



Between January and November 2022, AAA confirmed the massacre of least 73 Amhara civilians by invading Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) militants in Dera Woreda of North Shewa Zone

Executive Summary

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has verified that the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) invaded into Dera Woreda (district) [North Shewa Zone, Oromia Region, Ethiopia] in at least seven incidents this year (2022) during which it perpetrated identity-based attacks on Amhara civilians and their property. As a result, scores of civilians were killed, abducted and held for ransom, displaced and their property was looted or destroyed.

- AAA’s investigations revealed that **at least 73 Amhara civilians were killed**, and the names and, where possible, the sex, age, and location (town/kebele) have been identified for 71 victims. In addition, at least 6 civilians were injured. Survivors, eyewitnesses and residents accused the OLA of perpetrating these killings and accused government officials at the regional and federal levels of failing to protect

them.

- The invading OLA forces also **abducted at least 57 Amhara civilians and demanded inordinate ransoms from their relatives (e.g. up to 500,000 ETB)** for their return. Of these, 38 paid the requested amount but many others remain in the custody of the OLA militants. Overall, residents were extorted for millions of ETB in ransom, and in some cases, they paid the ransom to save their loved ones who were still executed by their captors.
- Invading OLA forces also **looted and destroyed property resulting in destruction of 71 residential homes, looting of cattle and property losses worth millions of ETB.**
- Furthermore, these brutal invasions **forced an estimated 75,000 Amhara residents to flee their homes.** Based on victim testimonies, the pattern of attacks in the wider region, and the historical context of Dera, the attacks against Amhara civilians in Dera by the OLA and its collaborators bear all the hallmarks of ethnic cleansing and genocide, with state complicity.

For more details, please see the body of the report below.

Historical Context

Dera Woreda is a district located in central Ethiopia, historically administered under the Merhabete *Awraja* (county) in the Shewa *Kifle-hager* (province), Ethiopia.¹ In the 1990s, this historic Amhara district was forcibly incorporated into the Oromia Regional State. Following this, Amharas have advocated for recognition of their identity and restoration of Dera Woreda to be administered under the Amhara Region. However,

¹Prior to the ethnic federalism administrative system, Ethiopia was organized by a geographical provincial federation and Dera was administered under the historic province of Shewa (present day Amhara and Oromia Regional States)

the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF)-led Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and the Oromo People’s Democratic Organization (OPDO) strongly oppressed and silenced the people’s quest for self-administration.² To facilitate the quest for identity, Amharas in Dera established the *Dera Amhara Identity Repatriation Committee* (“Dera Committee” for short) in 2014. However, the federal and regional governments worked in tandem to block it from achieving legal recognition and worked to silence the matter by persecuting members of the Dera Committee and anyone who supported it. Under the current administrative framework, Dera Woreda is administered in the North Shewa Zone of the Oromia Regional State and borders the South Wollo Zone (Amhara Region) to the north, the North Shewa Zone (Amhara Region) to the east, the East Gojjam Zone (Amhara Region) to the west and the Girar Jarso Woreda (Oromia Region) to the south.

In 2018, popular protests from the Amhara, Oromo and other communities led to the TPLF’s descent from power and a rearrangement which led to the OPDO (now known as the Oromo Prosperity Party) becoming the new dominant party in the ruling coalition. Following this change, the Dera Committee received legal recognition from the ODPO and the House of People’s Federation at the federal level in 2019. After that, the identity and border questions of the people of Dera came to the forefront again. However, the Dera Amhara identity issue was seen as undesirable by the OPDO which resorted to killings, arrests and persecution of politically active residents including members of the Dera Committee.

