation of regional states supposedly based on dominant regional ethnic groups. There was no political party that represented Amharas in the negotiation process and the constitution is widely believed to be imposed on the Council of Representatives with back-door negotiations between the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the TPLF. Both the TPLF and OLF from their inception were secessionist/separatist far-left political movements that were founded on the basis of ethnic nationalism, an antagonism towards Ethiopia, and a common belief that ethnic Amharas were their eternal enemy.

Although the federal constitution proclaims the freedom of movement within Ethiopia and the freedom to reside in any corner of the country, all regional constitutions except the Amhara Region’s have made ‘owners/indigenous people’ and ‘non-owners/aliens/settlers’ dichotomy among citizens based on ethnic identity. According to these regional constitutions, only “owners of the region” are legally entrusted to participate in political exercises. Those who are designated as ‘settlers’, even if they speak the language of the region and have lived in the area for generations, are deprived of the right to political participation and representation. As Amharas are the most dispersed ethnic group, the organization of the federation and its subsequent constitutional legitimization along ethnic homelands have been detrimental to them. The constitutional framework, including regional constitutions, dispossesses ethnic Amhara

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<sup>2</sup>Afrobarometer (August 2020) Ethiopians embrace federalism but are split over whether it should be ethnic or geographic, Afrobarometer survey shows

who reside outside of what is now referred as the “Amhara Region”, regardless of whether or not they have resided in that territory for many generations. It has effectively made countless Amhara people into second class citizens in their own places of birth.

The political exclusion of Amharas is most severe in regions such as Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz which have experienced recurrent Amhara massacres as documented in this report. Although Amharas count for a considerable portion of the population of these regions they have been prevented from holding even a single seat in regional councils and local administrative units. In the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, for instance, ethnic Amharas are the second largest ethnic group, but the regional constitution does not recognize them as rightful residents of the land, selectively excluding them as designated residents. The revised constitution of Benishangul-Gumuz Region under article 2 states that “even if other people residing in the region are recognized, the owners of the region are Berta, Gumuz, Shinasha, Mao and Komo”<sup>3</sup>. In the same corollary, the revised constitution of the Oromia National Regional State under article 8 provides that “The Oromo people is the sovereign power of the region as manifested by its direct or indirect [representative] democratic participation”<sup>4</sup>. This literally means non-Oromo residents of the region do not have a right to any form of political participation or representation, which leaves millions of ethnic Amhara in the region with no political and other rights. This legal exclusion of non-Oromos from political participation in the region, coupled with agitations for attacks and proliferation of hatred by ultra-nationalist Oromos, has made non-Oromos in general and Amhara in particular vulnerable to demonization, atrocious killings, looting and destruction of their properties, and displacement time and time again.

Ethnic Amharas have been subject to a series of targeted massacres, mass displacements, and property destruction since ethnic federalism was introduced in the early 1990s<sup>5</sup>. Attacks in Harar city (Misraq/East Hararghe Zone, Oromia Region), Bedeno Woreda (Misraq/East

<sup>3</sup>[Constitution of the Regional State of Benishangul-Gumuz Region](#)

<sup>4</sup>[Constitution of the Regional State of Of Oromia - 1995](#)

<sup>5</sup>For ethnic cleansing and genocidal violence against Amharas between 1991 and 2015, see Moresh Wogenie Amhara Organization’s report “The Amhara Genocide Ignored by the World: A study of the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Amhara ethnic group from 1991-2015.

Hararghe Zone, Oromia Region), Mirab/West Wollega Zone (Oromia Region), Misraq/East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region), Arsi Zone (Oromia Region), Metekel Zone (Benishangul-Gumuz Region) and Guraferda Woreda (Bench Maji Zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region) are all reflections of this. However, the frequency and scale of atrocities against ethnic Amhara have skyrocketed since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali came to power in 2018. The weakening state capacity since Abiy came to power and the increasing hate speech and vilification of ethnic Amhara has led to a rise in targeted attacks against Amharas, particularly in the so called 'Oromia', 'Benishangul-Gumuz' and 'Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) regions. International and national human rights groups as well as experts of the region have classified these attacks targeting ethnic Amhara as ethnic cleansing <sup>6</sup>, crimes against humanity <sup>7</sup> and an ongoing genocide <sup>8</sup>.

Taking advantage of the federal government's preoccupation with the current war in Tigray, non-state actors, including the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) <sup>9</sup> and ethnic Gumuz militias <sup>10</sup> have consolidated their attack against ethnic Amhara in the western parts of Oromia and Metekel zones respectively. The Ethiopian government accuses both OLA and Gumuz militias of working with the TPLF <sup>11</sup>. Both groups are known for avoiding direct fighting with government forces and instead massacring civilians, possibly as a way of pressuring the government.

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<sup>6</sup>Minority Rights group (July 2020). Recent violence in Ethiopia's Oromia region shows hallmark signs of ethnic cleansing, says MRG

<sup>7</sup>Ethiopia Human Rights Commission (January 2021) "It Did Not Feel Like We Had A Government" Violence & Human Rights Violations following Musician Hachalu Hundessa's Assassination (Investigation Report); see also the report by Ethiopian Human rights council on violence in Oromia following Musician Hachalu Hundessa's assassination.

<sup>8</sup>[Gregory R. Copley \(August 2020\) Genocide is Alive and Well in Africa](#)

<sup>9</sup>OLA used to be a military wing of OLF when the Front was an insurgent group. The OLA broke off from the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) - an opposition party that spent years in exile and returned to the country after Mr. Abiy took office in 2018. The OLA has since then continued its armed resistance against the Ethiopian government. OLA claims to have presence across Oromia but most of the massacres committed against Amharas allegedly by its forces were in West Wollega, East Wollega and Horo Goduru zones of the so-called Oromia region.

<sup>10</sup>The Gumuz militia do not have identified leader but are often associated with Gumuz opposition parties. While there is no evidence to support their claim, Gumuz militia say they are fighting the government because their right to self-administration in Benishangul-Gumuz is threatened following the regional ruling party inclusion into Prosperity Party.

<sup>11</sup>[Addis Standard \(December 2020\) News Alert: Eyewitnesses Say More than 90 Killed in Fresh Attack Bulen Wereda, Benishangul-Gumuz; Region Cautions Civilians To Join Safe Villages](#)

The Ethiopian Government has installed command posts in East Wollega, West Wollega and Metekel zones to try to control the massacres of civilians <sup>12</sup>. However, the command posts have failed to deter perpetrators, and the atrocities have continued unabated.

### **3 Scope and Methodology**

The massacres against ethnic Amharas have continued unabated in many parts of Ethiopia. This quarterly report covers atrocities against ethnic Amharas that the Amhara Association of America (AAA) was able to document from January 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2021.

The report's findings are based on interviews from eyewitnesses, survivors and families of victims. AAA also supplemented the primary data with information contained in statements and reports released by various human rights organizations, including the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Ethiopian Human Rights Council. Where possible, AAA tried to verify pictures with the assistance of geolocation experts.

From January 1st to March 31st, several massacres against ethnic Amhara were committed in multiple regions of Ethiopia. The report mainly covers incidents that have occurred in parts of Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, SNNP, Amhara regions, and the capital city Addis Ababa. It also touches briefly on atrocities and human rights violations perpetrated by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) at the Ethiopia-Sudan Border, including parts of Western Ethiopia (Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regions). Thus, the information contained in the report does not represent the full scale of violations committed against ethnic Amhara during the reporting period. Throughout this report, witnesses and survivors are given pseudonyms for safety reasons. However, AAA can provide names and contacts of witnesses to reputable human rights organizations and journalists upon request.

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<sup>12</sup>[Fana Broadcasting Corporation \(February 2021\) Some 120 Rebels Surrender to Command Post in Metekel Zone](#)

## 4 Summary of Major Atrocities and Analysis

### 4.1 Recorded Incidents of Human Rights Abuse and Victims

During the reporting period, AAA documented 38 incidents which affected the rights of 2,394 ethnic Amhara, excluding the hundreds of thousands of Amhara who have been displaced from Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Amhara regions (including the Ethiopia-Sudan border). Data collected by AAA during the quarter showed that during the period between January 1st and March 31st, 2021:

- At least 491 ethnic Amhara civilians were killed, 314 injured, and hundreds of thousands displaced in Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Amhara regions.
- Over 1,517 ethnic Amhara were forcibly evicted from settlements in Addis Ababa, without the appropriate legal and procedural safeguards, including prior and adequate consultation, adequate notice, and the provision of adequate alternative housing.
- At least 12 ethnic Amhara were kidnapped in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.
- More than 60 ethnic Amhara have been arbitrarily detained in the Oromia Region.
- Assets of ethnic Amhara valued in the tens of millions of US dollars have been destroyed, vandalized, or looted in the Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Amhara regions.
- Out of 805 documented killings and injuries, in at least 100 cases the victims belonged to vulnerable groups (children [40], women [50], elderly [9] and person with disability [1]). Out of the total 12 people kidnapped seven were women and children.

**Table 1:** Human rights abuses committed against ethnic Amhara by month

Month	Total Incidents	Total killed	Total injured	Arbitrary arrests	Total kidnapped	Total forced evictions
January	4	At least 87	At least 22	-	2	-
February	12	At least 38	At least 4	At least 34	1	1517
March	21	At least 352	At least 288	At least 26	At least 9	-
Overall total	37	At least 491	At least 314	At least 60	At least 12	1517

- Throughout January 2021, AAA recorded 109 casualties (87 killings and 22 injuries) and two abduction cases. In February 2021, 42 casualties (38 killings and four injuries) were documented by AAA. Forced evictions, which affected at least 1,517 Amharas, were also recorded by AAA. In addition, at least 34 cases of arbitrary arrest/detention were documented in February 2021. In March 2021, AAA documented 654 casualties (366 killings and 288 injuries). It has also documented 26 arbitrary arrests and detentions and at least nine abduction cases.
- As Table 1 shows, the number of incidents that left ethnic Amharas killed, injured, arbitrary arrested, or kidnapped increased. The total number of ethnic Amhara killed in March was more than four times those killed in January. Similarly, the number of total injured in March was more than 10 times those injured in January.
- AAA estimates that hundreds of thousands of ethnic Amhara were also forced to flee their homes as a result of these ethnically motivated attacks between January and March 2021. According to AAA sources, in the Oromia Region alone, over 200,000 ethnic Amhara have been forced to flee their homes because of repeated ethnic based killings and massacres orchestrated by OLA militias and, at times, by the Oromia Region's security forces. Other mass internal displacement cases include more than 2,219 ethnic Amhara displaced as a result of Sudan's military build-up in a disputed border area known as al-Fashaga, shortly after the conflict in Tigray started. In addition, hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom are ethnic Amhara, have been displaced from Dibate, Bullen, Dangur, Guba, Mandura and Wenbera Woredas/districts of Metekel Zone in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. Furthermore, thousands of people have fled their homes within the Amhara Region as a result of OLA and TPLF attacks in Semien/North Shewa Zone and Oromo Special Zones, respectively. Data obtained from the Amhara region shows that more than 495,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in temporary camps throughout the region. However, the lack of resources and meaningful support at

these IDP centers have forced many to seek alternatives, such as staying with extended family, street life, and sheltering in religious institutions. Thus, the actual total number of IDPs may be much higher than recorded in Amhara Region IDP centers.

## 4.2 Human Rights Violations by Location

Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions continue to be the most hostile to ethnic Amharas as measured by frequency of attacks against Amhara civilians, lack of response from the regional governments, and consistent victim accounts of complicity by local officials in enabling, if not participating, in the attacks. AAA recorded 25 incidents in the Oromia Region, eight incidents in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, two incidents in the Amhara Region, two incidents in the SNNP Region, and one incident in Addis Ababa.

The following table shows cases of human rights violations (other than internal displacement) against ethnic Amharas by location due to targeted attacks.

**Table 2:** Human rights abuses committed against ethnic Amhara by location

Regions	Total incidents	Total killed	Total injured	Arbitrary arrests	Total kidnapped	Total forced evictions
Oromia	25	At least 158	19	60	11	-
Benishangul-Gumuz	8	At least 104	24	-	1	1517
Addis Ababa	1	-	-	-	-	-
Amhara Region	2	At least 210	262	-	-	-
SNNP Region	2	At least 19	9	-	-	-
Overall total	38	491	314	60	12	1517

As shown in Table 2:

- Two major incidents allegedly committed by the OLA and TPLF resulted in at least 210 recorded killings in the Amhara Region. Other mass killings resulted in 158 fatalities in the Oromia Region, 104 in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, while the remaining 19 were in the SNNP Region. As for injury cases, 262 were recorded in the Amhara Region, 24 in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, 19 in the Oromia Region, and the remaining nine cases in the SNNP Region. All except one victim of abduction and kidnapping were in the Oromia Region. All cases of arbitrary arrest/detention were documented in the Oromia Region, while all documented forced evictions cases were recorded specifically in Addis Ababa. In total, these incidents resulted in human rights violations of at least

2,394 ethnic Amhara, including 491 victims of ethnically motivated killings/massacres, 314 victims who sustained bodily injuries, 60 victims of arbitrary arrests <sup>13</sup>, 12 victims of kidnappings and abduction, as well as 1,517 victims of forced evictions.

### 4.3 Human Rights Violations by Perpetrators

Based on witnesses' accounts, AAA tried to identify perpetrators of atrocities and human rights violations. The following table shows the six perpetrator groups responsible for the documented incidents, along with the number of ethnic-based violations they carried out; the number of people killed, injured and kidnapped as a result of these incidents; the number of Amharas arbitrarily arrested in connection with the recorded incidents; and the number of victims affected by forced eviction.

