



## **Report on attacks on Merawi and neighboring areas of North Gojjam Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia**

*Updated March 24, 2024*

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has verified between February 24th and March 3rd, 2024, Abiy regime forces massacred at least 36 Amhara civilians and destroyed private and public property over multiple incidents in Merawi town and surrounding villages in North Gojjam Zone (Amhara Region, Ethiopia).

The first incident occurred on February 24th, when regime soldiers were advancing to an area called Gerechech (Mehal Genet) administrative center of South Mecha Woreda. Before reaching Gerechech in a village commonly known as Abiyot Fana the soldiers encountered several unarmed civilians sitting by the gate of their compound (residence). The soldiers then proceeded to shoot and kill five people including four members from a single family and their neighbor. AAA was able to identify the names of the five killed victims as follows: (1) Fitiha-Negest Enkuane, (2) Mengistu Enkuane, (3) Yenesew Enkuane, (4) Alefe Enkuane, and (5) Melku Terefe. All of the victims were buried at the graveyard of the local St. George's Church. Apart from this, regime forces repeatedly fired heavy artillery shells which resulted in complete destruction to three residential

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houses and partial damage to the Nibrete Bizuneh Secondary School. AAA also identified the victims whose houses were destroyed including: (1) Ewnete Tagele, (2) Priest Gebre Animut, and (3) Minale Animut.

The same day, February 24th, AAA confirmed that Abiy regime forces killed at least nine civilians in Merawi town. The massacre took place following clashes between Fano and regime soldiers in the town. According to sources, most of the killed victims were killed when they went out of their homes, thinking that the fighting had already stopped. It was possible to know that one of the killed victims was a person with a mental disability. AAA was able to identify the names of eight deceased victims as follows: (1) Abere Atalay, (2) Getinet Abie (a teacher), (3) Simachew Adamu Taye, (4) Abayneh Amaku Enyew, (5) Worku (last name unknown), (6) Shumet (last name unknown), (7) Bichenkegn (last name unknown) person with a mental disability, and (8) Tarekegn Ewnet. Among the nine killed victims, four were buried in Merawi St. Mary's Church, and three others were buried at the cemetery of Abola St. George's Church.

The following day, February 25th, regime soldiers killed another six civilians in Merawi town. According to sources, the soldiers said they did not want to waste their bullets and killed four of them with knives. Three of the six killed victims were buried in the cemetery of Merawi St. Mary's Church.

In another incident, on February 28th, regime soldiers executed at least 14 civilians in Birakat Lay-Gafit St. Gabriel, a neighborhood of Merawi town. According to sources, on the day of the incident, the soldiers went to Lay-Gafit St. Gabriel's Church at around midnight and carried out the massacre, killing 11 Abinet students, a church administrator, and two farmers. According to sources, the soldiers killed the Abinet students, claiming that they were giving "anti-bullet drugs" to Fano and also accused them of hiding Fanos.

AAA was able to identify the names of 13 of the killed victims. The first 10 victims are Abinet students at Lay-Gafit St. Gabriel’s Church: (1) Bewket Alelign, (2) Ephrem (last name unknown), (3) Yibeltal Damte Alebachew, (4) Gedamu Endaweke Negash, (5) Gebre-Eyesus (last name unknown), (6) Zer’a-Dawit (last name unknown), (7) Kale-Tsidik (last name unknown), (8) Sibhat (last name unknown), (9) Nahusenay (last name unknown), (10) Endalkachew (last name unknown), and (11) Priest Degarege Assaye (administrator of the church). The following killed victims were farm workers who were killed in the same incident: (12) Mulualem Emiru (from Zengacher), and (13) Endalamaw Worke (from Lay-Gafit).

On March 3rd, 2024, the regime soldiers executed two civilians they encountered on the street in Abiyot Fana Kebele. The killed victims were brothers, namely, Belay Gebeyaw and Temesgen Gebeyaw, with an estimated age of 20 and 16, respectively. The same day, regime soldiers looted and partially demolished a health station in Abiyot Fana Kebele.

*Names of 28 killed victims in Merawi and surrounding villages by Abiy regime forces between February 24th and March 3rd, 2024.*

No.	Victim Name	Occupation	Date of Incident	Kebele/City	Woreda
1	Fitiha-Negest Enkuane		Feb. 24	Gerechech	South Mecha
2	Mengistu Enkuane		Feb. 24	Gerechech	South Mecha
3	Yenesew Enkuane		Feb. 24	Gerechech	South Mecha
4	Alefe Enkuane		Feb. 24	Gerechech	South Mecha
5	Melku Terefe		Feb. 24	Gerechech	South Mecha
6	Abere Atalay		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha
7	Getinet Abie		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha
8	Simachew Adamu Taye		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha
9	Abayneh Amaku Enyew		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha
10	Worku (last name unknown)		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha
11	Shumet (last name unknown)		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha
12	Bichenkegn (last name unknown)		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha
13	Tarekegn Ewnet		Feb. 24	Merawi	North Mecha

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14	Bewket Alelign	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
15	Ephrem (last name unknown)	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
16	Yibeltal Damte Alebachew	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
17	Gedamu Endaweke Negash	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
18	Gebre-Eyesus (last name unknown)	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
19	Zer'a-Dawit (last name unknown)	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
20	Kale-Tsidik (last name unknown)	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
21	Sibhat (last name unknown)	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
22	Nahusenay (last name unknown)	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
23	Endalkachew (last name unknown)	Abinet Student	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
24	Priest Degarege Assaye	Church Administrator	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
25	Mulualem Emiru	Farmer	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
26	Endalamaw Worke	Farmer	Feb. 28	Merawi	North Mecha
27	Belay Gebeyaw		Mar. 3	Abiyot Fana	North Mecha
28	Temesgen Gebeyaw		Mar. 3	Abiyot Fana	North Mecha

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## 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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