



At Least 17 Amharas Killed in Gruesome Massacres in Oromia

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is gravely concerned and appalled by the incessant massacres of Amharas in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia and the complicit silence of the international community. In the most recent episode, suspected OLA militias killed more than 17 Amharas in two separate attacks in Oromia Region, on the 4th of April, 2021.

In the first attack, launched at about 5 a.m, at least nine Amharas were killed in the village of Wobachi, Gorte Kebele, Abe Dongoro district, Horo Guduru Welega Zone; the zone of the Oromia Region where the militias killed more than 81 Amharas in series of attacks last month. Witnesses interviewed by a AAA local liaison identified the perpetrators as militias of OLA. To protect their anonymity, their names have been changed to Mohammed Awol, Kedir Mohammed, Kebede Tasew, and Awol Lemma.

Those killed in the massacre in the village of Wobachi, Gorte Kebele, Abe Dongoro district include the following:

No.	Names of the decedents	Sex
1	Sheah Shkuir Mohammed	M
2	Hussen Adem	M
3	Mohammed Belay	M
4	Yesuf Mohammed	M
5	Ahmed Dawd	M
6	Mekiya Mohammed	F
7	Zakir Mohammed (5 month old baby)	M
8	Gashaw Hussen	M
9	Mohammed Seid's one week-old baby	F

Mohammed Awol, 40, said he lost his two children in the massacre, namely Zakir Mohammed and Mekiya Mohammed. Ten-year-old Mekiya Mohammed was shot twice in the head and once in the upper arm and died at the scene, according to the account of Mohammed Awol. He further noted that his 5-month-old baby, Zakir Mohammed, was stabbed by a machete while he was sleeping. He died while receiving treatment at Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital, Bahirdar, Amhara Region.

Picture: 10-year-old Mekiya Mohammed



Picture: 5-month-old Zakir Mohammed



Mohammed Awol's wife, Nura Hassen, was also injured in the massacre and she is currently undergoing treatment at Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital. According to Mohammed, the militias stabbed his wife twice in the back.

Picture showing Nura Hassen while receiving medical treatment at Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital



According to Mohammed Awol, the assailants also burned down his shop and caused an estimated 400,000 birr in damages.

In addition, Kedir Mohammed, survivor of the massacre, said he watched from his hiding place how Sheah Shkuir Mohammed and Mohammed Belay were gunned down and killed. He further said he helped to recover the bodies of all the decedents, except for Mekiya Mohammed. According to Jemal, not only OLA militias but also members of Oromia Special Police Force were actually involved in the massacre. He added, "Oromia Special Police Force Identity card was found in the pocket of one of the assailants after he was shot dead by one member of the community who acted in self defence. Their goal is to exterminate the Amharas from Oromia Region," Kedir said. AAA further confirmed from its sources including Kedir that one Amhara, named Oumer Awguchew, was injured in the massacre.

In the second attack, which occurred nearly simultaneously with the first attack, suspected OLA militants killed at least eight Amharas in a raid on Ambule village, Gudaya bila district, East Wollega Zone, at about 5:30 a.m on Sunday.

Those killed in the massacre include the following:

No.	Names of the decedents	Sex
1	Tilahun Temesgen	M
2	Bossena Asmamaw	M
3	Desalegne Tarekegne	M
4	Mitku Goshu (under 18-years-old)	M
5	Adanesh Ebabu	F
6	Tsegaye Asmamaw	F

Picture: Tilahun Temesgen



31-year-old Tilahun Temesgen, who was hearing impaired, was killed along with his wife Bossena Asmamaw, said his brother Wasse Temesgen. According to his account, Tilahun was burned to death. He further noted that his sister-in-law, Bossena Asmamaw, 25, was shot to death while trying to escape the fire.

The militias also set on fire Ambule Holy Trinity church and wounded Priest Temesgen Mengistu, leader of the church, according to the account of Emahoy Ayelech Genetu (name changed) and Priest Temesgen's son, Wasse Temesgen. Priest Temesgen, 61, was shot in his mouth and is currently receiving medical treatment at Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital, said Wasse Temesgen.

Picture showing Priest Temesgen while receiving medical treatment at Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital



Furthermore, according to at least three AAA sources from the ground, more than 50 houses belonging to Amharas were completely burned down. They noted that both OLA militias and members of Oromia Special Police Force were involved in the attack.

AAA has also confirmed that thousands of Amharas have fled their homes as a result of the attacks. For instance, Kedir Mohammed, along with hundreds of other displaced people, currently reside in Tulu Gana areas of Abe Dongoro District.

In a separate incident, Agegnew Biyadgu, who is 11-years-old, was shot in the eye on the 1st of April, 2021 in Abay Dale Kebele, Gudaya bila district of East Wollega Zone. According to his father, Biyadgu Wedaj, the minor was shot by OLA militias. He is currently receiving medical treatment at Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital.

Picture showing Agegneu Biyadgu while receiving medical treatment at Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital



Recommendations

To the Government of Ethiopia:

- Take all necessary measures to uproot OLA militias and restore law and order in Oromia region including the increase of patrolling and establishing additional security posts in vulnerable areas such as Horo Guduru Welega Zone, West Welega Zone, East Wollega Zone and Kelam Welega Zone;
- Ensure that Oromia Regional officials at various levels are investigated by a competent, independent and impartial body to verify whether or not they are implicated in the massacres of Amharas, and where sufficient evidence is found, those responsible should be held to account to justice;



- Suspend those officials who are suspected of being complicit in atrocities, from government positions pending investigations and prosecutions;
- Make clear public statements reflecting the government's commitment to the protection of Amharas in Oromia Regional State and condemn all ethnically motivated attacks against the Amharas;
- Promptly and impartially investigate, prosecute and punish all serious incidents of violence against ethnic Amharas in Oromia Region and, whenever requested, permit full, unhampered access to those who wish to investigate the grave human rights violations documented in this report.
- Provide victims of human rights violations and their families with remedies and reparations;
- Ensure members of the Oromia Special Police Force protect all civilians impartially, regardless of their ethnicity;
- Organize community meetings in areas where Amharas have been repeatedly targeted to explain the steps taken to investigate alleged crimes and the government's intention to prosecute anyone implicated in retaliatory violence;

To the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and the United States

- Encourage Ethiopian authorities to implement the above recommendations;



- Assist in all possible ways to ensure effective investigation and punishment of all human rights violations against Amharas in Ethiopia, particularly massacres committed in Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz Regions.

To Human rights organizations and Media, both national and international:

- Consistently and publicly press the Ethiopian government to promptly investigate and appropriately prosecute all those implicated in the massacres;
- Do more to ensure that the plights of millions of Amharas in Oromia Region are exposed to the international community and preserve evidence of possible genocide.