**Table 3:** Human rights abuses committed against ethnic Amhara by perpetrator

Perpetrators	Total incidents	Total killed	Total injured	Arbitrary arrests	Total kidnapped	Total forced evictions
Oromia Special Force	7	9	1	60	-	-
Addis Ababa City Administration	1	-	-	-	-	1517
OLF militias	19	337	231	-	12	-
Gumuz militias	2	1	1	-	-	-
TPLF militias	1	16	50	-	-	-
Unidentified militias	8	128	31	-	-	-
Over all total	38	491	314	60	12	1517

As shown in Table 3, the following points can be drawn:

- The Oromia Special Forces (the regional police force) was responsible for 70 cases of human rights violations (nine killings, one injury, and 60 arbitrary arrests), OLA for 580 human rights violations (337 killings, 231 injury and 12 abductions), Gumuz militias for two casualties (one killing and one injury), TPLF militias for 66 human rights violations (16 killings and 50 injury cases), unidentified armed groups for 159 casualties (128 killings and 31 injuries), and the Addis Ababa City Administration for 1,517 forced eviction cases.
- Eight of all documented incidents were orchestrated by unknown or unidentified perpetrators.

<sup>13</sup>The total number reported number of Amharas arbitrarily arrested was significantly higher AAA included here only the 60 identified by name.

- Of the remaining 30 incidents, 19 were carried out by OLA militias, while seven were attributed to the Oromia Special Forces (regional police force), one to Addis Ababa City Administration, two to Gumuz militias, and one to TPLF militias.
- All of the perpetrators were also responsible for the displacement of ethnic Amhara from varying regions. In addition, save for the Addis Ababa City Administration, the attackers were involved in looting and damaging Amhara properties.

## **5 Regional Profiles**

### **5.1 Oromia Region**

The Oromia Region has been a hotspot of violence and a killing field of defenseless ethnic Amharas historically. The frequency of violence against ethnic Amhara has especially increased since 2018, when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali took office. Following the Abiy administration's ill thought decision to allow the OLA to come into Ethiopia without relinquishing their weapons, the OLA has resorted to armed struggle and has committed several rounds of attacks against ethnic Amhara. A total of 25 incidents in Oromia Region have been recorded by AAA during the reporting period. These incidents caused 177 casualties (158 killings and 19 injuries), of which OLA was blamed for 167 casualties (149 killings and 18 injuries). Victims of ethnic based attacks and their families accuse Oromia regional officials of conspiring with the perpetrators including out ethnic Amhara from the Oromia Region.

While OLA claims to have presence throughout Oromia region, it is believed to be in Western Oromia. The recorded massacres against ethnic Amhara have mostly occurred in four zones: Horo Guduru Welega, East Wollega, West Wollega and North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region). Below is a summary of major human rights violations in these zones of the Oromia Region.

### 5.1.1 Horo Guduru Welega Zone

OLA militias have killed at least 71 ethnic Amhara in a series of massacres that began on March 6th, 2021 in Horo Guduru Welega Zone in Western Oromia. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Amhara have reportedly fled their homes as a result. Their houses and property were also looted.

- **Baleegziabher Massacre:** On March 6th, 2021, suspected OLA militias attacked the Baleegziabher village in Debis Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda and brutally killed at least 23 ethnic Amhara, including nine women and six children. At least 7 ethnic Amhara were abducted in this attack. According to AAA sources, the militias killed their victims with axes, machetes, or firearms. The actual number of victims is believed to be much higher, but AAA can only confirm 23 as of publication. Witnesses and survivors blame the OLA who have been active in the area, but they have also implicated local administrative officials in the massacre. AAA confirmed that members of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the Oromia Special Force were only deployed to the area after the attack had ended and the militias had long fled.
- **Haro Da'i massacre:** On March 9th, 2021, OLA militias stormed the villages of Dachin Gefersa and Jawja in Haro Da'i Kebele of Jardega Jarte Woreda and killed at least 25 ethnic Amhara (possibly many more) and wounded four. The victims include children, one about 3-months-old, and their homes were looted.
- On the same day, two ethnic Amhara, including one detainee named Abdela Dawd, were shot and killed, and a third was injured by members of the regional Oromia Special Force in Tulu Gana Village, Mender 24 Kebele of Abe Dongoro Woreda. According to AAA sources, Abdela Dawd was detained illegally three days before his brutal murder.
- **Suxxa Kuttalle Massacre:** On March 13th, 2021, OLA militias disguised in Oromia Special Force uniforms and armed with rifles and machetes stormed into Drma village

of Suxxa Kuttalle Kebele, Jardega Jarte, Horo Guduru Welega Zone and killed at least 12 Amharas by slitting their throats.

- At least 26 ethnic Amhara youth have been arrested by the Oromia Special Force since March 15th, 2021. They have been accused of giving information to media and human rights organizations about the plight of ethnic Amhara who have been massacred, injured, and abducted by OLA militias in Jardega Jarte and Abe Dongoro Woredas of Horo Guduru Welega Zone.
- On January 25th, 2021, two Amhara farmers named Hamid Abdella and Kindu Hibre, went missing allegedly at the hands of OLA militias from Chatto, Horo Woreda. Even though their fate and whereabouts remain unknown to date, they are generally assumed to have been killed by the militias.
- On March 23rd, 2021, OLA militias stormed the village of Wedotema in Janjimen Kebele, Jardega Jarte Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone of the Oromia Region, killing at least one Amhara and destroying several houses/properties and assets belonging to local ethnic Amhara. According to residents and victims' families, at around 10:00 pm the militants moved into the village of Wedotema, killed one Amhara named Kindu Hassen, and destroyed Amhara assets, including eight houses, one store, and one powder grinding machine.
- On March 26th, 2021, OLA militants burnt a house and shop that belonged to an Amhara farmer named Priest Stotaw in Robit Gebeya village, Gebergum 2nd Kebele, Horo Woreda, Horro Guduru Welega Zone. The fire also killed 13 domestic animals owned by Priest Stotaw; these included nine cattle, two horses, and two donkeys. According to sources from the ground, the incident happened around 10 pm local time.
- On March 27th, 2021, the OLA militias killed Ahmed Ali, an ethnic Amhara, named Ahmed Ali, in Enqit village, Abugumja Kebele of Abe Dongoro Woreda. According to

AAA sources, Ali, 43, was a farmer and father of six. They also said that his house and other belongings were set ablaze and looted by the militias. On the same day, members of the Oromia Regional Special Forces arbitrarily arrested two ethnic Amhara, Derib Chane and Indris Mekonin. According to local ground sources. The victims were taken from their village in Tuluwayu town, Abe Dongoro Woreda.

- On March 28th, 2021, OLA militias attacked the village of Marge in Gorte Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda, killed two ethnic Amharas, named Shkur Indris and Yengusse Asmamaw, and burnt ten homes belonging to ethnic Amharas. According to AAA sources, the attack was launched during a marriage ceremony attended by ethnic Amhara. Shkur Indris, 33, was a farmer and father of three. He was shot dead by the militias. In the same vein, Yengussie Asmamaw, 48, was a farmer and mother of seven was also shot and killed by the militias. On the same day, seven ethnic Amhara were brutally killed and four others injured by OLA militias in raids on two villages in Gebregum 2nd and Yetrodale Kebeles in Horo Woreda. The assailants attacked the villages of Wiro and Hagelo in Horo Woreda on March 28th, 2021 and set fire to homes while firing sporadically at residents. According to AAA sources, “seven ethnic Amhara, including two infants, were killed, four others were injured, and 15 houses that belong to ethnic Amhara were burnt to the ground.” That evening at around 10 pm local time, the militias also burned 10 houses belonging to ethnic Amhara in Arusi village, Abe Dongoro Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone.

### **5.1.2 East Wollega Zone**

Between January 1st, 2021 and March 31st, 2021, AAA documented at least 32 casualties (30 killings and two injuries) in different Woredas of East Wollega Zone, Oromia Region.

- On March 13th, 2021, OLA militias killed one Amhara farmer in the village of Nole Gebriel in Kiramu District. According to AAA sources, the victim, who was a resident of Naccinoo Kebele in Gida kiramu Woreda, was hacked to death in broad daylight in

Kiramu Woreda while he was fleeing the Oromia Region into the neighboring Amhara Region for safety.

- **Booqaa and Naccinoo Massacre:** On February 25th, 2021, at least 12 Amhara farmers were brutally killed and two others wounded by OLA militias in Booqaa and Naccinoo Kebeles, Gida Kiramu Woreda, East Wollega Zone. According to survivors, they were attacked while they were shelling maize (along with Oromo farmers) in Debo as part of an adhoc labor sharing group where farmers cooperate to work for the members upon demand. The victims' bodies showed signs of torture.
- On February 16th, 2021, an innocent Amhara businessman was shot dead by Oromia Special Forces while he was heading to his office in Angergute town, Gida Ayana Woreda.
- From January 29th to February 8th, more than ten ethnic Amhara were killed by OLA militias in the Woredas of East Wollega Zone.
- **Arqumbii Massacre:** On February 14th, 2021, in Arqumbii Kebele of Limu Woreda, seven Amhara civilians were killed by Oromia Special Forces. Through illegal operations, the special force seized weapons and other personal belongings from the Amhara residents. The illegal search occurred after the victims left their home to attend a marriage ceremony in an adjacent village. Upon their return, six representatives amongst them were sent to the surrounding police department to lodge a formal complaint contesting the illegal search performed. However, the representatives were arrested and put under police custody. This, in turn, caused public outrage that spilled over into the streets. Thereafter, local police responded brutally to the protest, and six ethnic Amhara were killed immediately on the spot from police forces who opened fire on the protestors. Moreover, many more people were wounded. At least ten houses were also burnt to the ground by local police, but not before the looting of furniture from these homes. Thousands of Amharas were displaced. Hotels, a wholesale Arake store, and a maize storage

containing 400 quintals of maize were destroyed too. Following this incident, prominent ethnic Amhara in the community were arrested.

### 5.1.3 West Wollega Zone

**Boni and Bishoo Massacres:** On March 30th 2021, at least 48 ethnic Amhara were killed and many more wounded by suspected members of the OLA militias in night raids on two villages in Boni and Bishoo Kebeles in Babo-Gembel Woreda, West Wollega Zone of Ethiopia's restive Oromia region. The first attack took place in a village called Saadeqa in Bone Kebele. According to AAA's sources from the ground, the militias raided the village sometime between 7-8 pm, ordered residents out of their homes, gathered them outside, and proceeded to massacre them with machetes, axes, knives, and swords. Survivor reports indicated the militias shot people dead as they tried to escape the carnage. Simultaneously, another group of OLA militias massacred at least 16 ethnic Amhara at Dabus village, Bishoo Kebele, Babo Gembel Woreda.

### 5.1.4 North Shewa Zone (Oromia)

From January 23rd-25th 2021, seven ethnic Amhara were killed in two separate attacks in Abu Godo Kebele, Dera, Ethiopia. In the first attack, on January 23rd, 2021, unidentified gunmen shot and killed three ethnic Amharas while they were on their way to the local marketplace. Their bodies were found in the village of Gebre Kristos in Abu Godo Kebele. On January 25th, 2021, just two days after the first incident, four other ethnic Amhara were shot dead by unknown assailants in the village of Agamsa in Abu Godo Kebele.

## 5.2 Benishangul-Gumuz Region

Throughout the reporting period, AAA recorded eight incidents of ethnic-based attacks in Benishangul-Gumuz region, resulting in 128 casualties (104 killings and 24 injuries). The incidents have left hundreds of thousands of ethnic Amhara displaced.

- On March 31, 2021, unknown gunmen stopped a public transport vehicle carrying civilians to Gilgel-Beles Town, Mandura Woreda of the Metekel Zone and ordered the pas-

sengers off the vehicle and then executed fourteen of them. The assailants reportedly cut off the penises of three of the deceased. Although AAA was not able to confirm the victims' ethnic identities, the Amharas have appeared the primary target of the militias in previous attacks throughout the region. Thus, it could be safe to assume that the victims might be the Amharas, pending a full investigation by an independent human rights organization.

- On February 18th, 2021, a 60-year-old ethnic Amhara was shot and fatally injured by Gumuz militias in Baben village, Galesa Kebele, Dibate Woreda, Metekel Zone. On the same day, Gumuz militias shot and killed an 86-year-old ethnic Amhara in a separate attack in Gongo Kebele, Bulen District.
- On February 15th, 2021, unidentified gunmen killed at least seven ethnic Amhara in an attack in Berber Kebele, Dibate Woreda, Metekel Zone. On the same day, an ethnic Amhara artisanal miner was killed by OLA Militias in the Jilay locality, Gongo Kebele, Bullen Woreda, Metekel Zone.
- On February 12th, 2021, OLA militias raided and attacked approximately 30 Amhara households in a village called Chollo in Bullen Woreda's Gongo Kebele. As least one woman was injured, and another was abducted and released after three days. Two houses were burnt to the ground. As a result, scores of ethnic Amhara were also displaced.
- On January 12th, 2021, unidentified gunmen raided Daletti village, Dibate Woreda in Metekel Zone, killing at least 80 people, including children as young as two-years-old, and wounding 22 more, according to [Ethiopian Human Rights Commission](#). AAA was able to independently verify from its local sources that majority of the victims, if not all, were ethnic Amhara civilians. Apart from casualties, thousands of ethnic Amhara were reportedly displaced as a result of the attack.

