



“We are given no choice but to flee, no chance to live”: Between July 26th and September 20th, 2021, at least 204 ethnic Amhara civilians were massacred in Horo Guduru Wellega and East Wollega Zones in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) continues to document the plight of ethnic Amhara civilians in Ethiopia’s Oromia Region which has become one of the most hostile regions in the country for regional minorities, particularly for ethnic Amharas. The indiscriminate, targeted violence has devastated the most vulnerable parts of the population not sparing even women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

The Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) has stepped up attacks on ethnic Amhara civilians residing throughout the Oromia Region in an apparent effort to ethnically cleanse the region of its Amhara population. The actions of the OLA has rendered various villages and kebeles (administrative unit meaning precinct/ward) of the Oromia Region uninhabitable especially in the Horo Guduru Wellega and East Wollega Zones (note Wollega is also transliterated as “Wellega”). As a result, Amhara residents in these areas face hostility and live in constant fear for their life and property as security forces are unable to protect civilians and in some cases have reportedly aided and abetted perpetrators of the violence.

Between July 26th and September 20th, 2021, AAA recorded over 16 incidents during which at least 204 ethnic Amhara civilians were killed, 16 were kidnapped and several others seriously injured as a result of genocidal massacres and attacks from OLA militias. Firearms and bladed weapons were utilized to carry out a series of ethnic-based terror attacks in the East Wollega and Horo Guduru Wellega Zones of the Oromia Region of Ethiopia.

In preparing this report, AAA recorded 41 first-hand testimonies of ethnic-based OLA attacks in areas and towns in the East Wollega and Horo Guduru Wellega Zones of Oromia Region. Pseudonyms are used in this report to protect the identities of all interviewees for fear of reprisals from OLA militias and local officials who have been previously found to be complicit in coordinating massacres.

Some of the incidents including dates, locations, death tolls and profiles are described below. Names of victims are recorded where available however it should be noted actual death tolls are expected to be higher and figures reflect only confirmed casualties.

Kiltu Abo massacre

On Monday, July 26th, 2021, suspected OLA militias killed at least 11 civilians in East Wollega Zone of the Oromia Region. At around 7 pm local time, the militias broke into the houses of two Amhara families and killed at least 11 people in Kiltu Abo (also known as Gora Gona) village, Lelistu Senbo Kebele of the Kiremu Woreda (district). Mengaw Tsegaw (from one of the affected families) said he lost all of his family members in the massacre, including his wife, Muluye Fantahun; his children Asfaw Mengaw, Shumu Mengaw, Maritu Mengaw (a 5-year-old girl); and his niece, Lule Cheru. Deceased members of the second family include Yirdaw Workneh (father), Agernesh Derbew (mother) and their three children, Teju Yirdaw, Abebaw Yirdaw and Addis Alem Yirdaw.

No.	Full Name	Sex
1	Yirdaw Workneh	M
2	Agernesh Derbew	F

3	Teju Yirdaw	F
4	Abebaw Yirdaw	M
5	Addis Alem Yirdaw	M
6	Muluye Fantahun	F
7	Asfaw Mengaw	M
8	Shumu Mengaw	M
9	Maritu Mengaw	F
10	Fikre Mengaw	M
11	Lule Cheru	F

Kiremu massacre

The most deadly attack documented by AAA took place on Wednesday, August 18th, 2021, in the Kiremu Woreda of East Wollega Zone, where at least 150 Amharas (this figure is likely to be significantly higher) were killed in a gruesome massacre. This massacre, which occurred barely a day following the withdrawal of the Oromia Special Forces who were stationed nearby, targeted various villages in Kebeles with majority-Amhara populations including Lelistu Senbo, Kiltu Abo, Ashu Kusay and Merga Jiregna (including Silidero town and Wasci village) in Kiremu Woreda. The massacre began with an attack on the local Ethiopian Orthodox Church on the morning of the massacre. Sources said the OLA militias stormed into the St. Gabriel Church in Silidero town of Kiremu Woreda, killing at least 15 ethnic Amhara church attendees that gathered for celebrating St. Michael's Day at the church. It was said that the militias executed ethnic Amhara worshippers (including the vice leader of the church, Priest Nibret Asnakew) by slitting their throats with machetes and knives, as well as shooting them from point-blank range execution-style. The killing swiftly spread from the church to nearby villages as an ethnic Oromo community that had been resettled into East Wollega Zone in the early 1990s (identified by AAA sources as originally coming from Harar) joined the

massacre by taking up machetes, knives and rakes.

The OLA militias reportedly killed many of the victims by gunshot, others by machetes, knives and rakes while several others were charred to death. AAA also discovered that some of the victims, mainly children, were drowned in the nearby Qarsa and Dibuq rivers whilst trying to escape the attack to reach adjacent kebeles. Recounting the massacre, Kebede Ayalew (name changed), a resident of Kiremu Woreda, told AAA: *“Men, women, the elderly, persons with physical disabilities, the mentally impaired and children were rounded up, then shot or hacked to death simply for being Amhara.”*

AAA was not able to verify the precise number of Amharas killed in the attack. Various reports put the figure between 150 to 400. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) put the number of fatalities caused by OLA at 150. Some residents put the death toll at more than twice that of the EHRC figure, estimating anywhere between 300 and 400. Adem Oumer, who lived in adjacent Haro Kebele at the time of the attack, told AAA that he, along with other volunteers, buried 54 corpses on the day after the attack. Another resident, named Lidetu Degu (name changed), said he joined other residents in collecting the corpses for burial, adding that he participated in the burying of 43 victims. Aschalew Gedu (name changed), another resident said he buried 13 and another group buried an additional 54 victims. They all insisted that the toll was likely to be more than 150 because there are many more unburied bodies in the scenes. They are reportedly not buried because of the unexplained termination of the brief security cover given by members of the Oromia Special Force who arrived at the scene after the massacre presumably to facilitate the burial of the victims.

As of early Wednesday, September 15th, 2021, at least 150 people were confirmed dead by the residents. Aschalew Gedu and Lidetu Degu, who had helped bury some of the dead, said an estimated 100 corpses, and possibly many more remained unburied.

Included in the death toll were at least two persons with mental impairments and many children and women, including a 2-year-old girl. Of the total killed in the massacre, AAA has

managed to independently verify the identities of 65 decedents so far ¹.