The Dera Committee’s Chairman Mr. Haile-Michael Araya and Secretary Mr. Assefa Nebebe were forced to flee Dera after intense persecution from the OPDO. Many

²The OPDO is the ruling party in the Oromia Regional State (i.e. the Oromia Regional Government). The OPDO was a member of the TPLF-led EPRDF coalition until 2018 when TPLF was forced to step down due to widespread protests and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power. In 2019 he formed a new ruling coalition party called the Prosperity Party and OPDO became known as the Oromo Prosperity Party.

supporters of the Dera Committee were also imprisoned and faced systematic persecution and disenfranchisement from the OPDO. The OPDO has also been complicit in numerous atrocities perpetrated against Amharas by failing to protect civilians and uphold the rule of law. As an extension of the failure to protect peace and security by the OPDO in the area, the OLA launched at least seven attacks between January and November 2022 on ethnic Amharas in Dera Woreda. In these documented incidents the OLA deliberately killed, injured, abducted (for ransom), and displaced scores of civilians and also actively looted and destroyed their property. The aim of this investigative report is to identify, document and characterize the pattern of identity-based attacks perpetrated by the OLA against Amharas in Dera Woreda between January and November of 2022.

Summary killings, bodily injury of civilians and abductions for ransom

AAA's on-the-ground investigators have confirmed that between January and November 2022, at least 73 Amhara civilians were killed and an additional 6 were injured in seven documented incidents carried out by invading OLA militants in Dera Woreda of the North Shewa Zone. The OLA militants also abducted dozens of Amharas (16 of which are identified by name) and demanded inordinate ransoms. The real number of the abducted Amharas is not known, as some sources provided figures as high as 100 while others in the dozens. AAA's investigators were able to confirm at least 57 abductions of which 38 victims were released after paying ransoms. Some of the victims are still missing, others were freed after paying ransoms between 200,000 and 500,000 ETB, and others escaped while the militants were busy fighting with security forces and local militias.

Incident #1: January 5, 2022

The first documented incident occurred on January 5th, 2022, when the OLA raided Chaka, Babu Derie and Wore Gebru Kebeles of Dera Woreda, killing at least 23 Amhara

villagers. Survivors accused both the Oromia Regional Government and the federal government of failing to protect them. It was said that the attack could have been avoided or casualties reduced if the regional and federal governments had immediately deployed security forces to contain the situation and protect civilians from the attack.

Incident #2: April 4, 2022

The second documented attack occurred on April 4th, 2022, and targeted Amhara civilians residing in Abu, Homma, Bahit, Mamo, Wobila Mikael, Mankefta Meneyu, Wore Meneyu, and Gebru Kebeles of Dera Woreda. In this incident, suspected OLA militants killed at least 10 Amharas. Among those killed were: Kuch Demeke, Bareke Demeke, Isreal Bareke, Abu Gizaw, Shibru Tatek, Wagaye Getahun, Dereje Desalew and Abbey Habtamu. Another two individuals, Delelegn Negash and Bahiru were killed after being abducted by the OLA militants. In this attack at least four Amharas were also injured. A local resident confirmed this to AAA saying:

“During this incident, the OLA militia abducted at least 40 individuals including women and children. 38 of the abducted were freed after their families paid a ransom of 150,000 ETB per abductee. However two of the abductees by the names of Delelegn Negash and Bahiru (last name unknown) were executed by OLA militias as their families were unable to pay the required money. Later these two individuals were killed by the OLA militia and their family mourns without being able to retrieve the dead bodies of the victim.”

Incident #3: April 30, 2022

The third documented incident happened on April 30th, 2022, and targeted Amharas living in Koro Gindeberberia Kebele of Dera Woreda. In this targeted killing, 5 Amharas were killed and an additional 2 were injured. Among those killed were Deyas

Sinte, Bogale Getaw, Bogale Tamene, Bailfew Abay and Dergu Abebaw. A local witness told AAA:

“Five days before the commencement of the attack, residents of Koro Kebele informed the woreda security office about the preparations by OLA to invade the area. However, they were reluctant to deploy security forces and the OLA militia raided Koro Kebele. The people living there tried to defend themselves, and owing to this, the OLA militia retreated to a neighboring woreda called Hidebu Abottie after killing 5 individuals.”