## **5.3 Amhara Region**

In March 2021, OLA and TPLF militias killed more than 216 ethnic Amhara civilians in North Shewa and Wag Hemra zones of the Amhara region. They also wounded more than 277 people in the areas. They also destroyed and looted private and public institutions as well as churches.

### **5.3.1 North Shewa Zone**

In an unprecedented invasion of North Shewa Zone and surrounding areas that began on March 19, 2021 and lasted more than a week, OLA massacred more than 194 Amahars and wounded more than 212 <sup>14</sup>. Additionally, churches including Jawi St. George, Kurigari St. Michael, and Ataye Beraha St. Selassie; schools such as Negiso Primary School, houses, business centers, crops, and animals were either destroyed or looted.

### **5.3.2 Wag Hemra Zone**

TPLF militias invaded Wag Hemra Zone, Tsagbji Woreda, Tsata town of the Amhara region on March 18th, 2021 killing at least 16 and wounding more than 50 civilians. In addition to this, they massacred dozens of local security forces, burnt vehicles, looted the local health center, and destroyed and looted private and public property. It was also reported they slaughtered and ate 17 oxen stolen from surrounding farmers as well.

### **5.3.3 Ethiopia-Sudan Border**

Since November 6th, 2020, as a result of the Sudanese military build-up in the disputed border area known as al-Fashaga, [where the north-west of Ethiopia's Amhara region meets Sudan's Gedaref state](#), at least three Amhara farmers have been killed, ten more wounded, and more than 2,219 displaced. In addition, AAA verified from its sources from the ground that more than nine ethnic Amhara have been abducted by Sudanese forces.

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<sup>14</sup>The attack by OLA and related violence in North Shewa and Oromo Special Zone of Amhara regions has since then has been recurrent since then and has continued to claim the life of civilians.

## 5.4 SNNP Region

At least 19 civilians were killed in a spate of ethnically motivated attacks in Gura Ferda Woreda of SNNP region of Ethiopia in March 2021<sup>15</sup>. On the 26th-27th of March, at least 16 civilians were killed and nine others wounded when unidentified gunmen launched an attack on Galma and Galittii Kebeles of Gura Ferda Woreda, Bench Maji Zone, SNNPR. Then, on March 30th, the gunmen killed three more innocent people in Shupi village of Gura Ferda Woreda, and at least nine houses were burned to the ground. The militias have also reportedly killed and wounded security officials.

## 5.5 Addis Ababa

On February 16th, 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the government forcibly and violently evicted more than 370 Amhara households from the area known as ‘Bole Homes,’ thereby leaving an estimated 1,517 ethnic Amhara displaced from their homes<sup>16</sup>. In violation of Ethiopian and international human rights laws, the government razed the houses of ethnic Amhara without any consultation, adequate notice, compensation, or offering of alternative housing.

## 6 Recommendations

AAA calls upon the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to:

- restore law and order in the country, including by increasing patrols and establishing additional security posts in vulnerable areas such as Horo Guduru Welega, West Wollega, East Wollega and Kelam Welega Zones of the Oromia Region, Metekel Zone of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, North Shewa and Wag Hemra Zones of the Amhara Region, and Bench Maji Zone of the SNNP Region.
- take all necessary measures to prevent further arbitrary deprivation of liberty and en-

<sup>15</sup>[Ethiopian Human Rights Council Press Release \(3 April 2021\)](#); Deutsche Welle (DW) ‘At least 10 people were killed by gunmen in Guraferda’ 29 March 2021

<sup>16</sup>A total of 370 households were forcefully evicted. This estimated is based on the average household size in Addis Ababa (I.e. 4.1 per household according to 2007 Census)

forced disappearances of ethnic Amhara in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.

- suspend those civil and security officials in all regions who are suspected of being accomplices in atrocities and initiate investigations and prosecutions for their role in any of the heinous crimes that took place.
- hold accountable members of Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz special police forces suspected of abuses, including for ethnic based persecutions of ethnic Amhara civilians.
- ensure transparent and fair investigation of all suspects in accordance with national and international law, while making any judicial decisions public.
- publicly recognize and condemn the increasing ethnically motivated attacks against Amhara civilians in Ethiopia and create a government entity responsible for monitoring the performance of regions in promotion of the safety and rights of ethnic minorities.
- take all necessary measures to uproot various non-state armed groups operating across the country, notably OLA and Gumuz militias.
- provide members of the Ethiopian National Defense Force on the ground with the required resources to conduct effective counter-insurgency military operations against non-state armed groups that have been waging an all-out war on innocent Amhara civilians and strengthen intelligence and communication networks through which civilians can obtain security protection when needed.
- publicly declare its willingness to welcome human rights organizations, both national and international, to conduct an independent investigation into the human rights violations committed against ethnic Amhara in Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, SNNP, Harari, Dire Dawa and other regions and permit full, unhampered access to international human rights organizations interested in investigating the grave human rights violations documented in this report.

- guarantee unhindered access to journalists who wish to report on human rights situations in the country in general and on the unabated massacres against ethnic Amhara across many regions of Ethiopia.
- initiate a constitutional amendment process with the aim of repealing all provisions of the regional states constitutions that are promoting apartheid-like arrangements between ethnic Amhara and non-Amhara residents in a manner that guarantees everyone living in any regional state has equal rights.
- provide sufficient compensation to victims of human rights violations and their families, including alternative housing to forcefully evicted families in Addis Ababa.
- take urgent steps to alleviate the humanitarian crises affecting victims of forced displacement in different parts of the country by providing protection and assistance, which shall include food, water, shelter, medical care and other health services and sanitation, in accordance with the Kampala Convention.
- implement a moratorium on mass evictions in Addis Ababa until the City Administration has regulations and directives in place that ensure evictions comply with Ethiopia's international and regional human rights commitments and take meaningful measures towards guaranteeing security of tenure for all residents of the Addis Ababa City Administration.
- expedite the demarcation of the disputed areas on the Ethiopia-Sudan border and end the recurrent violence permanently.

AAA calls upon human rights organizations and media, both national and international to:

- consistently and publicly press the Ethiopian government to promptly investigate and appropriately prosecute all those implicated in massacring ethnic Amhara and violating the rights of the Amhara people and all other Ethiopians.
- expose to the international community the ongoing massacres against ethnic Amhara through prompt and impartial investigative reports.

- engage in advocacy and mobilization activities to promote the safety of ethnic Amhara residing all over Ethiopia.

AAA urges the Government of Sudan to:

- refrain from any form of military aggression and resolve its border dispute with Ethiopia by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and the Constitutive Act of the African Union.
- stop terrorizing, killing, and displacing innocent people living on the disputed border.
- undertake appropriate investigation into the killings of ethnic Amhara that have been committed by the Sudanese security forces on the Ethiopia-Sudan border, resulting in a large number of IDPs, and hold the perpetrators accountable for those crimes.

AAA calls upon the international community to:

- demand the Ethiopian authorities implement the above recommendations.
- assist in all possible ways to ensure the effective investigation of all human rights violations against ethnic Amhara in Ethiopia, particularly massacres committed in the Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions.
- encourage the Ethiopian government to prioritize justice and to take immediate steps to stop further infliction of serious human rights violations against the Amhara people in various parts of the country, notably in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions.
- condemn the forced evictions of ethnic Amhara from Addis Ababa and join AAA in calling on the government to refrain, and protect people, from forced evictions.
- pressure Sudan to adhere to its obligations under international law to respect and protect the lives and livelihoods of civilians living along the Ethiopia-Sudan border.

## **7 Annexes: Selected Detailed Human Rights Violation Incident Reports**

### **7.1 Selected Incident Reports on Massacres in Oromia Region**

The Oromia Region has been a hotspot of violence and a killing ground of defenseless Amharas in the first three months of 2021. AAA reported about these massacres in its incident reports that are available on AAA’s website and social media pages. A selected few of these incident reports are annexed here to show the trends and roles and responsibilities of different actors.

#### **7.1.1 [March 31st, 2021]: Suspected OLA militias Massacred at least 48 Amharas in the West Wollega Zone**

On Tuesday, March 31st, 2021, at least 48 Amharas were killed and many more wounded by suspected members of OLA militias in Boni and Bishoo Kebeles of Babo-Gembel Woreda, West Wollega Zone. The first attack took place in a village called Saadeqa in Bone Kebele. According to AAA sources from the ground, including Tamir Nega and Kebede Altaye (names changed), the suspected OLA militias raided the village at around 7:00 – 8:00 pm. The suspected OLA militia members forcefully gathered residents and brutally killed them with machetes, axes, knives, and swords. The militias had also carried guns and fatally shot several people as they tried to escape the massacre. AAA’s focal contact in Ethiopia quoted Kebede Altaye saying:

*“OLA shane militias raided the village at around 8:00 PM and dragged ethnic Amhara residents out of their homes and collected them at one place. Then after, they began killing them by machete, sword, knives and other sharp weapons. They also shot those running away to escape from the attacks. In such a way, the militias killed many people, among which 30 of them are buried today [April 1, 2021].”*

Three sources from Bone Kebele who attended the burial for victims of the attack on Saadeqa village confirmed that 30 victims were buried on April 1 alone. Furthermore, two victims were pronounced dead at a nearby hospital on April 1st, 2021. The 32 victims who were killed in the massacre and identified by name by multiples sources include the following:

**Table 4:** Names of civilians killed in Saadeqa village, Bone Kebele, Babo-Gembel Woreda, West Wollega Zone, Oromia Region

	Names of decedents	Gender	Age
1	Mohammed Addis	M	Above 18 years of age
2	Mohammed Kassa	M	Above 18 years of age
3	Murad Eshetu	M	Above 18 years of age
4	Temima Eshetu	F	Minor
5	Nuru Imam	M	Above 18 years of age
6	Zeyneba Worku	F	Above 18 years of age
7	Lubaba Nuru	F	Above 18 years of age
8	Abdul Seayd	M	Above 18 years of age
9	Marifa Abdul	F	Minor
10	Ahmed Seayd	M	Above 18 years of age
11	Abdi Yimer	M	Above 18 years of age
12	Semira Hussen	F	Above 18 years of age
13	Janno Desalegne	F	Above 18 years of age
14	Seayd Ahmed	M	Above 18 years of age
15	Indris Adem	M	Above 18 years of age
16	Fatuma Muhidin	F	Above 18 years of age
17	Kelida Mohammed	F	Minor
18	Tadesse Ahmed	M	Above 18 years of age
19	Mehdi Beza	F	Above 18 years of age
20	Yimam Ahmed	M	Above 18 years of age

21	Abeba Endayen	F	Above 18 years of age
22	Abiyot Amare	M	Above 18 years of age
23	Halima Shiferaw	F	Above 18 years of age
24	Zebura Mohammed	F	Above 18 years of age
25	Ali Yimer	M	Above 18 years of age
26	Sefinesh Wedaju	F	Above 18 years of age
27	Beletech Ibrahim	F	Not confirmed
28	Engdaw Fikadu	M	Not confirmed
29	Beletu Belay	F	Not confirmed
30	Semima Eshete	F	Not confirmed
31	Fatima Mewedin	F	Not confirmed
32	Kassaye Abate	M	Not confirmed

According to AAA sources, including Serawit (name changed), some of the victims were from the same families:

- Abdul Seayd was killed along with three of his family members. The victims were: his wife, Lubaba Nuru; his daughter, Marifa Abdul; and his brother, Ahmed Seayd.
- Abdi Yimer was killed along with his wife, Semira Hussien.
- Fatuma Muhidin was killed with her daughter, Kelida Mohammed.
- Murad and Temima Eshetu, brother and sister, were also killed in the attack.

In addition, dozens of people were injured in the massacre of which AAA managed to get the names of seven people. These include Wegen Endaye (male), Hussien Ali (male), Zinet Ali (female), Hayat Mohammed (female), Temira Mohammed (female), Kedir Yimam (male), and Ibrahim Yimam (male). In a separate attack, suspected OLA militias also massacred at least 16 ethnics Amharas at Dabus village, Bishoo Kebele, and Babo-Gembel Woreda. The attacks occurred almost simultaneously with Sadeka's attack and are also believed to be committed by

OLA militias. According to sources, the attack was committed people were herding cattle at a common grazing place. Appearing at the grazing place, the militias identified and separated the Amharas firstly. Afterwards, the suspected OLA militia carried out the attack using sharpened weapons like machetes, hoes, knives, swords etc. Among the 16 victims, at least twelve of them are confirmed to be children below 18 years old. AAA sources identified the names of the following 14 individual among the total 16 persons killed in this massacre.

**Table 5:** Names of civilians killed in Dabus village, Bishoo Kebele, Babo-Gembel Woreda, West Wollega Zone, Oromia Region

	Name	Gender	Age
1	Asnake Bikes	M	Above 18 years of age
2	Worku Teshale	M	Above 18 years of age
3	Dbu Sidersu	M	Minor
4	Temesgen Zenebe	M	Minor
5	Lidetu Getaye	M	Minor
6	Getu Wendmnew	M	Minor
7	Abebe Melku	M	Minor
8	Gashaw Bogale	M	Minor
9	Desalew Taye	M	Minor
10	Tesfaye Getu	M	Minor
11	Esubalew Tkuye	M	Minor
12	Wendmnew Altaseb	M	Minor
13	Endalew Werkye	M	Minor
14	Merigeta Takele	M	Minor

Furthermore, a few more individuals were injured Among the several victims who were injured during the massacre, two individuals named Achenef Endalew and Biset Yemataw were identified. On Wednesday, March 31st, 2021, the Oromia Regional State Communication

Bureau press statement confirmed the massacres of innocent Amhara civilians in West Wollega Zone and blamed OLA for the massacres.