No.	Name of the decedents	Sex
1	Abere Belay	Male
2	Abi Walelgne	Male
3	Aboma Kassie (minor)	Female
4	Admasu Terefe (an elderly and person with physical disability) ²	Male
5	Agere Mekonen (Person with psychosocial disability)	Female
6	Akalnew Dessie ³	Male
7	Amera Tehaw (elderly-above 65)	Male
8	Amsalu Kokebe (elderly above 65)	Male
9	Arega Geto	Male
10	Aschenka Degu	Female
11	Aweke Merga (minor) ⁴	Male
12	Awoke Nega Achye (minor)	Male
13	Awoke Yibeltal ⁵	Male
14	Ayal Dadi's father-in-law ⁶	Male
15	Ayichew Teshome (elderly-above 65) ⁷	Male
16	Beanchiayehu Aweke	Female[7]
17	Beanchiayehu Mulatu	Female
18	Belay Damtew ⁸	Male
19	Belay Mebrat	Male

¹In addition to the above verified list, AAA has received names of additional victims that it was not able to independently verify

²They killed him by slitting his throat

³He was shot to death

⁴Merga is his stepfather

⁵His body has yet to be found

⁶He was shot to death.

⁷The decapitated body of Ayichew Teshome was found seven days after the massacre with his head separated from his body. The corpse was laid to rest on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

⁸Her body is yet to be found.

20	Belgitu Teshale	Female
21	Birhanu Kebede	Male
22	Birhanu Mekonen ⁹	Male
23	Desalegne Azmeraw	Male
24	Desse Mekonen	Male
25	Ejigu Agegnehu (elderly-above 65) ¹⁰	Male
26	Emiru Abegaz	Male
27	Enat Habtamu	Female
28	Endashaw's son ¹¹	Male
29	Ewnetu Abebaw	Male
30	Ewnetu Kassie	Male
31	Fasika Zeleke ¹²	Female
32	Gashaw Worku ¹³	Male
33	Getu Yibeltal ¹⁴	Male
34	Habtamua Kassie (minor) ¹⁵	Female
35	Habtu Admasu	Male
36	Hayle Nebe	Male
37	Kassie Ebabu	Male
38	Limenew Gashaw	Male
39	Mare Haile ¹⁶	Female
40	Melkamu Kassie (minor) ¹⁷	Male
41	Melke Abegaz	Male

⁹He was shot to death.

¹⁰He was charred to death.

¹¹He was shot to death.

¹²Merga is her stepfather

¹³He was shot to death.

¹⁴His body has yet to be found.

¹⁵Habtamua Kassie Ebabu, aged 7, was killed by slitting her throat.

¹⁶Her body has yet to be found.

¹⁷Melkamu Kassie Ebabu, aged 5, was killed by by slitting his throat.

42	Mitn Gebre (elderly-above 65) ¹⁸	Female (elderly)
43	Moges Boyalew ¹⁹	Male
44	Moke Derese ²⁰	Male
45	Monk Qeytu Mersha (elderly-above 65) ²¹	Female
46	Monk Tangut Mulatu (elderly-above 65)	Female
47	Muchita Abegaz (person with psychosocial disability)	Female
48	Mulu Baye (elderly-above 65) ²²	Male
49	Muzye Mohammed	Female
50	Nathaniel Walelgne ²³	Male
51	Nega Achye ²⁴	Male
52	Priest Misikir Zeleke (elderly-above 65) ²⁵	Male
53	Priest Nibret Asnakew (elderly-above 65) ²⁶	Male
54	Priest Teshale Moges (elderly-above 65)	Male
55	Sasaw Kassie	Female
56	Tadesse Haile	Male
57	Temesgen Arega (minor)	Male
58	Teshale Abate ²⁷	Male
59	Teshome Mulu ²⁸	Male
60	Tiru Sew Merga (minor)	Female

¹⁸She was charred to death along with her husband, Ejigu Agegnehu.

¹⁹His body has yet to be found.

²⁰They killed him by slitting his throat.

²¹They killed her by slitting her throat.

²²He was shot to death.

²³Natnael Walelgne, a driver and owner of a Truck, was killed on August 17th, 2021, a day before the massacre. A group of OLA fighters stopped the Truck he was driving and beat and killed him in around Selidero town. After that, they took the truck and then used it in committing the massacre the next day.

²⁴He was shot to death.

²⁵He was shot to death.

²⁶They killed him by slitting his throat.

²⁷His body is yet to be found.

²⁸He was shot to death.

61	Werkalem Merga (minor) ²⁹	Female
62	Werknew Kassie (minor)	Male
63	Widu (Wende) Damtew	Male
64	Yibeltal Mekonen ³⁰	Male
65	Zewditu Kassie (minor)	Female

The assailants also set dozens of houses belonging to ethnic Amharas on fire, and they were involved in widespread looting of crops, cattle and other property. The perpetrators looted and burned Amhara houses and properties, which were systematically identified in advance. Before the attack, Oromo residents were reportedly told to identify their houses by writing a sign on the front wall of their houses that read “*Mana Oromo*” (Oromo term meaning “*Oromo’s house*”). Accordingly, the assailants directed their attack to those houses that did not have this sign to slaughter the Amharas in those houses as well as loot and destroy their properties. One of the IDPs who escaped the killings told AAA: “*when they saw a house without a “Mana Oromo” label, they entered into the building, killing anyone they found first, looting property next and setting it ablaze last.*”

In addition to causing civilian casualties and destruction, attacks against Amharas have been committed with the intent to forcibly displace them from their homes. As a result, as many as 40,000 Amharas have been displaced, with many living in Haro 01, Kiremu 01, Bagin and Chefe Gudina Kebeles ³¹. In Haro 01 Kebele alone, there are 11,476 registered IDPs sheltered in Haro 2nd and 3rd zones. While some of the IDPs are taking shelter within the host community, some others are shielded under unfinished and abandoned buildings, while the remainings IDPs are out in the open and still struggle to find safe shelter. There are also thousands of IDPs in Bagin Kebele. They are sheltered in Wefchi Elementary School, Shero Medhanialem Church, and within the host community of Jilbo and Shasho Ber villages. Kiremu 01 Kebele

²⁹Merga is her stepfather.

³⁰He was shot to death.

³¹See also Ethiopian Human Rights Comission’s Statement released on September 21, 2021

has also hosted more than a thousand IDPs. Besides the Amhara people who were displaced as a result of the massacre, hundreds of ethnic Oromo residents are also displaced because of fear of reprisal attacks.