Incident #4: June 17-19, 2022

The fourth documented incident occurred between June 17 and 19, 2022 and targeted Amharas living in Racho, Amuma Gendo, Metie and Woro-Gebro areas of Dera Woreda. In the attack, OLA militants killed 8 Amhara civilians, abducted 5 and burned down 12 residential homes. One of AAA’s sources told AAA:

“The security threat in the Dera area posed by the OLA militia is clear for everyone though the regional government and federal government have failed to respond to the threats. When the OLA commenced the attack on June 17th, 2022, we informed local officials to immediately deploy security forces. However, security forces were deployed to the area three days after the OLA militia killed, abducted and burned houses belonging to ethnic Amharas. In this incident, the suspected OLA militias killed 8 Amharas, abducted 5 others and burned 12 houses. Two of the abducted individuals were later released after their families paid 200,000 ETB per abductee. The remaining three individuals named Mamushe Yazew, Bahiru Abebe and Degu Anberbir were asked to pay 500,000 ETB. Their family borrowed the money and delivered it to the OLA militia. Unfortunately, after receiving the money the OLA militia

committed heinous and monstrous killings on these individuals. The OLA militia took these three individuals to a place called Kirro in Hidebu Abottie Woreda (neighboring woreda of Dera). The place called Kiro is 120-km away from Dera Woreda. When they took the abducted individuals, first they took off the shoe of each individual and forced them to travel barefoot for a distance of 120-km. When they arrived in Kirro Kebele of Hidarau Abottie Woreda, the OLA militia slaughtered each individual with a knife and killed them in a way shocking to the conscience of the human mind.”

Photographs of some of the victims killed by OLA militants in Dera Woreda are shown below.



Figure 1: Photograph of Degu Anberbir, a victim killed by the OLA forces despite his family paying ransoms of 500,000 ETB for his release.



Figure 2: A photograph showing OLA militants (soldiers with military uniforms and weapons) displaying captive Amharas (individuals seated on the ground with hands raised). The individual pictured wearing a red t-shirt is Mamushe Yazew who was later killed in spite of his family paying 500,000 ETB for his release. Three other individuals including Jofie Wodineh (pictured to the right of the late Mamushe Yazew) were released after they paid ransom of 20,000 ETB per abductee.

Incidents #5-6: May-August, 2022

The next two incidents were sporadic and occurred between May and August 2022 in various kebeles of Dera Woreda, claiming the lives of at least 7 Amhara civilians.

Incident #7: November 13, 2022

The seventh incident occurred on November 13, 2022. According to eyewitnesses and relatives of victims, at least 20 Amhara residents were selectively killed, and another 12 were abducted by OLA militants in Dera Woreda.

Six of the victims were from Koro Gindeberbere Kebele. According to an eyewitness, the OLA militants invaded the kebele on November 13, 2022, at 4:30 a.m. Many of the residents in the kebele fled while the victims, most of whom were elderly civilians who were unable to escape, were killed. The dead bodies of the victims were not collected

until three days after the attack when the OLA left the area. Following the OLA's departure, three of the victims namely, Assefa Mekonnen, Birhanu Assefa, and Anana Abaye, were buried in the graveyard of Dire Gejja St. George's Church located in the same kebele. The rest of the victims, Belayneh Tamene, Gidelew Tadesse, and Sayed Assefa, were buried in Dire Jilla St. Medihanialem's Church. Eyewitnesses told AAA that the victims were killed after their Amhara identity was confirmed. For instance, Belayneh Tamene's identity card, which contained his ethnic identity, was found laying over his dead body, which indicated the assailants killed him after seeing the card (consistent with the nature of previous attacks from the OLA).

On the same day (November 13, 2022), the militants invaded the next kebele, called Adea Melkie, and unlawfully executed seven Amharas by gunshots. Among these, the late Tesfaye Mengistie is one whom the militants chased and shot to death on his farmland. Two of the victims, Tamene Tadesse and Misaw Abate, were executed because they did not reply to the assailants in Oromiffa. The victims went to Becho Kebele which was under the control of the OLA, to plead for the militants to return their abducted family members and looted farm animals. The OLA militants then asked the victims to address them in Oromiffa, which the victims could not do and as a result, they were shot dead.

On the same date, at 8:00 a.m., the OLA also invaded Gundo Meskel town, where they selectively killed seven more Amharas. Six of the victims were killed by sporadic gunshots fired by the OLA militants. A 13-year-old child, by the name of Eldana Damtew, was killed in the crossfire when residents attempted to resist the OLA's invasion. Four of the victims were buried in Gundo Meskel Kidus Meskel Eyesus Monastery, and a fifth victim, Indris Ahmed, was buried in a Muslim cemetery. The sixth and seventh victims' dead bodies were taken to surrounding rural kebeles by their respective families.