**Figure 1:** Dead bodies of the Amhara victims from the Saadeqa massacre



### 7.1.2 [March 23rd-28th, 2021]: OLA militias killed at least 11 Amharas in a series of ethnically driven massacres in Horo Guduru Welega Zone

**Figure 2:** Kindu Hassen



From 23-28 March 2021, suspected OLA militias killed at least 11 Amharas in several villages of Horo Guduru Welega Zone, Oromia region and looted and burned down dozens of houses that belonged to ethnic Amharas. In addition, two Amharas were arbitrarily arrested by members of the Oromia Special Police Force. On March 23rd, 2021, OLA militias stormed the village of Wedotema in Janjimen Kebele, Jardega Jarte Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone of Oromia Region, killing at least one Amhara and destroying several houses and assets that belong to ethnic Amharas. According to residents and victims' families, at around 10:00 pm the suspected OLA militias moved into the village of Wedotema, and killed one Amhara named, Kindu Hassen, and destroyed numerous Amharas properties, including eight houses, one store and one powder grinding machine. Kindu Hassen was a farmer and father of seven. According to Ayelech Kemal (name changed), Kindu was stabbed to death with knives and machetes as he was trying to walk out of his home, which had been set on fire by the militias. Kebede Ayele (name changed), resident of Jardega Jarte Woreda, also confirms Ayelech's account stating that Kindu Hassen was stabbed at least five times. He further accounted that Kindu had been tied down before being murdered. Picture captured before taking Kindu's body from the scene.

**Figure 3:** Picture captured before taking Kindu's body from the scene.



The militias also looted and destroyed assets that belong to 10 ethnic Amharas.

1. Hassen Tenaw (Kindu's father): His house was looted and torched by the militias
2. Muhdin Hassen: His house was looted and torched by the militias.
3. Seyd Aragaw: His house was looted and torched by the militias.
4. Getachew Nuru: His house was looted and torched by the militias.
5. Mekiya Ibrahim: Her warehouse, containing 120 Quintals of Teff, 80 Quintals of Maize and 20 Quintals of wheat, was burned to the ground by the militias.
6. Hussen Getachew: His house was looted and torched by the militias. In addition, his three calves were roasted over a fire.
7. Issa Wasse: His house was looted and torched by the militias.
8. Yenus Mekonin: His house was looted and torched by the militias.
9. Wasse Hassen: His house was looted and torched by the militias.
10. Werku Ibrahim: His powder grinding machine was burned by the militias.

In a separate incident three days later, March 26th, 2021, suspected OLA militias burnt a house and shop that belong to an Amhara farmer, named Priest Stotaw, in Robit Gebeya village,

Gebergum 2nd Kebele, Horo Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone. The fire killed 13 domestic animals owned by Priest Stotaw.

On the following day, March 27th, 2021, the suspected OLA militias killed one Amhara, named Ahmed Ali, in Enqit village, Abugumja Kebele of Abe Dongoro Woreda. According to AAA sources, including Temam Kebede (name changed), Ahmed Ali, 43, was a farmer and father of six. They also said that his house and other belongings were set ablaze and looted by the OLA militias. On the same day, members of Oromia Special Police Force arbitrarily arrested two Amharas, named Derib Chane and Indris Mekonin.

Continuing the killings, on March 28th, 2021, OLA militias attacked the village of Marge in Gorte Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda while Amharas were on a wedding ceremony and killed two Amharas, named Shkur Indris and Yengusse Asmamaw, and burnt ten homes belonging to ethnic Amharas. On the same day, seven Amharas were brutally killed, and four others were severely injured by OLA militias who raided two villages in Gebregum and Yetrodale Kebeles in Horo Woreda. The OLA militias attacked the villages of Wiro and Hagelo in Horo Woreda on Sunday and set fire to homes while firing sporadically at residents. According to AAA sources, including Ayele Tefera and Dawit Kebede, “seven Amharas, including two infants, were killed, four others were injured and 15 houses that belonged to ethnic Amharas were burnt to the ground.” Of the 7 deceased victims, AAA managed to get the names of five:

1. Werke Sheahu (elder female),
2. Muhe Hussen (elder, male),
3. Abdu Tefera,
4. Muzeyin Ali
5. Zerwa Seyd (female).

Those injured in the massacre were Hayat Jemal Fentaw (male), Hayat Jemal Tefera (female), Zemzem Ali (female) and Meka Gashaw (female). The first three were taken to Shambu

Hospital, Shambu town, Horo Guduru Welega Zone to receive treatment for non-life-threatening injuries. The last one, Meka Gashaw, is currently undergoing lifesaving medical treatment at Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa.

On the evening of the same day, at around 10 p.m on March 28th. the OLA militias burned 10 Amhara houses in Arusi village, Abe Dongoro Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone, AAA sources including Ayele Tefera told AAA's focal person in Ethiopia.

Terrified of these recurring brutal attacks, thousands of Amharas have fled their homes in search of possibly safer areas, said AAA sources including Robel Yohanis and Ayele Tefera. For instance, Robel said at least 10 thousand displaced Amharas are currently residing in Abe Dongoro, Tulu Gana and Anger Gute areas of Horo Guduro Zone.

### **7.1.3 [March 13th, 2021]: A dozen Amharas reportedly killed in cold blood in troubled Ethiopian Region**

Suspected OLA insurgents disguised in regional police uniforms killed at least 12 Amharas in the early morning hours of March 13, 2021. According to AAA's local sources on the ground, OLA militias armed with rifles and machetes stormed into Drma village of Suxxa Kuttalle Kebele, Jardega Jarte Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone and killed at least 12 Amharas by slitting their throat, of which AAA managed to get the names of six victims so far: these were Priest Desta Eremrm, Mr. Asdesaw Getachew, Mulugeta Desta, Mekonin Filea, Belay (father not confirmed) and Ayalew (father not confirmed).

Oromia special force have been arresting young Amharas residents of Abe Dongoro Woreda accusing them of giving information to the medias and human rights organizations about the plights of ethnic Amharas. According to AAA's sources on the ground, the regional special force targeted the youths in their arbitrary arrest. So far, AAA has received names of 26 Amhara youth who have been arbitrarily arrested by Oromia Special Forces and these include:

**Table 6:** Names of youth detained in Abe Dongoro Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone, Oromia Region

No.	Name of the detainees	No.	Names of detainees
1	Adem Sayd	17	Hussen Mohammed
2	Sisay Dagnachew	18	Ahmed Assefa
3	Mohamed Eshetu	19	Jibril Mohammed
4	Yenus Seayd	20	Abubeker Nuru
5	Mohammed Damtew	21	Mohammed Yasin
6	Tesfaye Tilahun	22	Ahmed Mekonnen
7	Moges Getachew	23	Mohammed Hassen
8	Ibrahim Ahme	24	Seayd Tilahun
9	Eshetu Ejigu	25	Nurye Dawd
10	Kindu Eshetu	26	Yenus Ebabu
11	Molla Askabe		
12	Getachew Brlew		
13	Getachew Nigmat		
14	Getachew Nigmat's brother		
15	Mohammed Awol		
16	Seayd Mohammed		

#### **7.1.4 [March 9th, 2021]: At least 25 Amharas killed in Jardega Jarte Woreda**

On March 9th, 2021, at least 25 Amharas were killed by OLA militias in the Horo Guduru Welega Zone of Oromia Region. At about 4 pm, OLA militias stormed the villages of Dachin Gefersa and Jawja in Haro Da'i Kebele of Jardega Jarte Woreda and killed at least 25 Amharas, and possibly many more, and wounded four more, including children, one about 3-months-old, and looted their homes. The bodies of 22 victims were laid to rest on Wednesday, March 10th, 2021. One body was discovered on Thursday, and another two on Friday. According to AAA

sources, the actual numbers of those killed and injured are most likely much higher, given that some people are still missing. At the time of writing this report, 25 people were confirmed dead. Among the victims were 9 women - 2 of them new mothers, 7 children - including two kids under the age of 1, and at least 4 elderly men. Recounting the massacre, survivors and victims' families said some of the OLA militias were going from home to home and massacring nearly everyone they found in a hail of gunfire while others encircled the villages and shot fleeing Amharas. Those killed in the massacre include the following:

**Table 7:** Names of civilians killed in villages of Dachin Gefersa and Jawja in Haro Da'i Kebele of Jardega Jarte Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone, Oromia Region

No.	Names of the decedents	Sex	Ages
1	Mulu Mekonin	F	40
2	Medina Seid	F	15
3	Abdu Syed	M	12
4	Hasina Syed	F	10
5	Fatima Indris	F	13
6	Shegitu Dawit	F	50
7	Kedo Hassen	M	25
8	Godana Hassen	F	20
9	Zenit Dawd	F	8-month-old
10	Dawd Aleme	M	30
11	Agrjew Ahmed	F	13
12	Fatima Mekonin	F	70
13	Beletech Endris,	F	30
14	Merdu Yimer	F	10
15	Yimer Hassen	F	50
16	Wasse Seid	M	63
17	Oumer Ahmed	M	62

18	Zeynya Werku	F	30
19	Askal (father not confirmed)	F	50
20	Alemu Bogale	M	74
21	Emawey Isleman	F	40
22	Emawey Isleman's 5-year-old boy	M	5
23	Jemanesh Indris	F	40

Families decimated in the massacre:

- Sheah Syed Ali's Family** Sheah Syed Ali, 56, said he lost many of his family members in the massacre, including his wife Mulu Mekonin; his children Medina Syed, Habtu Syed and Hasina Syed; and his brother's child Fatima Endris. Four other family members of Seid were also injured in the massacre and they are undergoing treatment at Shambu General Hospital. These are: his three-month-old baby girl, Hayrat Syed; his child in law, Hayat Yibre; his nephew, Ahmed Endris; and his brother's son's wife, Kedja Wasse. Sheah Syed recounted:

*“On that day, I was out to attend a marriage ceremony in a nearby village. When I was on my way home from the wedding event, I heard multiple gun shots and then saw armed militias chasing people into the bush and killed them. I rushed home as fast as I can to spare my family members, but I was already late. My family was decimated by the militias. I found my wife and three of my children already dead. By the grace of Allah, my three month old baby girl survived a bullet that shattered her arm.”*

According to Sheah Syed, all of his family members were mown down by guns.

**Figure 4:** [Top row, left] Abdu Syed, 12, was shot in his back and died immediately. [Top row, right] Fatima Indris, 13, was shot in the forehead and pronounced dead at the scene. [Bottom row, left] Medina Syed, 15, shot two times, once in the back and once in the chest and died on the scene. [Bottom row, right] Hassina Syed, 10, was shot in her head and pronounced dead at the scene.



**Figure 5:** Pictures showing the three month old Hayrat Seyd (pictured left) with her cousin Ahmed Indris (pictured right) while receiving medical treatment at Shambu General Hospital



**Figure 6:** Pictures: Hayat Yibre (pictured left) and Kedja Wasse (pictured right) while receiving medical treatment at Shambu General Hospital. Hayat Yibre, 18, was wounded just eight days after her wedding. She was taken to Shambu General Hospital where she is treated for her non-life-threatening gunshot wound.



- **Shegitu Dawit's family** Another hard-hit family by the massacre was Shegitu Dawit's family. Shegitu Dawit, 50, was killed along with her six family members: her two children Kedo Hassen, 25, and Godana Hassen, 20; her daughter's baby girl Zenit Dawd, 8 months; her son in law Dawd Aleme, 30, and her niece Agrjew Ahmed, 13.
- **Fatima Mekonin's family** Fatima Mekonin, 70, was also killed with three of her family members. These were: her daughter Beletech Endris, 30; her son in law Yimer Has-

sen, 50, and her granddaughter Merdu Yimer, 10. According to Kebede Lema (name changed), a relative of Fatima's family, the militias beat Fatima until she was half dead, and then they shot her. He added Yimer Hassen was stabbed multiple times, had his throat slit and was shot in the forehead. As for Merdu Yimer, she was stabbed in the chest, and then shot to death, according to the account of Kebede Lema. Emawey Isleman, 40, was also killed with her five-year-old son.

Survivors and victims' families stated that the situation is extremely frightening. A 56-year-old man, Sheah Syed, who lost five members of his family in the massacre, stated that ethnically driven attacks against Amharas have become more frequent and brutal. He added "they target us because we are Amharas. For instance, my three-month-old baby girl did not do anything wrong. She was shot just because of her identity. My family members, including my three children, were killed based simply on their ethnic identity." Ayele Grum (name changed), survivor of the massacre, said "our plight is likely to continue indefinitely because there is no justice." He blames the regional government of Oromia, saying that "the regional officials do nothing to spare us from the ongoing massacres. They are even predatory towards us rather than ensuring our safety. They threaten us to be silent in the face of this immense extermination." Alemayehu Girma (name changed), a relative of Syed's family said "they want to exterminate the Amharas from the region [Oromia Region]. They described us as 'remnants of Neftegna' [the term Neftegna is used in a derogatory and dehumanizing manner to refer to people of the Amhara ethnic group]. Another survivor of the massacre, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 'there is little they will not do to wipe out Amharas from the region.