AAA learned that conditions of Amhara IDPs are very desperate due to lack of food, water, shelter and medical care. IDPs and host community members told AAA that while humanitarian assistance had been provided to ethnic Oromo IDPs on a regular basis, Amhara IDPs have not received any. Mulumebet Defar (name changed), a woman who was an IDP in Haro Kebele said the following:

“For about a month now since the date of the bloodshed, none of the ethnic Amhara IDPs, including those injured in the massacre, have received or is aware of any humanitarian assistance.”

Aschalew Minale, a 39-year-old IDP corroborated Mulumebet’s statement by adding:

“We fled with the clothes we were wearing. We are not getting any kind of humanitarian assistance both from the government and philanthropic organizations. As a result, we are facing chronic food shortages and are unable to feed our children. There is nothing more painful than watching your children slowly die from starvation. When I see my children so hungry, I wish I was murdered by OLA.”

He continued:

“food and other assistance are provided to Oromo IDPs. They are getting assistance almost on a daily basis. We feel neglected as Oromo IDPs received food and we got nothing.”

Sintayehu Aschalew, another IDP who lost his father and his mother in the massacre, stated:

“We have been displaced for about a month now, but never received any assistance. We are living without any assistance from the government. There is a lack of food,

water and shelter. There is also no medical care. We wear the same clothes we were wearing when we arrived here. With almost no food to eat, life became very difficult for children and the elderly. We survived until now because of limited food assistance from the local Amhara residents, who also face extreme economic insecurity because of restrictions on livelihood activities.”

Upon being inquired if there is any humanitarian assistance provided by the Regional government for Oromo IDPs, he replied:

“They were receiving assistance from the government from day one. We haven’t got assistance, because we are Amharas. The situation is so bad, it feels like no one cares about us.”

The IDPs also told AAA that the lack of water, food and shelter have caused malnutrition, and many people, particularly children and elderly persons, are susceptible to diseases such as cholera and deprived of access to medical care.

Statements made by IDPs were confirmed by AAA through a religious leader who coordinates the host community’s support to the IDPs, Sheik Dawd:“

“All of the IDPs in Haro 01, Kiremu 01 and Bagin are in dire need of urgent life-saving assistance. Nothing has been provided by the government so far. There are also no local or foreign organisations that are distributing humanitarian assistance. They’ve survived so far because of support from the host Amhara community. The Amhara residents in the areas are struggling to support the IDPs despite their own economic insecurity.”

He also explained how the severe weather conditions have made an already dire situation for IDPs even more precarious:

“Heavy rainfalls make life harder for the IDPs, particularly for those who are forced to sleep in the open, without any shelter. Some of the IDPs, including children, women and elderly people, are struggling with health problems, including

malnutrition, psychological distress, and diseases like Diarrhea. Without immediate action, many people, especially children and the elderly will die. So, if they have to survive this horrifying situation, basic necessities like food, water, tents, blankets, mattresses and medical care should be available for them as soon as possible.”

Negesso village massacre

By August 24th, 2021, six days after the gruesome massacre in KIRAMU Woreda, suspected OLA militias massacred at least eight ethnic Amharas and wounded three more after raiding Negesso village (located in Ejere Kebele of Gida Ayana Woreda) at around 4 pm local time.

No.	Names of the decedents	Outcome
1	Mussa Kassaw	Killed
2	Adem Mussa	Killed
3	Sheah Sufiyan Mohamed	Killed
4	Sheah Hussen Legesse	Killed
5	Muhamed Legesse	Killed
6	Muhamed Jenberu	Killed
7	Addisse Ahmed	Killed
8	Ahmed Sitotaw	Killed
9	Sheah Seayd Indris	Wounded
10	Muhy Ahmed	Wounded
11	Muhamed Yesuf	Wounded

Cheru village massacre

On August 25th, 2021, five Amharas were killed in an attack by OLA militias in Horo Guduru Wellega Zone of Oromia Region. The incident happened in Cheru village, Garero

Kebele of Abe Dongoro Woreda. The five victims, who were all farmers, were shot to death by the militias at around 4 pm in the afternoon. The funerals for the victims were held on Thursday, August 26th, 2021.

No	Names of the victims	Sex	Outcome
1	Kemal Siraj	Male	Killed
2	Belete Seayd	Male	Killed
3	Getachew Mebre	Male	Killed
4	Adi Shumye	Male	Killed
5	Gebayehu Bogale	Male	Killed

- Three days later, on Saturday, August 28th, 2021, in Sibu Sire, a Woreda in East Wollega Zone, an ethnic Amhara by the name of Abebe Ashagrey, was killed by OLA militias. The incident happened in Libo Kebele of Sibu Sire Woreda in East Wollega Zone mid-day on Saturday. Abebe Ashagrey was kidnapped earlier that day while he was returning home from a local market.
- On Wednesday, August 29th, 2021, in the evening, two Amhara monks were killed when armed men, believed to be OLA militias, stormed the Chebi Selassie Ethiopian Orthodox Church, situated in the Chebi Kebele of Kiremu Woreda. AAA sources named the victims as Abahoy Debreselassie and Abahoy Abaynew. They said they were members of staff responsible for the upkeep of the church.
- Two other incidents took place on August 29, 2021, one in East Wollega Zone and one in the Horo Guduro Wellega Zone. At around 11 am in the morning, an ethnic Amhara named Sheah Seayd Mehdi was abducted by gunmen thought to be OLA militias in Lelistu Kebele, Mercato town of Sibu Sire Woreda in East Wollega Zone. The militias kidnapped the victim along with his seven cattle. In a separate incident, at around 5:30 pm in the afternoon, OLA militias abducted three people and wounded two others in a raid on Begi village, Gorte Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda of Horo Guduru Wellega Zone.

Sources from the ground told AAA that the five victims were attending cattle when they were cornered and targeted by a group of OLA militias. Upon their arrival, the militias shot one of the victims, named Beshir Hassen, twice and abandoned him, assuming he was dead. Thereafter, they beat the remaining victims savagely and subsequently took them at gun-point into the bush. However, one of them, Kindu Ali, managed to escape. It was said that the kidnappers asked the victims' families for a ransom of 300,000 ETB to release the remaining three abductees.

No.	Names of the victims	Age	Sex	Outcome
1	Ababu Kassie	50	Male	Abducted
2	Shikur Dessalew	15	Male	Abducted
3	Yesuf Dessalew	30	Male	Abducted
4	Beshir Hassen	31	Male	Shot and injured
5	Kindu Ali	30	Male	Beaten, but escaped with minor injury

Luko village massacre

On September 3rd, 2021, Suspected OLA militias killed five Amharas in yet another massacre in the Horo Guduru Wellega Zone. According to the accounts of AAA sources, the incident happened at around 4 pm in Luko village in Erifete Gebri Kebele of Horo Woreda. The victims were shot by the OLA militias while returning from Shambu market located in Shambu town, which is the seat of the zonal administration cabinet.