In this incident, Inspector Abitew Gidelew and Priest Estifanos Dejen were released after paying ransoms of 200,000 ETB each, and Shifaw Dejen was also released after paying ransom of 500,000 ETB. Another victim, Wuletaw Tadesse, has not yet been released after the OLA militants demanded a ransom of 1.5 million ETB. All of these abductees are from Gundo Meskel town. Others such as Belet Mengistie from Adea Melkie Kebele are also still being held by the OLA militants which demanded ransom of 200,000 ETB.

One victim who managed to escape (asked his name to be withheld) from Gundo Meskel town described his ordeal to AAA’s investigators as follows:

“I was inside my home. They (OLA militants) broke in and entered the house. They wore military, federal police, and former army (ENDF) uniforms. They spoke to each other in Oromiffa. There were also some who did not wear any uniforms. Their hairstyle was dreadlocked. They ordered me to give them a firearm and my phone. I gave them my mobile phone but not a firearm because I did not have one. They beat me ordering me to give them a firearm. Then, they took me away. Finally, when they were pressurized by our militias (Dera Woreda militias), I was able to escape and survived.”

Below is a list of 16 identified victims abducted by invading OLA militants in Dera Woreda on November 13th, 2022.

No.	Victim Name	Sex	Town/Kebele
1	Priest Estifanos Dejene	M	Gundo Meskel
2	Inspector Abitew Gidelew	M	Gundo Meskel
3	Shifaw Dejen	M	Gundo Meskel
4	Silesh Damtew	M	Gundo Meskel
5	Wuletaw Tadesse	M	Gundo Meskel
6	Mimi Damtew	M	Gundo Meskel

7	Belay Hailu	M	Gundo Meskel
8	Dagnu Feleke	M	Gundo Meskel
9	Gashaw (last name unknown)	M	Gundo Meskel
10	Belet Mengistie	F	Adea Melkie
11	Yirgalem (last name unknown)	M	Adea Melkie
12	Indris (last name unknown)	M	Adea Melkie
13	Abayu Ayele	M	Adea Melkie
14	Biametu Tena	M	Adea Melkie
15	Deribew Lemma	M	Adea Melkie
16	Yiternu Gizaw	M	Adea Melkie

Names of 71 deceased victims

AAA identified the names of 71 killed victims, including five women and at least two children, out of the total documented victims of OLA's attacks between January and November 2022.

No.	Victim Name	Age	Sex	Kebele/Woreda
1	Tatek Ejigu		M	Mamo Kebele
2	Fekadu Tatek		M	Mamo Kebele
3	Abiy Habtamu		M	Dera
4	Fekadu Belay		M	Dera
5	Dessiye (last name unknown)		M	Cheka Kebele
6	Meto-Aleqa Siraji	53	M	Dera
7	Getaw Bogale		M	Dera
8	Abitew Wossen		M	Dera
9	Genanaw Bitew		M	Woglo Mikael Kebele
10	W/Giordis Mekonnen		M	Cheka Kebele

11	Muzeyin Muhammed		M	Cheka Kebele
12	Endelibu Yeshaw		M	Cheka Kebele
13	Sileshi Habtamu	34	M	Cheka Kebele
14	Abu Danigne		M	Cheka Kebele
15	Mamushe Yazew		M	Cheka Kebele
16	Degu Anberbir		M	Cheka Kebele
17	Masresha Ziraw		M	Cheka Kebele
18	Petros Ziraw		M	Cheka Kebele
19	Kuche Demeke		M	Cheka Kebele
20	Bareke Demeke		M	Cheka Kebele
21	Isreal Bareke		M	Cheka Kebele
22	Mezgebu Kuche		M	Dera
23	Solomon Gizaw		M	Dera
24	Beyene Mekonnen		M	Dera
25	Temeche Nigussie		M	Dera
26	Anti Abi		M	Dera
27	Solomon (last name unknown)		M	Dera
28	Melese Ayaway		M	Dera
29	Yirgalem Jofi		M	Dera
30	Belay Assefa		M	Gebro Kebele
31	Endelibu Sharew		M	Gebro Kebele
32	Deyas Sinte		M	Gebro Kebele
33	Abdu Girma		M	Dera
34	Arebu Bogale		M	Dera
35	Getaw Bogale		M	Dera
36	Tamene Alemu		M	Dera
37	Shibru Tatek		M	Dera