Stricken with fear of further violence, thousands of Amharas have fled their homes. For instance, Sheah Syed and Alemayehu Girma said that they, along with hundreds of other displaced people, are currently residing in Harologo Kebele, another Kebele in Jardega Jarte Woreda. They further avowed that after they flee their home due to the massacre, the militias and some Oromo villagers took their property, including their cows, goats,

and agricultural products.

**Figure 7:** Below are a few pictures of the victims of Haro Da'i massacre (killed and injured)



#### **7.1.5 [March 6th-7th, 2021]: at least twenty-three Amharas killed in Abe Dongoro Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone, Oromia Region**

From March 6th to 7th, 2021, at least twenty-three Amharas, including nine women and six children, were killed and many others were abducted in the village of Baleegziabher, Debbis Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone, Oromia Region. Survivors and witnesses interviewed by AAA focal person in Ethiopia identified the perpetrators as militias of “OLA.” The militias raided the village of Bealeegzabher at approximately 2:00 pm on Saturday, 6 March 2021, killing one priest, named Tenaw Zeleke, and fleeing with more than 30 Amharas, of which the bodies of 22 victims were found in a nearby dense bush, known as Chatto, one day after their abduction, then buried at Bealeegzabher Church on 8 March 2021, according to the account of witnesses and survivors. Of the remaining abductees, one was eventually released (Shega Belachew—female while six of them managed to escape on their own: these were Kokebe mekonin (female), Sete Temesgen (female), Belete Setealem (male), Wide Adane

(male), Temesgen Ambaw (male) and Werk Mandefro (female). But the fate of many others has remained unknown. Below are the names, and where available photos of the victims:

- According to AAA sources, including Kebede and Ayele (names changed), Tenaw Zeleke, who was a priest at Bealeegzabher church, was found dead with throat slit at his house. His body was laid to rest on Edoxa Mariam church on 7 March 2021, after the mourners realized that they could not conduct his funeral at the Bealeegzabher Church as it was surrounded by the OLA militias, said AAA sources.

**Figure 8:** Priest Tenaw Zeleke



- A father, Fkadie Alebachew was killed with his daughter, Werksew Fkadie.

**Figure 9:** Fkadie Alebachew (pictured left) was killed with his daughter, Werksew Fkadie (pictured right).



- Priest Mandefro Dessie (male) was killed along with his three children: Etagegne Mandefro (female); Aweke Mandefro (male) and Meseret Mandefro (female, child).
- Shumet Mersha (male) was killed along with 10 members of his family: Werku Shumet (male), Dinke Shumet (female), Abeba Shumet (female), Abezash Shumet with her one year-old son, Birhanu Addissu (male), Birtukan Addisu (female), Aynaddis Addissu and Zemedede Belachew (female). The body of Dinqe Shumet was found with her two babies, Mekasha Wendmnew (seven-month old) and Fasika Wendmnew (three year old). Witnesses who went to the bush to recover the bodies said the two babies were found alive next to their mother's lifeless body. "Luckily, the militias left the babies unharmed," said the eyewitnesses.

**Figure 10:** Pictures showing Fasika Wendmnew, a three-year-old child (pictured left) and Mekasha Wendmnew, a seven-month old baby (pictured right) who were found next to their mother's body in a bush.



- Maru Habtamu (male, child) was killed with his younger sister Birtukan Habtamu (female, child).
- Bahru Belay (male) was killed with his mother, named Beyen Desalegne (female).
- Asres Nigus (female, child).

**Table 8:** Names of civilians killed in Baleegziabher village, Debbis Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone, Oromia Region

No.	Names of decedents	No.	Names of decedents
1	Priest Tenaw Zeleke	13	Maru Habtamu
2	Priest Mandefro dessie	14	Birtukan Addisu
3	Etagegne Mandefro	15	Birhanu Addissu
4	Meseret Mandefro	16	Aynaddis Addissu
5	Aweke Mandefro	17	Zemed Belachew
6	Guzguz Masresha	18	Birtukan Habtamu
7	Shumet Mersha	19	Bahru Belay
8	Werku Shumet	20	Beyen Desalegne
9	Dinke Shumet	21	Asres Nigus
10	Abeba Shumet	22	Werksew Fkadie
11	Abezash Shumet	23	Fkadie Alebachew
12	Abezash Shumet's one year old boy		

Temesgen, who wants to go by his first name only, said the victims were dragged from their homes and taken to a nearby bush, known as Chatto, where they were killed. “They were kidnapped and killed because they were Amharas”, said Temesgen. He added in a broken voice “the situation is getting worse day-by-day. We are not safe anymore here. There is no one to protect us. We are being left to die.”

Other witnesses who had helped bury the dead reiterated that OLA militias carried out house to house searches and abducted as many as 30 ethnic Amharas, mainly women, children and the elderly, and brutally killed them. According to the witnesses, the bodies of the deceased victims showed signs of severe mutilation, including disfigured faces, slitted throats, and broken limbs. Another local resident who saw the dead bodies, speaking on condition of anonymity said “They [militias] slaughtered them [the deceased Amhara victims] like animals. Many of them were hacked to death by machetes, knives or hoes. Some others were shot, and their bodies parts had been cut.” Furthermore, sources on the ground shared lists of 1203 Amharas who are displaced from Debbis and Guleti Kebeles to Tulu Wayu believed that thousands of Amharas to leave their homes, fearing that the OLA militias could launch new attacks.

**Figure 11:** Picture showing ethnic Amharas who fled their homes to Tulu Wayu town following the Horo Guduru massacre.



Relying on the accounts of survivors, victims’ families and other sources on the ground, AAA considers that local officials and members of the Oromia Special Police Force did almost nothing to confront the militias and immediately save lives, as if they did not have an obligation to protect the Amharas. For instance, one local resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said “the attacks went on for about five hours, but nobody came to our rescue.” Another witness, who also asked not to be named, said: “members of Oromia Special Police Force do not want to confront the OLA militias even if we tell them where they are hiding.” There have been several allegation that government officials, even at the federal levels are acting in favor of OLA militias as they fail to protect innocent Amharas from the continuous and brutal massacres. In this regard, Yimam Mohammed (name changed), a resident of Tulu Wayu, said there is a widespread belief among the Amhara residents that Woreda officials such as Mekonnin Negele, Head of the District Prosperity Party branch office, and Amenti Dherasa, former Chief of Abe Dongoro Woreda, work hand in hand with OLA militias to wipe out the Amharas from the region as their cries for help are left unheard. He also reports that there have been some indications that officials within the Oromia prosperity party have been sabotaging the Ethiopian Defense force’s operations by leaking vital information to OLA militias.

**Figure 12:** Below are Pictures showing victims' bodies of the Horo Guduru massacre



#### **7.1.6 [February 25th, 2021]: Suspected OLA militias kill 12 ethnic Amhara in Gida KIRAMU Woreda, East Wollega Zone of the Oromia Region**

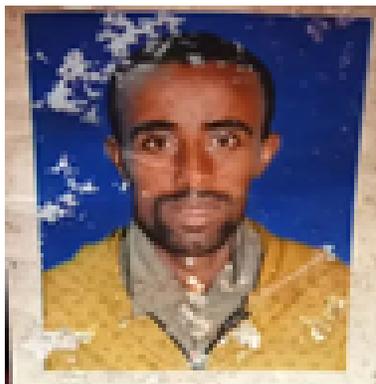
On February 25, 2021, at about 1:00 pm, as many as 12 ethnic Amhara farmers were killed by armed men, who the residents identified as being from OLA militias in Boka and Nechlo Kebele, Gida KIRAMU Woreda, East Wollega Zone of the Oromia Region. Witnesses stated the victims were attacked while they were collecting produces (along with Oromo farmers) in Debo; an ad hoc labor sharing group where farmers cooperate to work for the members upon demand. They further noted that the OLA militias selectively attacked Amhara farmers. For instance, Kebede Belay (name changed) told AAA that “the militias let ethnic Oromo farmers go before attacking the Amharas with machetes, axes and knives.” AAA has also verified that the one who called the Debo meeting was an ethnic Oromo farmer, but it is not known yet whether or not he was involved in the planning of the attack.

Those killed in the massacre include:

**Table 9:** Names of civilians killed in Baleegziabher village, Debbis Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda, Horo Guduru Welega Zone, Oromia Region

No.	Names of decedents	No.	Names of decedents
1	Kindeneh Gizachew	7	Kassahun Dagnaw
2	Tade Gurumneh	8	Habtamu Wendim
3	Tadesse Muluneh	9	Abebaw Zeleke
4	Wubshet Ayalew	10	Temesgen Dagnaw
5	Teshome Beyene	11	Sisay (father not confirmed)
6	Priest Anteneh Wabi	12	Endalamaw Kinde

**Figure 13:** Kindeneh Gizachew



AAA’s local source said one of the deceased Amhara victim, Kindeneh Gizachew, was his cousin, adding that the 25 years old Kindeneh was a father of a 4-year-old son. He also stated that his cousin’s body was found mutilated with his hands tied behind his back. He further specified that “While we tried to transport Kindeneh’s body to his relatives’ area of residence in the Amhara Region for burial, members of the Oromia Special Police Force closed roads and ordered the funeral to be held within the region [Oromia Region].” As a result, his body rested at Selassie Church in Bedessa Kebele, KIRAMU Woreda, according to the source. Describing the situation in Wollega as “appalling” he expressed, in a worried voice that, “the lives of many

innocent Amhara farmers have been mercilessly cut short by OLA militias, but none of you, including the government, are showing us solidarity during these trying times.”

**Figure 14:** Teshome Beyene



Teshome Beyene, 55, blind in one eye, was a farmer and a father of four. His body was cut into pieces and left on the bush, until his remains were discovered in the weekend. His son, who escaped the massacre with only minor injuries, said OLA militias killed his father and severely wounded his 45 years old mother Ayehu Abebaw. He also stated that his mother suffered from the stab wounds to the neck and stomach and has been taken to Bure Hospital, where she is still receiving medical treatment.

**Figure 15:** Tadesse Muluneh



Tadesse Muluneh, 30, was a farmer and father of four. His brother, said Tadesse was hacked and mutilated to death because of his Amhara identity. Hearing him speak in Afaan Oromo, the militias initially allowed Tadesse to go along with the ethnic Oromo farmers, assuming that he was also an Oromo, his brother said. However, one of the militias asked to see his phone.

When they saw that the majority of the names in his contact lists were Amharic names they tied his hands behind his back and hacked him to death with a machete.

**Figure 16:** Wubshet Ayalneh



Wubshet Ayalew, 36, was a farmer and father of four. According to local sources, including Tibebe Alemu (name changed), members of the Oromia Regional Special Police Force are giving OLA militias “free rein” to exterminate Amharas from the region. He also blamed the Federal Government and Amhara regional officials for turning a blind eye and deaf ears to the long line of killings and displacement of innocent Amharas. Another victim, Anteneh Wabi, 40, was a priest and leader of Boka Kidane Mihret Church. Other members of the local community said they knew of Priest Anteneh Wabi in person and described him as a farmer and father of five children. Another AAA’s local source, Melkam Getaw (name changed), stated three of the deceased, namely Wubshet Ayalew, Teshome Beyene and Tade Muluneh, had lived in the same neighborhood with him. Melkam sorrowfully stated: “I feel like the Ethiopian government has turned a blind eye to our suffering. We feel neglected.” Apart from this incident, AAA also confirms from its sources that there are two Amhara farmers, Hamid Abdella and Kindu Hibre, who went missing at the hands of the militias, however, their whereabouts and fate remain unknown.

#### **7.1.7 [February 14th - 21st, 2021]: Oromia Special Force killed at least seven Amharas and one Gumuz in East Wollega Zone, Oromia Region**

Between the 14th and 21st of February 2021, at least seven Amharas and one Gumuz were killed by Oromia Special Forces in Limu Woreda, East Wollega Zone as an illegal operation to

seize weapons from Amharas was underway. The first incident happened on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at around 5:00 am, when members of the Oromia Special Police Force broke into the houses of Amhara residents in Arkumbi Kebele, and confiscated their belongings including their private arms. According to the account from at least four AAA's sources, the illegal search and seizure happened after the victims left their houses to attend a marriage ceremony outside their village. Upon their return home, six individuals, representing members of the community who felt so aggrieved by the actions of the Oromia Special Police Force, went to the local police station to file a complaint about the illegal search and warrantless confiscation of their private guns, which impedes on their right to protect themselves. Unfortunately, these individuals, including Priest Aklilu Seyoum, Mr. Mandefro Fekede and Mr. Desalegne Qne were arrested and held in police custody. This sparked discontent among the community, and they quickly took to the streets in solidarity with the arrested people and protested the civilian disarmament efforts by the regional special force, dubbing the effort 'untimely and irresponsible.' The regional police force responded violently, including firing live bullets into the crowd of peaceful protestors, which killed at least five Amharas, including Mr. Abdu Arage, Priest Nigus Debas, Mr. Abeje Muluneh, Mr. Nega Ashager and Mrs Addise, and one ethnic Gumuz, Mebratu Gemechu, and wounded several others including Mekash Geta and Muchege Shiferaw. AAA later confirmed that Muchege Shiferaw died from his injuries, bringing the total number of fatalities to seven. According to local source, three of the deceased victims, Mr. Nega Ashagrey, Priest Nigus Debas, and Mr. Mebratu Gemechu, were residents of Mender 10, while the remaining deceased victims were from Mender 2. Furthermore, AAA sources indicated that at least 10 houses were burned to the ground, and properties, including money, furniture, etc., were looted, as thousands were displaced from their homes and are currently seeking refuge in a place called Mender 9 in Limu wereda. Informants specifically noted that the special force looted and burned a hotel and a wholesale Areqe store (owned by two Amhara businessmen, Desalegne and Temesgen Meles respectively), as well as a maize storage (containing 400 Quintals of maize), which was owned by Mr. Yirse Alemu, another businessman

who is ethnically Amhara.

