



Demolitions of Houses, Killings, and Bodily Injury of Amharas in the Newly Established Sheger City of Oromia Region by Oromia forces

Findings

The latest investigation from the Amhara Association of America (AAA) found that since January 2023, Oromia Special Forces, Oromia Region police, government representatives, and local youth intensified ethnically motivated demolitions of houses belonging to non-Oromo residents (and especially ethnic Amhara residents) in the newly established *Sheger* city administration of the Oromia Regional State (areas demarcated to the Oromia Region which were formerly part of Addis Ababa city by unilateral decision from the ruling Oromo Prosperity Party). The investigation found in this ethnically motivated targeting:

- At least 3,415 houses belonging to non-Oromo owners (most of them belonging to Amhara owners) were demolished. This figure is expected to increase as homes are still being demolished.
- At least 62 individuals were injured after they were severally beaten by the Oromia Regional security forces.
- Dozens of individuals were arbitrarily arrested and their whereabouts have been

unknown to relatives.

- At least three individuals were killed by security forces.
- Demolition of homes was concentrated in Jemo Terara Medihanialem, Fanuel Church (Alem Bank), Anfo Mariam, Gersebo, Korki Sefere (Lencho), and Enku-Gabriel areas within the newly established Sheger city administration (formerly areas of Addis Ababa city).
- Following the destruction of homes, tens of thousands of people have been left homeless and are living in dire conditions.

Background

AAA's investigators have verified from sources that starting from January 1st, 2023, the newly established Sheger city administration with the help of the Oromia Special Force (OSF) and the Oromia Region police started forceful demolition of homes belonging to non-Oromo owners. The newly established Sheger city includes the areas of Sebeta, Burayu Legetafo, Lededadi, Gelan and Sululuta sub-cities. Formerly, most kebeles of these sub-cities were part of Addis Ababa city before they were given to the Oromia Region in August 2022 by decision of the Oromo expansionist ruling party. Following this development, on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, the Oromia Regional State in collaboration with the Addis Ababa city administration established a new city administration called Sheger city.

In these areas, the majority of residents are Amharas who have resided for decades holding their houses. But after the Oromo expansionist took hold of the area, they started demolishing houses belonging to non-Oromo residents, displacing Amharas and looting properties for the purpose of Oromizing the areas. The ongoing act of demolishing houses, arbitrary detention, killing and beating of innocent Amharas are an extension of

their program of Oromizing Addis Ababa. Starting from January 1st, 2023, the Oromia security forces launched an organized destruction of houses belonging to non-Oromo residents and particularly targeting ethnic Amhara residents. The details of the incidents are documented by the subsequent paragraphs of this investigative report.

Oromia Region forces kill three civilians, demolish and loot 1,525 homes in Jemo Terara Medihanialem and Fanuel Church (Alem Bank) areas of Addis Ababa between January 1st and 4th, 2023

Starting from January 1st, 2023, in areas named *Jemo Terara Medihanialem* and *Fanuel Church* (Alem Bank) areas formerly parts of the Woreda 3 of the Kolfe Keraniwo sub-city of the Addis Ababa city but now renamed Geda-Fiche Woreda under the Sebeta sub-city of Sheger town, the Oromia expansionist started demolishing houses belonging to non-Oromo owners (most of them Amhara) without giving any prior notice. At least 725 houses were demolished around Fanuel church and more than 800 houses were demolished in and around the Jemo Terara Medihanialem area. Following the destruction of the houses, people gathered and asked “*why did you destroy our houses which we live for more than 20 and 30 years?*”.

However, the response from the Oromia Region police and the OSF was killing and bodily injury. Starting from January 1st, 2023, at least 40 individuals were arrested and their whereabouts remain unknown. Another 10 individuals were brutally injured by security forces of the Oromia Regional State. On January 4th, 2023, one individual by the name of Abdu Feta was also killed by the OSF. Other two individuals unidentified by names were also killed by gunfire from security forces on the same date. Following the destruction of houses, tens of thousands of residents are living without a home in dire human rights conditions for days.

A local source by the name Tadesse (name changed) told AAA that;

“People who have houses here have resided in the area for more than 20 years. However, to the dismay of everyone, the Oromia security forces demolished our houses without even knowing the reason for their barbaric acts. During the destruction they dehumanized ethnic Amhara saying we will never allow Amharas to live in Oromo land, you came holding 50 cent plastic in our areas now we repel you back to your origin possessing a similar 50 cent plastic. In accordance with their words they demolished houses including every property we have in the house.”



Figure 1: The photograph shows houses demolished in the Alem Bank area of Addis Ababa city by the Oromia security forces.

