



Amhara Association of America

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## Statement on Pro-Ethiopian Regime Propagandists' Defamation Campaign Against AAA

March 22, 2022

Washington, D. C. - The Amhara Association of America (AAA) denounces the recent coordinated defamation campaign against AAA by pro-Ethiopian Government online media outlets. In a way that is insulting to their audiences, these propagandists presented open-source information about AAA's lobbying records (available [here](#)) and attempted to pass it off as investigative work. This information was in fact shared to thousands of our supporters and community members. Furthermore, the accusations that AAA has contributed to political campaigns of some Members of Congress who authored HR 6600 is blatantly false. AAA is a 501(c)3 registered organization under the Internal Revenue Service and by law cannot make contributions to political campaigns.

Since these government directed media outlets are deliberately attempting to create havoc and confusion about AAA and [HR 6600](#), we would like to state the following facts about the bill:

- HR 6600 does not prevent remittances to Ethiopia. Nothing in the bill affects the ability of the diaspora to send remittances and we are assured by relevant offices that there was never any intention to do so in the bill
- HR 6600 does not prevent Ethiopians from investing in Ethiopia
- HR 6600 does not prohibit Foreign Direct Investment in Ethiopia
- HR 6600 supports investment in basic needs projects such as hospitals, schools, sewage systems, and similar civilian development projects
- The language used in HR 6600 is well-balanced on human rights issues and accountability, especially in light of the highly skewed western media coverage of the war in Northern Ethiopia

AAA is a pro-Ethiopian organization and supports the continuity of the Ethiopian state. However, commitment to the Ethiopian state should not be mistaken for supporting the regime in power in Ethiopia. As an organization that regularly publishes investigative reports on the ongoing targeted atrocities against the Amhara people, we have previously reported findings which implicate federal and regional officials in Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz and other Regions in the planning, execution, and coverup of mass killings and displacement of Amhara civilians. We are also deeply concerned about the ongoing actions taken against Amhara residents in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, which reveal the ambitions of the Oromo Prosperity Party members to build their hegemony in Ethiopia, and the attempts of the regime to silence and co-opt the Amhara movement through distribution of rent, arrest, and intimidation of its leaders. We believe Abiy Ahmed's regime lacks the wisdom and willingness to ensure the continuity of the Ethiopian state, let alone democratise Ethiopia.

Cognizant of all the above, bills like HR 6600 aim at holding accountable all who have committed gross human rights violations including federal and regional government officials, Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), and Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) members. We support HR 6600's intention to expand the determination of atrocities and war crimes across all of Ethiopia by all belligerents.



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For example, Section 10 (a) states:

- *“determination whether actions in Ethiopia by the armed forces of Ethiopia, the armed forces of Eritrea, the Tigrayan Peoples Liberation Front, or associated forces or armed actors constitute genocide (as defined in section 1091 of title 18, United States Code), war crimes, or crimes against humanity.”*

Furthermore, AAA has been engaging the relevant offices to consider revising sections of HR 6600 that can hinder loans from international financial institutions for economic development in Ethiopia. We believe restricting economic assistance could hurt ordinary Ethiopians. AAA has offered language specific to this provision that has been received positively and will continue to seek amendment to the bill in this regard.

One of AAA’s core missions is to educate the Amhara diaspora on their rights and obligation to participate in the democratic process to improve the conditions of Amhara people and Ethiopia. Deliberate mischaracterization of AAA as an organization and misinformation on the democratic and legislative process by pro-Ethiopian government media is another example of the Abiy Administration’s goal to silence the Amhara political voice both in Ethiopia and in the diaspora.

AAA will continue its principled government relations efforts in the U.S. and will work diligently to ensure that all actors within and outside of Ethiopia that have contributed to the unabated genocidal acts against Amhara people and ethnic cleansing are held accountable for their crimes.

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**About AAA:** *The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a nonprofit organization that represents the Ethiopian Amhara diaspora in the United States. Visit [www.amharaamerica.org](http://www.amharaamerica.org) for more information.*

[Click here](#) for information on how to donate to AAA.