**Figure 17:** Wasse Belay



The second deadly incident happened on February 16, 2021, two days after the first incident. Wasse Belay, 31, father of two (one daughter and one son), was gunned down by a member of the Oromia special police force, in Anger Gute town, Gida Ayana Woreda, East Wollega Zone. “Wasse was killed because he was Amhara,” said his relative. According to the account of the source, Wasse was murdered on his way from home to his place of business around 8:00 a.m. He also told AAA he heard from eyewitnesses that a group of police officers in an ambulance came across Wasse in Anger Gute town, and then one of whom, perhaps the leader of the group, pulled a handgun and shot him once in the head. “Wasse was taken to a local hospital, but died there,” said his relative.

In addition, AAA confirms that prominent Amharas including priests, businessmen, and elders have been arrested since 14 February 2021. In Mender 10 alone, more than 30 people have been arrested between February 14 and February 22, 2021, according to AAA’s sources. These include: Dagnaw Andualem, Werke Yeshaneh, Demelash Alemayehu, Yatbe Andualem, Abebe Ashagrey, Kassaw Tadesse, Bewke Damte, Fetene Gebeyehu, Mekash Getaye, Bogale Moges, Tesfaw Mere, Challe Mengste, Molla Billgne, Oumer Indris and Kefyalew.

AAA’s sources reported that the community viewed the disarmament effort by the Oromo regional force to be both ethnically and politically motivated, stating that the immediate cause for the confiscation of weapons is a direct retaliation against Amharas who were fighting back

in self-defense after being targeted by the OLA militias on February 8, 2021. Local sources such as Kebede Alemu and Ayele Mitaw (names changed) recalled that OLA militias raided their village on two separate occasions, on January 29 and February 8, and killed more than 10 ethnic Amharas, including Abrew Bayle, Teme Bayle, Yte Admassu, Kenaw Smegnew, Sewnet Gasho, Hune Mengste, Getaneh and Mitku Gete with his four-year-old daughter named Mitu Mitku.

**7.1.8 [January 23rd - 25th, 2021]: Seven ethnic Amharas killed in two successive attacks that occurred in Abu Godo Kebele, Dera, Oromia Region**

From 23-25 January 2021, unidentified gunmen attacked and killed members of Amhara ethnic group residing in Abu Godo Kebele, Dera Woreda, Oromia, Ethiopia. The attacks, which left seven men dead, were the latest in a series of killings in Dera, where members of Amhara ethnic group have been deliberately targeted. In the first attack, which occurred on 23 January 2021, unidentified gunmen shot and killed three Amharas, namely Ayele Gizaw, Abye Belachew and Worku Abatneh, while they were on their way to the local marketplace. Their bodies, riddled in bullet wounds, were found in the village of Gebre Kristos in Abu Godo Kebele. On 25 January 2021, just two days after the first incident, four other Amharas, namely Tamene Taye, Werku Birhanu, Emiyamrew Birhanu and Geberew Gashaw, were shot dead by unknown assailants in the village of Agamsa in Abu Godo Kebele. According to AAA's source, the victims were targeted while they were on their way to their farmlands to thresh grain.

According to Hailemichael, Chairperson of the Dera Amhara Identity Committee, the killings are part of the widespread and systematic attack directed against Amhara for over decades. He noted that no concrete steps have been taken by the local administration or by the Federal government to protect the Amhara people of Dera, as well as allies and human rights defenders, from the continued violence and discrimination. The government has failed to investigate, let alone prosecute, the perpetrators who planned, coordinated, and implemented the gruesome "ethnic cleansing" in the district, Hailemichael said.

**Figure 18:** [Top row, far left] Emiyamrew Birhanu, aged 30, was a farmer and father of one. [Top row, middle] Tamene Taye, aged 40, was a farmer and father of five. [Top row, far right] Abye Belachew, aged 35, was a farmer and father of five. [Middle row, far left] A 16-year-old boy, Geberew Gashaw, was a fifth grader in primary school. [Middle row, middle] Worku Birhanu, aged 33, was a farmer and father of three. [Middle row, far right] Ayele Gizaw, aged 30, was a farmer and father of two. [Bottom row] Werku Abatnew, aged 28, was a farmer and father of one.



Dera, which is currently part of Oromia regional state, is an administrative Woreda lo-

cated near the Blue Nile gorge. It has an estimated population of 200,000, the vast majority of whom are ethnic Amharas. The Woreda is bordered by Hidabu Abote and Wara Jarso of Oromia region to the south, and in all other directions by zone and Woredas of Amhara region: South Wollo (Amharic: Debub Wollo) to the North, Merhabete to the east, and East Gojjam (Amharic: Misraq Gojjam) to the west. Prior to 1991, Dera was part of Merhabete Awraja and the social ties of its people were with the neighboring localities of Amhara like Gojjam; Wollo; Merhabete and Rama. In line with these realities, when the TPLF-led EPRDF came to power and divided Ethiopia into a federation along ethno-linguistic lines, the Woreda was initially allocated to Amhara regional state and was administered with Amhara regional state for about 2 years. However, as part of implementing the TPLF-led anti-Amhara project, a grand project of belittling the Amhara share in Ethiopia and addressing the request of the Oromo Nationalists to annex Dera, claiming that their organization (the now then OPDO) were formed in the Dera Woreda, the historical land of the Amharas was forcefully handed over to Oromo regional state. Following the annexation, the Amharas of Dera were taken away with their land. To this day, they are forced to pay taxes without any political representation and continue to be marginalized both socially and economically. They are not duly represented in the executive and legislative bodies of the regional state or local government and are often prohibited from running for public office. Most notably, the Amhara people of Dera have been subject to ethnic cleansing, property destruction, and systematic displacement without any recognition, attention and coverage by local and international media. Prominent Amharas that condemned the oppression and voiced the plights of the Amhara people of Dera have all went missing at different times. Aggrieved by the structural and worsening discrimination in Dera, local activists, who have demanded the attachment of the area to Amhara regional state since the 1990s, formed a group called the Dera Amhara Identity Committee demanding recognition of their Amhara identity and right for self-determination. Members of the committee have been targeted by Oromo regional security forces and forces loyal to the OLA, and have been persecuted, harassed, killed and tortured, aiming to deter their legitimate and constitutional demand.

## **7.2 Selected Incident Reports on Massacres in Amhara Region**

The Amhara Region has been another location where defenseless Amharas have been killed in the first three months of 2021. AAA reported about these massacres in its incident reports that are available on AAA's website and social media pages. A selected few of these incident reports are annexed here to show the trends and roles and responsibilities of different actors.

### **7.2.1 [March 19th, 2021]: At least 194 Amharas killed, 212 wounded in the deadliest OLA attack on North Shewa Zone of the Amhara Region**

The deadliest OLA attack on the North Shewa Zone of the Amhara Region, which began on March 19, 2021, and continued for over a week, claimed at least 194 innocent Amhara lives and resulted in an estimated 212 injured. The militias attacked several Woredas and towns in North Shewa, including Efratana Gidim and Qewet Woredas, as well as Shewa Robit and Ataye towns.

Raids began with a direct attack on the town of Ataye (Effeson), the administrative center of Efratana Gidim Woreda, which lies near the border of the Oromia Special Zone. According to AAA sources on the ground, suspected OLA militias armed with heavy artillery guns, such as sniper rifles like Dragunov SVD, attacked the town at approximately 9:00 pm on Friday, March 19, 2021, killing at least 61 Amhara civilians. Innocent victims massacred in Ataye town include:

**Table 10:** Names of civilians killed in Ataye (Effeson) town, Efratana Gidim Woreda and Shewa Robit town, Qewet Woreda in North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region

No.	Names of the decedents	Address
1	Alemu Aklilu	Ataye Town
2	Tadiwose Tsegaw	Ataye Town
3	Oumer Hora	Ataye Town
4	Girma Derbew	Ataye Town
5	Worku Kebede	Ataye Town
6	Belhu Mamuye	Ataye Town
7	Getachew Ateta	Ataye Town
8	Tegene (father of Ataye town's vice-mayor)	Ataye Town
9	Nigus Bekele	Ataye Town
10	Ymechewal Endegenä	Ataye Town
11	Werku Yezne	Ataye Town
12	Abush Demeke	Ataye Town
13	Abebe Temtme	Ataye Town
14	Mewgat Fente	Ataye Town
15	Mekit (father's name not confirmed).	Ataye Town
16	Mulate (father's name not confirmed).	Ataye Town
17	Geto (father's name not confirmed).	Ataye Town
18	Qassye (father's name not confirmed).	Ataye Town
19	Bedlu's mother	Ataye Town
20	Terefe (father's name not confirmed)	Ataye Town
21	Atle (father's name not confirmed)	Ataye Town

**Figure 19:** [Top row, far left] Alemu Aklilu who was vice head of Efratana Gidim Woreda Health Office. [Top row, middle] Tadiwose Tsegaw. [Top row, far right] Oumer Hora, a local driver. [Bottom row, left] Girma Derbew who was Head of Prosperity Party Youth League at 01 Kebele, Ataye town, was shot to death by the militias.. [Bottom row, right] Worku Kebede was a businessman and owner of Walia Hotel. The militias burst into his home, and shot him to death. The militias also killed an unknown number of guests at the hotel.



According to AAA sources, more than 50 Amharas were also injured in the raid in Ataye town, including Emssew Agzew, Eliyas (father's name not confirmed) and Begdu (father's name not confirmed)<sup>17</sup>. Along with seven vehicles, the suspected OLA militias also looted and destroyed homes, shops, and hotels in the town. Currently, Kebele 1<sup>18</sup> is virtually non-existent. At least 19,000 residents of Ataye town have also fled to areas including Ferduha, Bergbi secondary school, Mehal Wenz, Menz, and Mehal Meda<sup>19</sup>.

In addition to Ataye, the militias also infiltrated nearby villages and towns in Efratana Gidim Woreda such as Majete, Alala, Ymlo, Jewha, Karakore, and Brqitu killing at least 109 Amharas and wounding hundreds more. Aside from those who sustained serious injuries while combating suspected OLA militias in self defense, the militia also wounded over 132 non-

<sup>17</sup>See also the [Ethiopian Human Rights Council press release](#) on the 3rd of April 2021

<sup>18</sup>Kebele is the smallest unit of local government in Ethiopia.

<sup>19</sup>See also Ethiopian Human Rights Council Press Release (no 17 above).

combatant and innocent Amhara civilians. Additionally, churches including Jewha St. George church <sup>20</sup> and schools such as Negiso primary school were destroyed and looted. During these attacks, properties were destroyed. To date: 118 dwellings, 398 hays, 263 quintals of teff, 514 quintals of maize, 25 hectares of teff, 10 hectares of corn, and 30 hectares of onion crops were completely destroyed by militias in the town of Brqitu. Animals and various property were also robbed by the militias. In addition, thousands of people have been displaced and are in search of refuge. Innocent victims massacred in various areas of Efratana Gidim Woreda include:

**Table 11:** Names of civilians killed in various towns of Efratana Gidim Woreda, North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region

No.	Name of the decedents	Woreda	Kebele
1	Molla Welde	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
2	Genanaw Mihrete	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
3	Mulu Chane	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
4	Amir Jemal	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
5	Gebbru	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
6	Kiros Abera	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
7	Priest Demtse werku	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
8	Priest Abera (from Jiru)	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
9	Gashaw Bezawerk	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
10	Getaneh Yifru	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
11	Shifere Stotaw	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
12	Alemayehu Molla	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
13	Fkir Jemal	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
14	Aweke Aragaw Amare	Efratana Gidim	Alala
15	Dems Amare Bayu	Efratana Gidim	Alala

<sup>20</sup>The militias attacked St George church, killing Priest Dimtse Werku, who was a leader of the church, by slitting his throat, before setting the building ablaze, residents and security officials said. AAA also confirmed from its source that unknown numbers of people who sheltered at the church were also slaughtered by the militias.