No.	Names of the decedents	Sex	Outcome
1	Abdella Ahmed	Male	Killed
2	Ibrahim Tegegne	Male	Killed
3	Alem Afe	Female	Killed
4	Ali Hassen	Male	Killed
5	Kindu Mekash	Male	Killed

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- The same day, in a separate incident, an ethnic Amhara, Birku Dawd, was shot dead by OLA militias in Gudina Jiregna Kebele of Kiremu Woreda, after which the assailants looted his cattle.
 - The following day, on September 4th, 2021, OLA militias killed Fantahun Tufa and his wife, Kebene Mulleta in Tena Tefri village, Babo Kebele of Kiremu Woreda. The incident happened at around 10 pm when the militias stormed into the victims' home and shot them dead. As stated above in this report, the victim's daughter, Muluye Fantahun, and their grandchildren, Asfaw Mengaw, Shumu Mengaw, Maritu Mengaw and Lule Cheru, were killed in the attack carried out by OLA on July 26th, 2021. Fantahun Tufa and his family members, who are born of an interethnic Oromo-Amhara heritage, were targeted because of the Amhara side of their heritage.
 - That very day, OLA militias abducted five Amharas in Tinishr village, Haro Kebele of Kiremu Woreda. The militias were said to have freed the victims later that day following negotiation that involved local elders, officials and OLA militias. The victims were:

No.	Names of the victims	Age	Sex	Outcome
1	Sheah Dawd Adem		Male	Abducted
2	Abdu Dawd Adem	12	Male	Abducted
3	Tofiq Dawd Adem	8	Male	Abducted
4	Zewde Kassye		Female	Abducted

- The next day, September 5th, 2021, at around 3 pm local time, two Amharas, Habtamu Tilahun and Nigussie Asmare, aged between 20 and 25, respectively, were both struck in the leg when OLA militias raided Denbi village in Merga Jiregna Kebele of Kiremu Woreda in the East Wollega Zone.
- On September 7th, 2021, an ethnic Amhara named Shumye Arega was abducted by OLA militias in Wedesa Dima Kebele of Kiremu Woreda. Shumye was said to have gone to

his farm in a remote village on Tuesday when the militias stormed the farm and abducted him.

- The next day, on September 8th, 2021, an ethnic Amhara shepherd was killed while a farmer was abducted by OLA in two separate incidents in Kiremu Woreda. The killing occurred in Babo Kebele of Kiremu Woreda, at around midday, according to AAA sources. At the time of investigation, his body has yet to be recovered from the scene of the massacre because of the deteriorated security situation. The same day, in a separate incident, OLA militias kidnapped an Amhara farmer, named Hassen Munye. He was kidnapped on Wednesday afternoon in his farm in Qoye village, Buqa Suruma Kebele of Kiremu Woreda.

Laften village massacre

At least twelve ethnic Amhara IDPs, including seven women, were killed and five others injured in Kiremu Woreda, East Wollega Zone, on Thursday, September 16th, 2021 ³². The victims were killed and wounded after they had been abducted by OLA militias. According to AAA's investigation, the IDPs were whisked away by OLA militias from Laften village, Burqa Surma Kebele (aka Boka), Kiremu Woreda, East Wollega Zone on Thursday, September 16th, 2021, at around 8 am local time, when they were returning to their homes from Kiremu 01, hoping for an improved security situation there. One day latter, on Friday, September 17th, 2021, the remains of 12 of the victims were found in a home in Laften Village, according to AAA sources. The victims' bodies were found beheaded, chopped into pieces and then burned, leaving parts of their bodies not only charred but also deformed in some way. Five of the abductees were also found inside another nearby house in critical condition. AAA is saddened by this evil perpetrated against innocent Amhara IDPs, who had fled attack after attack, desperate for safety, before being brutally killed.

³²[See also Ethiopian Human Rights Comission's Statement released on September 21, 2021](#)

No.	Names of the victims	Sex	Outcome of attack
1	Getu Adem	M	Killed
2	Merem Ali	F	Killed
3	Ismael Mohamed	M	Killed
4	Fatima Ahmed	F	Killed
5	Hussen Indris	M	Killed
6	Desalegne Hussen	M	Killed
7	Tirngo Mohammed	F	Killed
8	Rada Dawd	F	Killed
9	Hawa Hussen	F	Killed
10	Abaynesh Adem	F	Killed
11	Seayd Isleman	M	Killed
12	Atalay Hussen	F	Killed
13	Merem Takele	F	Wounded
14	Adem Ismael	M	Wounded
15	Halima Mohammed	F	Wounded
16	Fatima Beshir	F	Wounded
17	Kedja Bedru	F	Wounded

According to AAA sources some of the victims were from the same family.

- Ismael Mohamed was killed along with his wife, Fatima Ahmed. Their child, Adem Ismael, was also wounded in the attack.
- Merem Ali was killed with her husband, Getu Adem and her nephew, Seayd Isleman. Her sister-in-law, Kedja Bedru, was also seriously injured.
- Hussen Indris was killed along with his two children, Desalegne Hussen and Atalay Hussen.

One day later, on Friday, September 17th, 2021, OLA miliias killed two Amhara residents and wounded 19 more. The attack targeted people who were trying recover the bodies of the 12 victims who had been abducted and killed by OLA on September 16th, 2021. According to AAA sources, among several people who went to Laften village, Burqa Surma Kebele to recover the bodies from the September 16th massacre, two of them, namely Seyd Isleman and Worku Alamnew, were shot dead while 19 others were injured by OLA militias. The burial for the victims were held on Saturday, September 18th, 2021 midday. AAA identified the names of 9 victims (2 killed and seven wounded).

