

INCIDENT REPORT

Atrocities targeting civilian Amharas in the East Wollega and Horo Guduru Welega Zones of the Oromia Region on May 21 and 22 claimed at least eight lives and caused two injuries

Produced by the Amhara Association of America (AAA)



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The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has learned of fresh attacks targeting ethnic Amhara civilians which resulted in at least eight reportedly killed and two others severely injured in the East Wollega (also spelt Welega or Wellega) and Horo Guduru Welega Zones of the Oromia Region in Ethiopia.

The first incident occurred on May 21, 2021 in East Wollega Zone claiming the lives of two elderly ethnic Amhara civilians by the names of Mr. Tafere Gebeyehu (70 years old) and Emahoy Menen Agegnehu (100 plus years old). According to eye witnesses, both were neighbors and slaughtered with knives after being taken to the former's farm land.

Yohannes (name changed), testified that Mr. Tafere Gebeyehu was killed by members of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). He also added that:

“Our fate is gloomy. We live every day waiting for our death. We are betrayed. The government has kept silent. We have nowhere to go. We are not allowed to leave the area even if we want to be vagrant. If there is anyone who may care about us, please help us.”

Figure 1: Tafere Gebeyehu



AAA was able to determine that another wave of mass killing targeting Amharas continued on the following day, May 22, 2021, but this time in a locality called A'edo Boti in the Abe Dongoro Woreda of the Horo Guduru Welega Zone. In this attack, at least six civilians of ethnic Amhara background were massacred and the other two inflicted with severe injuries. According to our sources, the attack was perpetrated by the OLA.

One witness, Tesfaye (name changed), a survivor and a relative of four of the victims recalled that:

“Armed members of the Oromo Liberation Army and their local complicities killed six persons including my mother - Mrs. Zewdie Liyeh, two brothers – Yaregal Kindu and Yeshambel Kindu as well as sister – Ziminmin Kindu. Their killing was horrific. They were shot, their bodies locked behind doors and their homes set on fire.”

Getachew (name changed), a survivor and whose wife and son are among the victims, told us that

“They killed my wife – Mrs. Abebaye Melaku and baby son, Tizazu Melkie. Two of my other children namely Workie Melkie and Shashe Melkie are suffering from serious wounds and were sent to Nekemte Referral Hospital for further treatment.”

Table 1

No.	Name of victim	Sex	Age	Outcome of attack
1	Zewdie Liyeh	F	32	Killed
2	Ziminmin Kindu	F	12	Killed
3	Yaregal Kindu	M	5	Killed
4	Yeshambel Kindu	M	2 months	Killed
5	Abebaye Melaku	F	18	Killed
6	Tizazu Melkie	M	3	Killed
7	Workie Melkie	F	13	Injured (Currently in Nekemte Referral Hospital for treatment)
8	Shashe Melkie	F	10	Injured (Currently in Nekemte Referral Hospital for treatment)

In addition to the massacre of innocent civilians, the OLA robbed cattle and money of the victims and their relatives. Getachew told us that his twenty cattle and four goats were taken by the killing squad. Tesfaye on his part reported that two oxen, five sheep, and thirty thousand ETB belonging to his father was looted by the perpetrators.

Consequent to the unabating attacks on civilian Amharas, residents of the areas are losing hope and pleaded all actors, near and far, to help them stop attacks targeting them. Haile (name changed) cried out that:

”If we have allies out there, please help us; understand our situation and act.

We are under fire. Save us from this indiscriminate devastation.”

Mulugeta (name changed) on his part opined that:

”Our sufferings have become endless, and no one has dared to extend a helping hand. The government turned deaf ears and blind eyes to our cries. We are losing hope. Local government officials have been complicit in aiding the killers. If you believe our lives matter, please help us get out of this earthly hell we have been in for years.”