16	Demeke Gashawbeza Wendafrash	Efratana Gidim	Alala
17	Demsew Adefrs Yidenkal	Efratana Gidim	Alala
18	Moges Muluneh Aragaw	Efratana Gidim	Alala
19	Shewaferaw Eshete	Efratana Gidim	Alala
20	Demsew Zenebe	Efratana Gidim	Alala
21	Jabuy Gesesse Tiduneh	Efratana Gidim	Alala
22	Werku Geteneh	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
23	Abush Demeke	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
24	Abebe Temtme	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
25	Dems Amare	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
26	Mawgat Fantaye	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
27	Wende Guchalle	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
28	Mohammed Ahmed	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
29	Yimecho Endegenä	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
30	Abebaw Teshome	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
31	Teshome Shine	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
32	Yimam Mohammed	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
33	Nigus Bekele	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
34	Dereje Begashaw	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
35	Mamo Desta	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
36	Demse Gessese	Efratana Gidim	Menteke Sherefa
37	Derbe Demsse	Efratana Gidim	Ymlo
38	Wendmagegne Beyetm	Efratana Gidim	Ymlo
39	Dagnaw Demsse	Efratana Gidim	Ymlo
40	Tadesse Bogale	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
41	Geto Andarge	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
42	Nadew Abebe	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz

43	Kebede Yilma	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
44	Tadesse Tesfaye	Efratana Gidim	Karalo Goma
45	Kefelegne Tesfaye	Efratana Gidim	Karalo Goma
46	Bahiru Diress	Efratana Gidim	Karalo Goma
47	Nigusse Zewde	Efratana Gidim	Zenbo
48	Mersha Agde	Efratana Gidim	Zenbo
49	Abebe Yirgu	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
50	Mekonin Minyilu	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
51	Mulatu debalke	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
52	Yehuala Agonafir	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
53	Belete Agonafir	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
54	Kefelegne Tesfaye	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
55	Abebe zenebe	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
56	Shegaw Endale	Efratana Gidim	Fered Wuha
57	Bayew Tadesse	Efratana Gidim	Majete
58	Shumet Mitke	Efratana Gidim	Majete
59	Girma Bekele	Efratana Gidim	Majete
60	Filagot Demssew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
61	Tewedrose Zewde	Efratana Gidim	Majete
62	Abunew Nuru	Efratana Gidim	Majete
63	Abate Abebe	Efratana Gidim	Majete
64	Siraj Getachew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
65	Nigusse Getachew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
66	Legesse Demsew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
67	Sharew zewde	Efratana Gidim	Majete
68	Dejen Sharew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
69	Amakel Kassaye	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob

70	Aragaw wessne Metaferiya	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
71	Shumete Demsse	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
72	Tamene Tesfaye	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
73	Abebe Gashawbeza	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
74	Tesfaye Mengste	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
75	Sharew Awlew	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
76	Gchew Sidelil	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
77	Lemma Abebe	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
78	Masresha Cheru	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
79	Getnet Beneber	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
80	Bekele mekonnen	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
81	Siraj Chernet	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
82	Ayele Assefa	Efratana Gidim	Gojo Wuha
83	Aliy Ahmed	Efratana Gidim	Gojo Wuha
84	Kebede Tassew	Efratana Gidim	Gojo Wuha
85	Geremew Ayalew	Efratana Gidim	Gojo Wuha
86	Simegne Mengiste	Efratana Gidim	Gojo Wuha
87	Bayu Demsse	Efratana Gidim	Gojo Wuha
88	Mamo Nure	Efratana Gidim	Gojo Wuha
89	Getaneh Shewaferaw	Efratana Gidim	K/S Daguhe
90	Damtew Billgne	Efratana Gidim	K/S Daguhe
91	Seayd Chefa	Efratana Gidim	Negesso
92	Tilahun Zewde	Efratana Gidim	Yeserdo
93	Shiferaw Demsse	Efratana Gidim	Laygnaw Ataye
94	Shiferaw Degife	Efratana Gidim	Dult
95	Aragaw Zenebe Feleke	Efratana Gidim	Seregedel
96	Tedi Zewde	Efratana Gidim	Anqar

97	Ayele Zewde	Efratana Gidim	Selelo Miramir
98	Merd Tilahun	Efratana Gidim	Selelo Miramir

**Figure 20:** [Top row, left] Picture showing body of Aragaw Zenebe at Majete Health Centre. [Top row, right] Tewedrose, one of the deceased. [Bottom row] Destroyed Jewha St George Church, Efratana Gidim Woreda.



Among several dozens of innocent civilians who were shot and injured in Efratana Gidim Woreda, AAA managed to get the names and addresses of 124 people.

**Table 12:** Names of civilians killed in various towns of Efratana Gidim Woreda, North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region

No.	Name of Injured persons	Woreda	Kebele
1	Memem Ali	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
2	Assefa Kebede	Efratana Gidim	Jewha
3	Zebenay Getachew Zelele	Efratana Gidim	Alala
4	Getaneh Desta	Efratana Gidim	Alala
5	Messele Yezne	Efratana Gidim	Alala
6	Tasew Begashaw W/Gebriel	Efratana Gidim	Alala
7	Geto Damenu W/Meskel	Efratana Gidim	Alala

8	Seayd Mohammed Hassen	Efratana Gidim	Alala
9	Kelem Ketema Amtataw	Efratana Gidim	Alala
10	Aweke Ketema Zenebe	Efratana Gidim	Alala
11	Kagnaw Shiferaw Teshome	Efratana Gidim	Alala
12	Getachew Begashaw Degfe	Efratana Gidim	Alala
13	Abush Tadesse Taju	Efratana Gidim	Alala
14	Tefera Muluneh	Efratana Gidim	Alala
15	Teju Moges Kabtimer	Efratana Gidim	Alala
16	Mekete Eshete Belete	Efratana Gidim	Alala
17	Tesfa Asalfew Abebe	Efratana Gidim	Alala
18	Kelem Ketema	Efratana Gidim	Alala
19	Mekonnen Wendmagegne	Efratana Gidim	Ymlo
20	Emshaw Agizew	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
21	Zenebe Abebe	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
22	Aregahagne Tachbele	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
23	Geto Adefris	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
24	Nigus Kemachew	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Wenz
25	Teketel Beyene	Efratana Gidim	Karalo Goma
26	Debebe Shto	Efratana Gidim	Karalo Goma
27	Getaneh Teshager	Efratana Gidim	Karalo Goma
28	Demsse Fitawok	Efratana Gidim	Zenbo
29	Mamush Mulatu	Efratana Gidim	Zenbo
30	Bayu Ashenafi	Efratana Gidim	Zenbo
31	Mengesha Workshet	Efratana Gidim	K/S Dagucho
32	Geto Damtew Yemru	Efratana Gidim	Majete
33	Shumet Assefa Workeshet	Efratana Gidim	Majete
34	Chernet Shewasinad	Efratana Gidim	Majete

35	Desta Moltot	Efratana Gidim	Majete
36	Tadese Mamo.	Efratana Gidim	Majete
37	Andargachew Abebe	Efratana Gidim	Majete
38	Anbesaw Getachew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
39	Getaneh Wokneh	Efratana Gidim	Majete
40	Asmamaw Getachew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
41	Amare Tefera Shewamene	Efratana Gidim	Majete
42	Lemma Tadesse Yitayew	Efratana Gidim	Majete
43	Minda Bekele	Efratana Gidim	Majete
44	Birhan Ali Kebede	Efratana Gidim	Majete
45	Abe Seyoum Merge	Efratana Gidim	Majete
46	Aleme Belhu	Efratana Gidim	Majete
47	Birhanu Bogale Assefa	Efratana Gidim	Majete
48	Assefaw Yirga Dubale	Efratana Gidim	Majete
49	Degu desta Gebreyes	Efratana Gidim	Majete
50	Zewdu Meketa	Efratana Gidim	Majete
51	Moges Nigusu Gebre	Efratana Gidim	Majete
52	Getachew Garedeew Afessa	Efratana Gidim	Majete
53	Kefelegne Demeke Tena	Efratana Gidim	Majete
54	Negash Teshome Chernet	Efratana Gidim	Majete
55	Guche Ayele Birhane	Efratana Gidim	Majete
56	Mintesnot Seyoum Moltot	Efratana Gidim	Majete
57	Getnet Mulugeta	Efratana Gidim	Majete
58	Endashaw Ayele	Efratana Gidim	Majete
59	Yohanis Worku Adefris	Efratana Gidim	Majete
60	Yibekal Getachew Mekuriya	Efratana Gidim	Majete
61	Asalf Yilma Assegde	Efratana Gidim	Majete

62	Abebe Worku Gizaw	Efratana Gidim	Majete
63	Aselef Zewge Mulugeta	Efratana Gidim	Majete
64	Bekele Mamo Chernet	Efratana Gidim	Majete
65	Tsegaye Kassaye	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
66	Kebede Demisse Gasha	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
67	Mesfin Abebaw	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
68	Kebede Gebeyehu	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
69	Negash Kassahun	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
70	Deakon Getabil Girma	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
71	Minda Bekele Zinaw	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
72	Teketel Getaneh Gebreyes	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
73	Tamene Assegdew Haylu	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
74	Tiruneh Abate Lemma	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
75	Mulugeta Bayew Awassen	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
76	Assefaw Yirga	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
77	Mulatu Bekele	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
78	Abebe Getachew	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
79	Mulatu Kibre	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
80	Demssew Affesa	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
81	Ababu Basha	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
82	Gebeyehu Yigezu	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
83	Kefelegne Demeke	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
84	Shumet Assefa	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
85	Andargachew Abebe	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
86	Gesesse Getablo	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
87	Arage Tsegaye	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
88	Girma Ereda	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob

89	Degfew	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
90	Shumet Mitke	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
91	Teshome Eshete	Efratana Gidim	Anqar Kobekob
92	Dejene Zeyn	Efratana Gidim	Selelo Miramir
93	Desta Mamo Mulugeta	Efratana Gidim	Selelo Miramir
94	Ali Dure	Efratana Gidim	Negesso
95	Meseret Yifru	Efratana Gidim	Dult
96	Ketema Andarge	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
97	Dereje Beletew	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
98	Wube Gashawbeza	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
99	Mekonnen Lakew	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
100	Belete Geremew	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
101	Bayu Kebede	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
102	Mamush Tafene	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
103	Wendmagegne Tafene	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
104	Nigus Yaze	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
105	Wendmagegne Kassa	Efratana Gidim	Brqitu
106	Awguchew Kibret	Efratana Gidim	Hora
107	Zenebe Banjaw	Efratana Gidim	Karakore
108	Sharew Yemiru	Efratana Gidim	Karakore
109	Shimels Tegafaw	Efratana Gidim	Karakore
110	Habtamu Tibebu	Efratana Gidim	Karakore
111	Nigus Workshet	Efratana Gidim	Karakore
112	Sisay Kifetew	Efratana Gidim	Karakore
113	Alemayehu Sharew	Efratana Gidim	Karakore
114	Asfaw Mamo	Efratana Gidim	Hora
115	Awguchew Kibret	Efratana Gidim	Hora

116	Zenebe Banjawt	Efratana Gidim	E/g
117	Legesse Lebena	Efratana Gidim	E/g
118	Mebratu Zenaw	Efratana Gidim	E/g
119	Awraris Tadesse	Efratana Gidim	E/g
120	Abush Nigusse	Efratana Gidim	E/g
121	Agegnehu Yale	Efratana Gidim	E/g
122	Haylu Lemma	Efratana Gidim	E/g
123	Abush Ayalew	Efratana Gidim	M/Ber
124	Taye Geremew	Efratana Gidim	Mehal Meda

**Figure 21:** Below are a few pictures showing victims receiving treatment at Majete Health Centre.



The attacks on Shewa Robit and other areas in the Qewet Woreda of North Shewa Zone

began on March 20, 2021, just a day after the militias launched raids on Ataye Town and the surrounding areas. The raids left more than 24 people dead <sup>21</sup> and left at least 30 people wounded. Furthermore, more than 45 dwellings were destroyed. Churches were also targeted, including Kurigari St. Michael and Ataye Beraha St. Selassie. Both churches were burnt to the ground, among other small ones. In addition, more than 16,000 people have been displaced. Those killed in the attacks include:

**Table 13:** Names of civilians killed in Shewa Robit town, Qewet Woreda, North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region

No.	Names of the decedents	Woreda/town	Kebele	Number of children
1	Mulugeta Haile	Shewa Robit Town	04	He was a father of six.
2	Gizachew Belayhun	Shewa Robit Town	04	He was a father of five
3	Firdawek Kefelegne	Shewa Robit Town	04	He was a father of seven
4	Abirham Wegderesegne	Shewa Robit Town	01	
5	Kassa Kebede	Shewa Robit town		He was a father of nine
6	Kassa Kebede's wife	Shewarobi town		She was a mother of nine
7	Eyasu Girma	Shewa Robit Town	03	
8	Mamuye Haylua	Kewet Woreda	Birbra	
9	Hussen Indris	Shewa Robit Town	03	
10	Lema shta	-		
11	Beletew Abebe	-		
12	Abi (father not confirmed).	-		
13	Zeroganta (nick name)	Shewa Robit Town		

According to AAA sources, Kassa Kebede was killed along with his wife. They leave behind 9 children orphaned.

<sup>21</sup>AAA also recorded that five of the allegedly OLA militia sustained injury went to Yifat Hospital, Shewa Robit town but resisted not to be disarmed were made to get down from the Ambulance and killed by the surrounding youth though AAA believes that the act is wrongful and should be condemned publicly.

**Figure 22:** Picture showing 7 of the 9 children of Kassa Kebede



Among those wounded in the raid on Shewa Robit are Babu Alemu, Yimane Asfaw, Akorahagne Endashe, and Gebeyehu Teklew.

The violence that began in the North Shewa Zone has also spread to the adjacent Oromia Special Zone of the Amhara Region, spreading to several localities including Kemise and Senbete towns. The road from Addis Ababa to Dessie was closed down for some time during the violence. According to AAA source Minylu, (who prefers to only be referenced by first name) five Oromo youths were killed by OLA shane militias in Kemise town. They were killed while transporting drinking water for the militias. The militias mistakenly killed them under the assumption that they were transporting water for Amhara Special Forces. AAA suspects that this attack was deliberate with the intention to incite a full-scale war between the Oromo and Amhara people. Furthermore, unknown numbers of people were reportedly killed by OLA militias in different areas of the special zone. Property destruction was also reported. National Movement of Amhara (NAMA) officials and candidates, for the upcoming election, found their dwellings targeted with the intention to kill in Kemise town. Due to being alerted beforehand, NAMA officials and candidates were narrowly able to escape. However, their properties were completely destroyed.