No.	Names of the victims	Sex	Outcome
1	Worku Alemnew	M	Killed
2	Seayd Isleman	M	Killed
3	Harun Alamnew	M	Wounded
4	Dawd Ahmed	M	Wounded
5	Abdella Ahmed	M	Wounded
6	Mohammed Siraj	M	Wounded
7	Demissie Birru	M	Wounded
8	Ali Mohammed	M	Wounded
9	Adem Abebaw	M	Wounded

Wolmai village massacre

The next day, on September 18th, 2021, suspected OLA militants killed at least 12 ethnic Amharas and wounded an additional five in a raid on Wolmai village in Gudina Jiregna Kebele, Kiremu Woreda of the East Wollega Zone ³³. Among the decedents were five children—including three children under the age of 5, five women—2 of them aged 65 or older, and at least two elderly males. According to AAA sources, four of the decedents were members

³³ See also Ethiopian Human Rights Comission's Statement released on September 21, 2021

of one family. Indris Yibre, who suffered serious injuries in the attack, lost his 27-year-old wife Ayshet Kassa and his three daughters – Nura Indris, a six-month-old; Rahamet Indris, 3-year-old; and Aliya Indris, 9-year-old. In addition to those killed and wounded, an additional five people were missing following the attack, and their whereabouts remain unknown. They were identified as Mohamed Adem, Ali Mohamed, Gelanew Damtew, Yesuf Bayew and Feten Mohamed.

No.	Names of the victims	Sex	Age	Outcome
1	Nura Indris	F	six-month-old	Killed
2	Kedja Fente	F	2	Killed
3	Rahamet Indris	F	3	Killed
4	Ahmed Yenus	M	7	Killed
5	Alya Indris	F	9	Killed
6	Nurit Mohamed	F	65	Killed
7	Zenebu Mulye	F	60	Killed
8	Halima Ali	F	32	Killed
9	Ayshet Kassa	F	27	Killed
10	Abebu Mulye	F	20	Killed
11	Seayd Tadese	M	70	Killed
12	Jenberu (father's name not confirmed)	M	61	Killed
13	Abeba Ahmed	F	Not confirmed	Wounded
14	Indris Yibre	M	-	Wounded
15	Aminat Hassen	F	-	Wounded
16	Desse Hassen	M	-	Wounded
17	Mare Jenberu	F	-	Wounded
18	Mohamed Adem	M	-	Missing
19	Ali Mohamed	M	-	Missing
20	Gelanew Damtew	M	-	Missing

21	Yesuf Bayew	M	-	Missing
22	Feten Mohamed.	M	-	Missing

The attack continued the next day and at least three Amharas died at the hands of OLA militias in Wolmai village in Gudina Jiregna Kebele, Kiremu Woreda of East Wollega Zone, on September 19th, 2021.

No.	Names of the victims	Sex	Age	Outcome
1	Mohamed Abebaw	M	65	Killed
2	Seayd Fentaw	M	25	Killed
3	Wassihun Bilal	M	65	Killed

Deflection of blame onto victims amid mounting massacres in Oromia Region

AAA noted with concern the proliferation of misleading and dangerous narratives about the August 18th, 2021, massacres amid the increase in ethnic based attacks against Amharas in different zones of the Oromia Region. Some media sources and the EHRC spread, wittingly or unwittingly, unfounded and dangerous narratives about the events that surrounded the incident, thereby deflecting blame onto the very victims. It has also come to its attention that the OLA issues highly misleading statements about the people it has killed in an attempt to justify its genocidal massacre of the Amhara people in the East Wollega Zone.

On allegation of Armed Amhara militias presence in the areas

Some media outlets put the very victims at fault by quoting unnamed or anonymous sources as a pretext to cover up the massacre by claiming that those killed were actually armed Amhara fighters. For instance, the BBC Afan Oromo report paints (whether on purpose or not) the victims in a negative light by quoting an unnamed resident of the area who, according to AAA's

assessment, tried to shift the blame to the Amhara residents for what has happened to them.

“There are many people from Amhara state who were born and raised there. Because of the conflict they moved their children and wives to the Amhara region and came back to launch an attack on Oromo residents.”³⁴

OLA, in its statement, also portrayed the photographs of the victims as aggressive armed Amhara militias, and as that it had no choice but to kill them. While taking responsibility for the attack, OLA claimed its entire target were “armed Amhara militias.”

Despite these narratives, AAA’s investigation reveals that the victims were in fact civilians, of whom the majority were children, women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. According to the account of residents present at the time of the attack, they did not see any armed Amhara militias in the area nor did they know any Amhara armed group operating in the area. Tibebe Ayele (name changed), who lost his 91-year-old grandmother in the massacre, and fled to the neighboring Haro Kebele, added:

“The victims were civilians, including my 91-year-old grandma. They were not members of any group. There wasn’t even any fighting or anything like that in the area. They [OLA] just came and attacked Amhara residents.”

Kebede Lemma, who is among thousands of Amharas displaced in Haro Kebele, said:

“the identity of the victims speaks the truth about the target of the massacre, and it proves that our accusers are deliberately spreading outright false information.”

When asked if he knew any Amhara armed group operating in the area, he responded:

“This accusation is nothing but lies. It is what the OLA elements within the local administration are propagating and, sadly, media stations are echoing it without

³⁴ BBC Afaan Oromoo “Haleellaan Wallagga Bahaatti lubbuu namoota hedduu galaafate akkamiin dhaqqabe?” (August 25, 2021)

checking its veracity. The purpose is to create equivalence and prevent public outcry,” said Kebede, adding: “we are always blamed for what has happened to us.”

He insisted that there is no armed Amhara group in the area, and that there had been no violence before the OLA militias arrived and began slaughtering Amhara residents. *“This kind of blame is not new for us,”* said Sintayehu Aschalew, who lost his father and mother in the massacre. *“What they are doing is killing the victims twice. OLA killed them, and its sympathizers kill the victims’ good names by spreading lies,”* he yelled in an emotional tone.

AAA interviewed two other sources, a farmer and a religious man from Haro Kebele of Kiremu Woreda, who corroborated the aforesaid accounts. Sheik Dawd Oumer, who was in a neighboring Kebele at the time of the attack, was asked if he believed ethnic Amhara women and children were moved from the areas to Amhara region before the August 18th, 2021, massacre. To this he responded: *“This is completely false. If that were true, all victims of the massacre would be adult males.”* Sheik Dawd further stated *“most of the August massacre victims are women and children.”*

Aschalew Gedu, who joined other residents in collecting the corpses for burial the next day, told AAA: *“The majority of the victims were women, children and elders.”* When asked if he believed armed Amhara group was operating in the area, he replied *“There was not any Amhara armed group in the areas. This kind of allegation is often used as an excuse to target the largely Amhara-occupied areas.”*

On the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission’s allegation of reprisal killings

AAA has also noted the ‘report’ by EHRC condemning the massacre of civilians and expressing concern regarding the deteriorated security situation in East Wollega Zone. The EHRC, as an independent organ empowered to promote and protect human rights in Ethiopia, bears the responsibility to independently investigate this massacre, and therefore, as a principle, AAA appreciates the fact that the EHRC has issued a statement denouncing the massacre

that claimed the lives of dozens of civilians in cold blood ³⁵. However, AAA is alarmed by the EHRC's findings "on reprisal killings" as it has found no evidence to support these allegations. The statement suggests that some Amhara residents retaliated and killed 60 people on the basis of ethnicity in the aftermath of the August 18th, 2021, massacre ³⁶. However, according to AAA's investigation, the EHRC's claim of revenge killing does not square with what it is happening on the ground. If the allegations were true, AAA would condemn it regardless of the identity of the victims. Nevertheless, from the accounts of sources on the ground that AAA spoke to, the claim of "reprisal killing" is misleading and not factual.