In a similar manner starting from January 1st, 2023, in areas called Anfo-Mariam and Gorsebe, formerly part of Woreda 7 of Kolfe Keraniwo sub-city of Addis Ababa city, but now demarcated into the Burayu sub-city of the Sheger city administration, a minimum of 350 houses belonging mostly to Amharas but also Dorze and Tigrayans have been demolished by the Oromia forces with the help of dozers for the destruction.

At least 850 Houses demolished, and dozens injured by Oromia Security Forces between January 1st and 4th of 2023 in Enku-Gabriel Areas of the Addis Ababa city

In a place named Enku-Gabriel formerly part of the Nifas Silk Lafto sub-city Woreda 1 but now under the administration of Sebeta sub-city Kebele 8 of Sheger city, the destruction started on the morning of January 1st, 2023 at 5 am. A local source by the name Haile (name changed) told AAA that:

“Starting from Sunday, January 1st, 2023, the Oromia police and the Oromia Special Force have been forcibly destroying homes belonging to Amhara owners. Together with the police those who sold their land to us decades before came holding a gun to destroy houses and displace Amharas.”

Another witness named Getie (name changed) told AAA that:

“When they demarcated the Artu mojo area to the Oromia regional state in late August, they called a meeting with local residents. The resident asked them why this should be done. But, they persuaded the community by saying it is for administrative efficiency. However, their true intent was to Oromize the area and they showed it to us categorically starting from Sunday (January 1st, 2023).”

On January 1st, at least 250 houses belonging to non-ethnic Oromo residents (mostly to Amharas) were demolished in the Enku-Gabriel area. Sources also confirmed to AAA that they communicated the matter to the Addis Ababa city administration and to the federal government. However, both of them responded by saying “you have to request the newly established Sheger city administration” which is clearly showing their support for the destruction of houses. On January 2nd, 2023 in a similar area (Enku-Gabriel (Yelayignaw Sefer)) in Sebeta Woreda of the Oromia Region they put a sign “X” on houses belonging to Amhara owner saying they will demolish the next day. According to their words, on the

morning of Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023, hundreds of local youth, representatives from the established Sheger city, the Oromia Region police, and OSF came and started demolishing the houses. A victim by the name of Sisay (name changed) (whose house was demolished) told AAA that on Monday there were houses belonging to the Oromo owner by which the “X” sign was marked for the next day’s destruction. However, on the next day, they only selected and demolished the houses of Amharas after they discussed with Oromo owners in Oromiffa language. On Tuesday at least 600 houses were demolished by this ethnically motivated targeting.

Sisay described the situation as follows;

“On Monday they painted an ‘X’ sign on houses for the next day’s destruction. On the morning of Tuesday, hundreds of local youth, police and special police came to the Enku-Gabriel area (Betachignaw side). At that time, they drove dozers for the destruction of the houses. While local residents prevented them to drive the dozer deep into residential houses owing to that they changed direction and came to Enku-Gabriel area (Yelayignaw side). When they come from the north side of Enku-Gabriel they were firing a gun at people who try to prevent their way. On their arrival in areas named ‘Amhara Sefer’ they started demolishing houses. They abscise the roof and doors of houses and took the tin to the Oromia Region with the help of 11 FSR trucks. There were few houses belonging to the Oromo owners but these houses were not destroyed.”

Sources also added that at least 12 girls were seriously injured by the Oromo security forces. Additional 40 individuals were also beaten and injured by the Oromia security forces. At least 11 individuals were arbitrarily arrested by security forces. AAA’s sources were able to name the following individuals as victims of the arbitrary arrests, Kassaye Direslet, Priest Mezgebu, Mekuria Muche, Walelign Melaku, and Behailu Mamo. After

they were arrested on Monday, January 2nd, 2023, security forces took them to Kuru Wereda 04 police station located in Sebeta sub-city of the new Sheger city. Following such destruction of houses, thousands of individuals including women, the elderly, and children have been living without homes and food in dire humanitarian situations.



(a)



(b)

Figure 2: These are photographs that show demolished homes in Enku-Gabriel areas of Addis Ababa city.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3: These are photographs showing houses demolished in the Enku-Gabriel areas. The house marked with the letter “D” belonged to Shewaye (name changed).

At least 700 houses were demolished and dozens were injured in the Haji-Anba (Korki Sefer) and Sebeta areas of the Oromia Region

Between January 1st and 4th, 2023, the Oromia Regional State police force containing the ordinary police, special force and the local youth committed widespread destruction of houses belonging to Amhara owners in Haji-Anba areas of the Oromia Region. These areas are under the administration of the newly established Sheger city in the Sebeta sub-city. AAA source told that on January 1st, 2023 around 4 p.m. local time the Oromia security forces started large scale destruction of houses. Following that clash erupted in the area. Dozens of innocent civilians injured and at least 700 houses belonging to non-Oromo residents (majority of them are Amharas) were demolished.

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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