In summary, incidents in the Amhara regions are becoming drastically volatile with at least 194 Amharas killed and more than 212 were injured in the bloodshed that also displaced thousands from their homes. According to AAA sources, some of these attacks have been premeditated and structured with the participation of the Oromia regional state. Sources on the ground told AAA that the beginning of attacks followed the withdrawal of the Amhara Special Force from Ataye and surrounding areas from March 17 - 18, 2021, which was re-assigned to res-

cue Amharas from TPLF militia attacks on the Amhara-Tigray border. This information was disseminated by the Oromia region officials to the suspected militias and the latter began their attack on the people of Ataye and surrounding regions the following day on March 19, 2021, said AAA sources. In addition, sources claimed that up on the return of the Amhara Special Force to reduce the violence, all directions were banned against the Amhara Forces by militias equipped with heavy artillery and military weapons around Kemise, which hindered the arrival of the forces and exposed the innocent people to countless violence, persecution, and death.

### **7.2.2 [November 6th, 2020 – March 31st, 2021]: Humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ethiopia’s Amhara Region due to continued Sudanese military build-up at disputed border**

Taking advantage of Ethiopia’s forces that were distracted by the Tigray conflict, as of November 6, 2020, Sudan’s military has deployed its troops to the disputed Ethio-Sudan border area known as al-Fashaga, [where the north-west of Ethiopia’s Amhara region meets Sudan’s Gedaref state](#). Since then, Sudan’s military has [killed, displaced, and severely damaged Ethiopian farmers living along the border](#). Though the exact number of people affected by the ongoing displacement is unknown, Zerihun Kassahun, head of Selam Ber Kebele Prosperity Party Office, estimated that around 450 households have been forced out of their homes, amounting to upwards of 1700 people being displaced. Kassahun continued, “519 Ethiopian investors engaged in commercial farms have also been displaced.” In addition, “at least three civilians were killed, and more than 10 others were wounded by Sudanese forces since early November when the government of Sudan embarked upon a massive military build-up in the disputed border area” Kassahun said. He also noted that about 9 people have been abducted by Sudanese forces.

AAA further confirms from its sources that Sudanese Military forces continue to loot Ethiopian farmers’ agricultural products, vandalize their camps, and hinder their harvesting. In a telephone interview with AAA’s Human Rights Advocacy focal person in Ethiopia, Chief of the Mirab Armachiho Woreda administration, Mulualem Tadesse, said that Sudan continues to deploy its military in the border region, which are carrying out military operations. “If the

Ethiopian government doesn't tackle the aggressor force, it may pose further threat to other nearby cities," the chief said. In the same vein, Fasil Ashagrie, an IDP in Midre Genet, stated;

*"The situation is getting worse day by day. Thousands are forced to abandon their lands and villages and are currently live-in dire conditions in localities of Midre Genet (also known as Abdurafi), and Abrhajira. Farming machineries, crops, livestock and personal belongings including vehicles are burnt and stolen by Sudanese forces."*

Furthermore, one host community member in Abrhajira Kebele, named Engidaw Wagnew, attested that farmers and daily laborers are being killed in the ongoing attacks even though the exact death toll is yet unknown. Late last year, Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen was also quoted as saying ["many civilians have been murdered and wounded"](#).

AAA is equally concerned that people, who are forcibly displaced by Sudanese armed forces from their residences, are in near-destitute conditions and lack adequate access to food, shelter, and basic services. According to Fasil, an IDP in the Midre Genete area, the conditions are escalating because while some IDPs are sheltered in meeting halls and vacant homes, some are out in the open and still struggle to find safe and adequate shelter. In addition, Mulualem Tadesse, Chief of the Mirab Armachiho Woreda administration, noted that IDPs are in dire need of urgent humanitarian relief and support for their livelihoods, stressing the need for provision of food, safe water, kitchen set, emergency shelter, mats, blankets, and related daily necessities.

### **7.3 Selected Incident Reports on Massacres in Benishangul-Gumuz Region**

The Benishangul-Gumuz Region has been yet another site of constant hostility and targeted killings against innocent Amhara civilians. AAA reported about these massacres in its incident reports that are available on AAA's website and social media pages. A selected few of these

incident reports are annexed here to show the trends and roles and responsibilities of different actors.

### **7.3.1 [January 1st - March 31st, 2021]: Benishangul-Gumuz region becomes a killing field of defenseless Amharas: At least 104 Amharas were killed and 24 injured in the first quarter of 2021**

Between January 1st and March 31st, well over 104 Amharas were killed and 24 wounded in several attacks occurred in Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia, according to data maintained by AAA.

On 12 January 2021, unidentified gunmen stormed the village of Daletti in Dibate Woreda, Metekel Zone, killing at least 80 people, including children as young as two years old, and wounding 22 more, according to [Ethiopian Human Rights Commission](#). AAA was able to independently verify from its local sources that majority of the victims, if not all, were Amharas. Apart from casualties, thousands of Amharas were reportedly displaced as a result of the attack. This is the deadliest attack in 2021 against Amhara civilians in Benishangul-Gumuz region.

On February 15th; at least ten people killed in two separate attacks. In the first attack, unidentified gunmen killed nine farmers (seven ethnic Amharans and two Shinashas) including three women in an attack on Berber Kebele, Debate Woreda. AAA's sources said the killings happened on Doben village around 11 am. Two residents of Dibate told AAA's focal person by telephone that the victims were of all ages and killed by machete and firearm. One of the residents, Ayele Kelkay, said he knew five of the dead; Mr Abay Yitay and his wife; Mr Shitahun Andarge with his wife; and Fatima Issa. All of the five victims were targeted because they were Amhara, said the resident. Ibrahim Issa, a local from the attacked community, said one of the victims, Fatima Issa, was his sister. He noted that the 36-year-old Fatima was a mother of five. Kokebe Ayele, another informant, said among victims were his sister-in-law's husband Mr. Sisay Andarge, a father of eleven, and Mr. Addis Gelaw. He further indicated that his co-brother was a 62-year-old man. In a separate incident on the same day, Ayele

Kelkay noted, an ethnic Amhara artisanal miner, named Taddelle Alamrew, was also killed by the Oromo Liberation Army in the Jilay locality, adding that “the Shene/Shane militias abducted, beat and mutilated him before shooting him in the chest.” In a follow up interview with AAA’s focal person two days later, Ayele further confirmed that Taddelle’s throat was slit with a sharp weapon.

On February 18th, a 60-year-old Amhara, named Ahmed Gobaw, was shot and fatally injured by Gumuz militias in Baben village, Galesa Kebele, Debate Woreda. The incident happened around 12 a.m. Local sources said the victim received first aid at a local health center in Galesa Kebele and later taken to Bullen Hospital for further medical treatment. On the same day, between 5 pm and 6 pm, Gumuz militia shot and killed an ethnic Amhara, named Tafere Tefera, in attack on Gongo Kebele, in Metekel Zone’s Bulen Woreda. The incident happened in Gishbago village soon after 5pm. According to AAA’s sources, the 86-year old Tafere was a monk, farmer and father of nine. He also served as a guard at St. Mary Church, which is located in Gishbago village, Gongo Kebele, Bulen Woreda, until the time of his death.

Further, AAA’s sources indicated that OLA raided and attacked around 30 Amhara-muslim households in a village called Chollo in Bullen Woreda’s Gongo Kebele on Friday, February 12, 2021, injuring one woman named Zeyneba Mohammed and burning two houses to the ground. They also noted that another woman, called Fatima Hamid, was abducted by OLA-Shene, but allowed to leave after three days. Informants also told AAA that nearly over 30 people are displaced from Bullen Woreda to Debate Woreda, including Messrs. Mohammed Yimam, Destaye Mekuriya, Abiye Mohammed, Abdela Desye, Mohammed Desye and Shikur Desye.

In the latest episode, occurred on 31 March 2021, unknown gunmen stopped a public transport Vehicle carrying civilians to Gilgel-Beles Town, Mandura Woreda of Benishangul- Gumuz Regional State and ordered the passengers off the vehicle and then executed fourteen of them. The assailants reportedly cut off the penises of three of the decedents. This being so, although making superb attempts to identify the identity of the victims, AAA was not able to reach at

the genuine finding in order to diverge their identity. Nevertheless, the Amharas have appeared the primary target of the militias in previous attacks throughout the region. Thus, it could be safe to forestall that the victims might be the Amharas.

Ethnic Amhara residents in Metekel describe the situation as worrying. Ayele said “Metekel has become a living hell for the Amharas,” adding “we are in a state of panic as the situation gets worse as time passes.” Other local sources who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation also said they think armed groups such as the Gumuz militias and OLA, are working hand in hand with the regional officials to exterminate the Amharas. Another witness, Alemu Atnaw, said “we are being barbarically butchered,” adding “we are suffering for no reason, but because of our Amhara identity.” He further said “the regional officials are not willing to protect us, nor do they allow us to leave the region. We are now like sheep awaiting slaughter.” “The situation in Metekel is very bad,” Lema Ashebir, another resident, told AAA, adding “No one paid attention to us.”

## **7.4 Selected Incident Reports on incidents in Addis Ababa**

The federal capital of Addis Ababa despite being an urban center has also been a site of ethnic targeting, discrimination and harassment against Amharas. AAA reported about these incidents in its incident reports that are available on AAA’s website and social media pages. A selected few of these incident reports are annexed here to show the trends and roles and responsibilities of different actors.

### **7.4.1 [February 16th, 2021]: Ethnic-motivated evictions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: “We are evicted because of our Amhara identity”**

On February 16th, 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the government violently evicted more than 370 Amhara households from the area known as “Bole Homes” in Bole Sub city, Addis Ababa, where they had lived 10 to 30 years, leaving at least 1,517 Amharas displaced from their homes. The Amhara Association of America (AAA) confirms from its field visit and interviews with victims that Addis Ababa City Administration evicted the victims for an alleged

government project. The forced evictions and demolitions of homes were carried out without any consultation, adequate notice, compensation or alternative housing options, leaving them in a serious humanitarian crisis and transgressing many of their human rights.

AAA spoke to 10 evicted individuals from multiple households to prepare this report. All of the victims had a similar story of being made homeless and losing their belongings, because of their Amhara identity. For instance, Yimam Mohammed, whose house was demolished to the ground, said “I’ve been here since 2005 without anyone problems however, on 16 February 2021, at approximately 6am, the city officials and dozens of police officers arrived at our village, evicted us and destroyed our home of 15 years. My homes were destroyed despite the fact that I showed them a copy of a court order (issued by Lideta First Instance Court), which was supposed to restrain the authorities from demolishing my house.” He further indicated that the eviction is ethnically motivated, saying “a week before the actual demolition officials of the city came and ethnically profiled all residents.” According to Yimam, defining the problem as an eviction of “illegal settlers” is simplistic; it is an ethnic cleansing of Amharas from Addis Ababa. “We were evicted because of our Amhara identity,” said Yimam. Left homeless and destitute overnight, Yimam is now living in a small, leased room along with his wife and four children (they’re all under 12 years of age).

**Figure 23:** [Top-most and middle] Yimam Mohammed's family having a birthday celebration in their house before its demolition. [Bottom-most] Yimam's houses under demolition.



Another evictee, Eshetu Tessema, whose three houses were bulldozed by the city administration, said the evictions were carried out without due notice and in a ruthless manner. “They had destroyed my homes, where I had lived since 2011, thereby ruining my life,” adding “I built the homes through exhaustion and suffering.” Tessema also stated that her family was targeted because of their ethnicity, noting that profiling of all Bole homes’ residents were carried out by officials of the city a week before the demolition.

Similarly, Shimels Beze, a father of six (all of whom are under 18 years of age), said the city administration razed his two homes to the ground using bulldozers, confirming that he was not consulted about the eviction or provided with any alternatives. Shimels answered, “they demolished my houses that I built with my money mercilessly, though I have lived in Bole since 2006.” Beze too believes they were evicted because of their Amhara identity, asking “why did the city officials engage in ethnic profiling of residents just a week before the actual demolition if they didn’t have any intentions to hurt us.” Another evictee, Gezahagne Workineh, said “we lost our houses and all our belongings just because of our identity”, reiterating that he and his family were asked which ethnic group they identified with. “I am extremely concerned about the fate of my two children. Where will we go now,” Gezahagne said as his eyes filled with tears. He further asked “why did the city officials fail to assess the impact of the forced eviction on children’s access to education, they are senseless.”

AAA confirms from its sources, including Eshetu Tessema, Fikru Nigussie, Werkneh Bitew and Yimam Mohammed, that the city administration has promised to give a modest compensation for the four evictees. However, the criterions to select the beneficiaries remain unclear.

AAA strongly believes that the forced evictions transgress various rights of the evictees and their families as enshrined under global and regional human rights instruments, including: the right to housing, the right not to be subjected to arbitrary eviction, the right to be protected from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence, the right to be free from cruel and inhuman treatment, the right to food, water and sanitation, the right to health, the right to education and the right to property. AAA has also a reason to believe that

the Ethiopian government, particularly the city administration, has used housing demolition and displacement as a weapon of war against ethnic Amharas, thereby violating its obligation not to discriminate against any citizen on ground of ethnicity.

**Figure 24:** The ruins of demolished houses in the area known as ‘Bole homes’. 24 February 2021





**Amhara Association  
of America**  
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