AAA found no evidence so far that any Oromo had been killed by Amhara residents in the areas in the aftermath of the August 18th, 2021, massacre, let alone widespread revenge killings as claimed by the Commission. In its attempt to clarify the accuracy of the allegations, AAA asked at least 18 sources on the ground if they knew of any retaliatory killings of Oromo residents in the post-massacre period. Speaking in one voice, all of them said the allegation of retaliatory killings is absolutely not true. Sheik Dawd (name changed), a 56-year-old religious father, said the accusation is "*baseless*", while admitting that there are people who deliberately spread rumors about retaliatory killings.

"There are people, including within the local government structure, who are spreading misleading information about the mass execution. They do this not only to obscure the truth but also to incite the Oromo community against the Amharas. They are doing everything they can to force Amharas to leave Oromia."

He continued, "*I heard about six Oromos who lost their lives. Not more than two of them were 'Harar Oromos' who were killed in the violence on August 18th, 2021. The remaining Oromo victims were killed by OLA.*"

Sheik Dawd further added that those Oromo who opposed the OLA, Oromos married to Amharas, and people of mixed Amhara-Oromo ethnicity were additional targets of OLA

³⁵See also [Ethiopian Human Rights Commission's Statement released on September 21, 2021](#)

³⁶Even though the Commission does not explicitly mention who was responsible for the acts of revenge, it is implicit in its wording that those accused of reprisal attacks are the surviving Amhara residents.

killings.

Andarge Kelemu, a civil servant at Kiremu Woreda, told AAA “If we had killed Oromo residents in revenge killings, the Oromia Special Force would have slaughtered us all.” When AAA asked him if he was aware of any Oromo killed in relation to the incident he responded:

“I heard that two ethnic Oromo residents [he also refers them as Harar’”] were killed in self-defense measures taken by the fleeing Amhara residents on August 18, who had no choice but to fight off knife-wielding assailants in order to spare their family and themselves.”

He continued, *“apart from this, the Amhara residents have not killed any Oromo resident as a reprisal to the massacre.”*

He instead told AAA that he knew ethnic Oromos who were killed by OLA militias. For instance, he shared a story about an individual of mixed Oromo–Amhara heritage who was killed by the OLA militias during the August 18th massacre.

“OLF militias killed an individual named Admassu Terefe Bora, who was married to an Amhara woman. OLA militias forced their way into his house and demanded to know where his Amhara wife hiding. When he said there was no one there, they stabbed him to death.”

This was further confirmed by other residents. Dawit Yohannes (name changed) called the accusation of revenge killings “falsehoods” and explained that the motive is to deflect blame onto the victims. He said not more than 10 Oromos were killed in relation to the incident, majority of whom were at the hands of OLA militias.

“The claim that 60 Oromo residents were killed is an extreme exaggeration. There may be up to 10 Oromo residents killed in connection with the August 18th incident. About two or three died when the fleeing Amhara residents acted in self-defense against the ‘Harara Oromo’, who were rounding up and killing all fleeing

Amhara residents, and the remaining Amharas were killed in OLA targeted massacre.”

As for Aschalew Gedu, another resident of the area, the Amhara residents could not have killed ethnic Oromo residents under the circumstances then prevailing even if they wanted to. They were unable to collect and bury the bodies of the victims until the next day, when the security forces arrived, let alone take part or carry out revenge killings.

“As far as maintaining the safety of Oromo residents is concerned, both OLA and Oromo Special Force members act as one, and they are the same. They would not allow the alleged revenge killings of ethnic Oromos to happen even if the Amhara residents wanted to. [...] Following the attack, all of the surviving Amhara residents were forced to move to the neighboring villages and Kebeles, and the affected areas were fully occupied and cornered by the OLA militias. As a result, the Amharas could not return back to the scenes until the Oromia Special Force unit arrived at 10 am the next day and provided a brief security cover to undertake the burial of some of the victims. Besides, as the arrival of the special force coincided with the departure of OLA militias, there was no time gap that could enable the Amharas to commit the said killings. It would have been impossible to return to the villages let alone attack them.”

Aschalew did however confirm that he knew the killings of at least three Oromo residents who were killed by OLA militias during the massacre. For instance, he told AAA that an ethnic Oromo, named Bayan, was killed during the massacre by OLA for his political affiliation with the Prosperity Party. In addition, a 2-year-old girl, who was born of an Oromo father and an Amhara mother, named Tirusew Merga, was killed by OLA militias because of the Amhara side of her heritage.

Dawit Yohannes confirmed Aschalew’s account and told AAA: *“We couldn’t have buried the corpse of our beloved ones without the help of the Oromia Special Forces.”*

He did however mention that he heard about “*a handful of ethnic Oromo residents, maybe three or four, who were killed in the attack*” but added “*they were killed by the OLA militias.*”

According to Dawit, the Oromo victims appear to have been targeted either because of their political affiliation with the Prosperity Party or for their affiliation with Amhara ethnicity. For instance, he recalled the killing of Admassu Terefe Bora and said he was killed for the Amhara side of his heritage, and for marrying an Amhara woman.

Based on the above accounts, AAA strongly believes that reports of reprisal killings are unfounded accusations, and they are motivated by people attempting to overshadow coverage of the active genocide of Amhara populations in the Oromia Region. It is regrettable that EHRC has echoed these propagandas and passed them on as substantiated facts. AAA also finds it curious that the EHRC made no mention of the most serious claim by Amhara survivors and other local residents that ethnic Oromos (who were regarded by AAA sources as ‘Harar Oromo’) were involved in the atrocities committed on August 18th acts of barbarities alongside the OLA militias. It is also peculiar that the EHRC’s human rights investigations experts claimed they know about the reprisal killings of ethnic Oromos by Amhara residents, for which AAA has found no evidence, but even stranger that they suggested that they do not know about an open secret that knife-wielding Oromo residents, acting independently and alongside OLA militias, were involved in the heinous acts of August 18th. AAA finds no indication that the EHRC has seriously investigated the massacre as it is required in accordance with its established proclamation. There were plenty of sources, including victims and local officials, who would have communicated their version of the incident to EHRC before it ever issued this dangerous narrative of reprisal killings. While it may not be EHRC’s intent, the unfounded claim of “revenge killings” could further inflame the suffering of the Amhara community in the Oromia Region, who has often faced similar attacks in the past.