38	Abu Gizaw		M	Dera
39	Gidyelew Bahirie		M	Dera
40	Wagaye Getahun		F	Dera
41	Abushe Desalew		M	Dera
42	Gisso Bahiru		M	Dera
43	Yitagesu Abi		M	Dera
44	Muluye Belgu		M	Dera
45	Arebu Muzeyin		M	Dera
46	Bahiru Abebe		M	Dera
47	Alemitu Bareke	11	F	Dera
48	Hailu Bareke	14	M	Dera
49	Dereje Desalew		M	Dera
50	Bailfew Abay		M	Dera
51	Dergu Abebaw		M	Dera
52	Ababu Teshome	35	M	Gundo Meskel
53	Indris Ahmed	37	M	Gundo Meskel
54	Feleke Alemu	40	M	Gundo Meskel
55	Damtew Gashaw	45	M	Gundo Meskel
56	Eldana Damtew	13	F	Gundo Meskel
57	Zine Yazachew		M	Gundo Meskel
58	Mulatu Deguale		M	Gundo Meskel
59	Deribew Mekonnen	42	M	Adea Melkie
60	Tamene Tadesse	33	M	Adea Melkie
61	Meseret Tefera	45	F	Adea Melkie
62	Tesfaye Mengistie	50	M	Adea Melkie
63	Asnaku Guchu	40	M	Adea Melkie
64	Misaw Abate		F	Adea Melkie

65	Mebratu Zemedkun	39	M	Adea Melkie
66	Gidelew Tadesse	35	M	Koro Gindeberbere
67	Sayed Assefa	55	M	Koro Gindeberbere
68	Assefa Mekonnen	61	M	Koro Gindeberbere
69	Birhanu Assefa	31	M	Koro Gindeberbere
70	Enana Abay	18	M	Koro Gindeberbere
71	Belayneh Tamene	70	M	Koro Gindeberbere

Internal displacement, looting and destruction of property

Mass displacement

Widespread looting by the OLA militants took place on a large-scale in Dera Woreda. The seven incidents mentioned above combined with institutional discrimination and persecution of ethnic Amhara residents in the area have resulted in the displacement of over 75,000 people from various kebeles of Dera Woreda including Abu, Homma, Bahit, Mamo, Wobila Mikeal, Mankefta Meneyu, Wore Meneyo, and Gebru. According to a local source, in these areas, it is possible to say that ethnic Amharas are facing ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the OLA with complicity from the OPDO.

Following the most recent seventh incident (November 13, 2022), hundreds of residents of Adea Melkie and Koro Gindeberbere Kebeles remain displaced to the surrounding forestry and neighboring kebeles. Thousands more however were displaced to an adjacent kebele in the Amhara Region called Gorandae in Merahabete Woreda (North Shewa Zone). Even though the kebeles have been freed from OLA control, the IDPs could not return because the OLA is still in control of some kebeles (Bechu, Menkata, Babu Dire, Amuma Genda, and Arb Deso) of the woreda and are prepared for and attempting further attacks. At the time of this report's preparation, the situation in Adea Melkie and Koro

Gindeberbere is tense because the OLA militants are approaching to open another round of attack. The OLA militants also opened a sudden attack and burned down an unknown number of houses in Gode Cheffe Kebele of Dera Woreda. Displaced residents of Gundo Meskel returned home after their displacement, on November 14th when the OLA was pushed out of the town.

Looting and destruction of residential homes and property

Between January to November 2022, in the seven documented incidents at least 71 residential homes belonging to ethnic Amharas were burned down by the OLA militants. In the seventh incident alone (November 13, 2022), the OLA deliberately burned down 50 residential houses and property belonging to Amhara farmers. For instance, in Koro Gindeberbere Kebele, Mulugeta Aytenfisu's house along with 30 quintals of Teff that were inside were deliberately burned to the ground. According to residents of this kebele who spoke to AAA, at least 50 houses and their furniture and properties inside were burned. In Adea Melkie Kebele, more than 3 houses including Emamu Misaye Dejen's were completely burned down.