In shadow of the Northern Ethiopia Armed Conflict, ethnic cleansing of Amharas continues unabated with unfathomable cruelty

The consistent pattern and gruesome nature of the ethnic based massacres, abductions, demolition of villages and mass displacement, and of alleged complicity among local officials, indicate the existence of systematic ethnic cleansing of ethnic Amharas from the Oromia Region.

According to victims and survivors, the aim of OLA is to obliterate all trace of Amharas from the areas. As a result, not only ethnic Amharas, but also Oromos married to Amharas and people of mixed Amhara-Oromo ethnicity are increasingly targeted in OLA's brutal campaign.

As summed up by Aschalew Gedu, a resident of Kiremu Woreda: *"The objective of the OLA is to destroy all Amharas and people of mixed Amhara-Oromo heritage."*, He further added that people who are born of mixed couples, like Tirusew Merga, a 2-year-old girl who lost her life in the August 18 massacre, were targeted by OLA because of the Amhara side of her heritage.

Sheik Dawd reiterated Aschalew's account and said: *"For OLA, residents who are born of mixed couples and an Oromo married to Amhara are not counted among the Oromo, so they are targets of its brutality."*

Fantahun Tufa's family of eight was decimated because of their Amhara heritage exclaimed Sheik Dawd:

"Fantahun Tufa was decimated by OLA along with his seven family members. On July 26, OLA killed his six family members; including his daughter Muluye Fantahun, and his grandchildren Asfaw Mengaw, Shumu Mengaw, Maritu Mengaw and Lule Cheru. Muluye Fantahun was killed not only because of her mixed Amhara-Oromo heritage, but also because of marrying an Amhara husband, named Mengaw Tsegaw. Born of mixed Oromo-Amhara couples, her three children were also forced to bear the brunt of OLA's atrocities. The killing does not stop here."

One month later, OLA militias killed Fantahun Tufa and his wife Kebene Muleta in their home by associating their ethnicity with only a fraction of their Amhara blood.”

Sheik Dawd also spoke about the killing of Admassu Terefe Bora, an elderly man with a physical disability, who was killed during the August 18th massacre. He was killed partly because he married an Amhara woman and partly because of his mixed Amhara-Oromo ethnicity. According to Aschalew and Sheik Dawd, OLA used the killing of Oromo as a double-edged sword: to obliterate all trace of Amharas from the areas, and to demonize and create hatred toward Amhara residents by falsely portraying them as suspects in the killings of Oromo residents, and by so doing, create a dangerous impression in the eyes of the Oromo community that they would also kill any Oromo, turn by turn, if proactive measures are not taken to stop them.

The complicity of local officials and the Oromia Special Force in the ethnic-based attacks is another indication of the systematic nature of the attacks. Survivors and victims’ families repeatedly accuse the local officials and the Special Force of trying to purge ethnic Amharas from the area. They said local officials and OLA militias are working together to ‘wipe away’ the Amhara residents from their land. In an interview with AAA’s focal person in Ethiopia, all of those interviewed residents of Kiremu Woreda noted that the massacres and attacks are committed by OLA militias, backed by local officials, and ordinary Oromo people, and, at times by the Oromo Special Force.

The local administration’s incapability of responding to warnings of impending OLA attacks was cited by Amhara residents as one indication of its complicity. They insisted that they used to give advance notice to the local officials and the nearby security organs about each and every impending attack by OLA militias, but in almost every occasion, they failed to heed the warning, consequently, the Amhara residents bear the brunt of OLA atrocities.

Sudden and unexplained security personnel withdrawal from the troubled areas was also taken as another indication of the administrative complicity in the attacks. For instance, for

Andarge Kelemu, a civil servant in Kiremu Woreda, the withdrawal of the Oromia Special Force from Kiremu on August 17th- just a day before the massacre that claimed dozens of Amhara lives- is suspicious. He stated:

“There is nothing wrong with redeploying security forces to other areas but what was wrong and suspicious is to leave us undefended while they knew that we were surrounded by OLA militias. What did they expect?”

Along the same vein, the residents are left baffled and frustrated by the responses that they continue to receive from local officials to their plea for help. Their appeals not only failed to yield benefits, but also gave rise to threat of persecution. They told AAA about the derogatory response given by one of the zonal officials in a meeting held in the aftermath of the August 18th massacre. The zonal officials of the East Wollega Zone assembled survivors and IDPs, for a meeting on August 20th, 2021, two days after the massacre. Instead of finding ways to redeem the victims by restoring their honor, the vice-head of the peace and security office of the East Wollega Zone, named Mulugeta Abayneh, reportedly threatened to take measures, like that of the 2001 state sponsored massacre and displacement of Amharas, unless they stop complaining about discrimination. This makes them feel like unwanted interlopers in a place where the majority of them are born and raised. One of the participants of the meeting stated:

“I was born and raised in Kiremu Woreda, but I am forced to feel like an unwanted interloper. None of them actually care about us.”

The nonchalant attitude of the Oromia Special Force to the well-being of Amhara residents also casts doubt over the Oromia Region’s commitment to ensure the safety of all residents, regardless of ethnicity. According to the residents, the Oromo Special Forces often stands by and watches ethnic based massacres by OLA. For instance, Aschalew Gedu said “the Special Force members don’t want to fight with OLA militias unless they are attacked by OLA fighters.” Similarly, Sheik Dawd avowed that the Oromo Special Forces are reluctant, and slow to protect the threatened Amhara residents. At times, Oromia Special Force engages in the killings

and displacement of Amharas from the areas. AAA previously issued reports on the killings of at least 34 Amhara farmers in two rounds of Oromia Special Force ethnic-based massacres in Arkumbi Kebele of Limu Woreda in East Wollega Zone earlier this year, where the survivors and residents told AAA of the atrocities element of wider ethnic cleansing project.

The absence of accountability also lends credence to residents' allegations that local officials are complicit in the ethnic cleansing. AAA noted with concern that those responsible for violating the Amharas of their dignity have rarely been brought to justice. There are persistent allegations that massacres and displacement of Amharas by the OLA too often go unpunished, as do killings by Oromia Special Force and youth groups, thus fostering a sense that violence against Amharas is "normal" and warrants no punishment. Ironically, the local officials are engaged in widespread persecution of Amhara residents, accusing them of passing information to the media platforms and human rights organizations about their plight, while the aggressive and violent OLA militants move around easily and freely. Ketema Ayalew, a student and resident of Kiremu Woreda, noted that those suspected of association with the OLA, including his brother-in-law, were released from prison just hours before the beginning of the August 18th massacre, and they were reportedly engaged in the killings of Amharas. In support of this account, Abeselom Ayele, a farmer and resident of Kiremu, said the Woreda officials have released suspected OLA militias in order to exacerbate the suffering of Amharas in the area.

AAA was also notified of the fact that the OLA enjoys clandestine arms support from local officials. It was said that the local officials, in the name of organizing self-defense militias, provided firearms to selected Oromo residents who then passed them on to OLA militias.

“We are given no choice but to flee, no chance to live”

Faced with recurring gruesome massacres, several thousands of Amharas were forced to flee their homes to the Amhara Region, many thousands more are displaced within the Oromia Region, and live in utter destitution, while many others appear ready to flee their homes, but the road blocks make this difficult, and they live in inhumane conditions. In Kiremu Woreda alone,

according to AAA sources from the ground including Sheik Dawd and Andarge Kelemu, the entire Amhara residents living in fifteen of the nineteen Kebeles of Kiremu Woreda, including Burqasoruma, Mechino, Wedesadima, Boqa, Lelistu Sembo, Qoqefe 01, Qoqefe 02, Ashu, Qiltu Abo, Chebi, Sildero 01 and Merga Jregna, have been displaced while those living in the remaining four Kebeles, namely Haro 01, Kiremu 01, Bagin and some regions of Chefe Gudina, are living in a state of fear and poverty.

This is well-explained by a resident who stated:

“Fifteen of the nineteen Kebeles of Kiremu Woreda are fully under the control of OLA militias. As a result, all Amhara residents in the areas under OLA control are forced to flee to the remaining four largely Amhara-occupied Kebeles, mainly Haro 01, Kiremu 01 and Bagin.”

Both the displaced and host communities of Amharas are living in very challenging circumstances. They are languishing from a dire humanitarian and security situation, including fears of being subject to further attacks, sleeplessness, and hopelessness. They are deprived of a dignified life, freedom of movement, access to markets and to humanitarian aid. This restriction on livelihood activities force them to live in utter destitution. To make an already difficult situation worse, OLA militias have closed roads and are preventing the Amhara people from escaping the violence.

“OLA blocks possible routes to Amhara Region. We are living in fear. We are given no choice but to flee, no chance to live,” said a 65 year-old resident,” adding that “each choice-choosing to stay or choosing to flee, carries a consequence of losing once life. Many people who started to journey to the Amhara Region were killed, as they ended up in the hands of OLA militias.”

This was backed up by another civilian who said: *“we have suffered and are still suffering terrible injustices, yet we are forced to stay because of the road blocks.”*

AAA also discovered that OLA militias are digging trenches and distroying bridges to cut off access to areas where Amhara ethnic groups are residing. For instance, OLA has dug trenches on roads that connect Haro to Kiremu, and Amuru to Agamsa ³⁷.

The Amhara residents are therefore highly concerned about their safety more than any time before. Alemu Kebede said the current situation is far worse than it has ever been before. The following quote encapsulates this:

“We are so scared about what’s going to happen next. To avoid being taken by surprise when we are sleeping, we move into the bush in the night.”

Another resident, who is 56, confirmed the story: *“We are now languishing in desperate conditions. I, along with my family members including the kids, sleep out of home, even though this makes the children susceptible to effects of severe weather.”* Similarly, a 76-year-old farmer told AAA: *“life is becoming more and more dangerous in Kiremu right now. We don’t sleep at home. Even though the district and zonal officials are alarmed about the new development, none of them come to our protection,”* forcing him and other Amhara residents to stand guard over the villages, without sleep, day and night. This was further confirmed by a 73-year-old farmer who said:

“Kiremu is now too dangerous to live. We hid in the bush during the night and came in cautiously during the day to prepare something and eat. Unless you help us get out of here, it is a certainty that we are all going to die. Trust me, it is just a matter of time,” said the old man in a broken sound.

Kebede Ayalew (name changed), another resident in the area, said: *“we have complained about the problem so many times, but nothing has been done,”* adding *“had there been a just government in Ethiopia, it would have taken action against the OLA for the genocide the group has committed so far.”* Kebede continued:

³⁷ See also Ethiopian Human Rights Comission’s Statement released on September 21, 2021

“We are waiting our turn to come and to be slaughtered. We are now just like cattle awaiting their slaughter. We are not treated as human beings with a dignified life, but as animals whose existence or non-existence are determined by the whim of their owners. We are the cattle of OLA militias, and as owner, they will slaughter us at a place and time they choose.”

Along similar vein, AAA has been notified that the OLA militias are digging trenches to block roads that connect Shambu, a zonal administrative centre of the Horo Guduru Wellega Zone to the surrounding districts in an apparent attempt to block Amhara residents who are trying to escape the widespread attacks, and to obstruct possible military deployment in the areas, if any. For instance, roads leading from Abe Dongoro to Shambu, Jardega Jarte to Shambu, Bako to Shanbu, Fincha to Shambu are blocked as of September 8th, 2021. In addition to this, Amhara residents have also been prevented from leaving troubled areas of Horo Guduru Wellega Zone and neighboring districts of East Wollega Zone, and those attempting to flee risk being killed by OLA militias. Risky routes for Amhara residents include roads leading from Abe Dongoro to Anger Gutn, Kiremu to Anger Guten, Agamsa to Amuru, and Jardega Jarte to Amuru. Furthermore, AAA received reports of many abandoned Kebeles and districts in Horo Guduru Wellega Zones because of the increasing tension. In Abe Dongoro Woreda alone, Amhara residents have been completely wiped out from at least 12 of the 22 Kebeles including Debis Kebele, Botoro Gora Kebele, Welege Kebele, Ebo Boti Kebele, Chero Kebele, Kotcha Kebele, Gorte Kebele, Tulu Moti Kebele, Arbu Senta Kebele, Garero Kebele and Lomicha Kebele.

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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