Below is a list of owners whose houses and furniture inside were deliberately destroyed by the OLA in the seventh incident (November 13, 2022).

No.	Owner's name	Extent of damage	Address/Kebele
1	Mulugeta Aytenfisu	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
2	Misye Bekele	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
3	Tena (last name unknown)	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
4	Tadele Tena	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
5	Etalemahu Tena	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
6	Yitbarek Tesfaye	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
7	Tena Tegegne	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere

8	Endashaw Legesse	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
9	Enat Legesse	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
10	Setu Legesse	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
11	Tejje Nigussie	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
12	Tesfaye Ketema	Complete	Koro Gindeberbere
13	Emamu Misye Dejen	Complete	Adea Melkie

In addition, property including farm animals, were looted by the OLA militants. Among others, Dera Guade Kasie Mahibere Bekur Monastery's (located in Adea Melkie Kebele) 33 cattle, the late Tamene Tadesse's 8 cattle, Geremew Zegeye's 8 cattle, the late Tesfaye Mengistie's 13 cattle (7 cows and 6 oxen), the late Mebratu Mekonnen's 2 oxen (from Melka Dedekocha Kebele) were all looted by the invading OLA militants. Local sources also add that in these seven documented incidents; at least 60 quintals of *teff* with an estimated value of 300,000 ETB were either burned and looted or transported to the neighboring Dera Woreda. Other unspecified numbers of properties such as mobile phones, money and household goods have also been looted by the OLA militia.

State Negligence and Complicity

As it was in almost all attacks against Amharas in the Oromia Region, state security forces failed to prevent the attack. For example, in the most recent attack (November 13, 2022) federal police were encamped in an area near to Gundo Meskel (the site of attack) called Chesa, 15-km away from Gundo Meskel town yet the federal police said it did not receive an order to intervene. A day earlier (November 12, 2022), the Woreda administrator and the Peace and Security Chief received security updates from the Koro Ginde Bebere Kebele residents that the OLA was coming to attack them. However the Woreda administration took no action, instead leaving the under-armed local Amhara militias to face the heavily armed OLA militants. Administrators of the Oromo-majority

kebeles (Bechu, Menkata, Babu Dire, and Amuma Genda) of the woreda are officially receiving orders from the OLA militants in their governmental activities.

Motivation to Ethnically Cleanse Amharas from Dera

AAA's sources who have been repeatedly exposed to or witnessed similar rounds of attacks explained that the OLA militants and its enablers targeted and singled out Amharas to attack in an effort to ethnically cleanse Amharas and homogenize Dera Woreda so that Oromos would have a guarantee of exclusive ownership to it. The Chairman of the Dera Amhara Identity Repatriation Committee, Mr. Haile-Michael Araya, explained why the repeated attacks have occurred with impunity:

“It is either to force us to abandon and hate our Amhara identity or abandon the Woreda (Dera) to let them (Oromo ultranationalists) own it for perpetuity. It is often that we heard them tell us ‘leave our region (Oromia Region including Dera).’”

Another witness also explained how OLA and its collaborators envisioned homogenizing Dera Woreda by expelling or exterminating the Amhara residents saying, *“they (OLA supporters) told us ‘what are you doing here (in Dera Woreda)? It would be better if you leave.’”*

Risk of Further Attacks

Following the most recent seventh incident (November 13, 2022), hundreds of residents of Adea Melkie and Koro Gindeberbere Kebeles remain displaced to the surrounding forestry and neighboring kebeles. Thousands more however were displaced to an adjacent kebele in the Amhara Region called Gorandae in Merahabete Woreda (North Shewa Zone). Even though the kebeles have been freed from OLA control, the IDPs could not return because the OLA is still in control of some kebeles (Bechu,

Menkata, Babu Dire, Amuma Genda, and Arb Deso) of the woreda and are prepared for and attempting further attacks. At the time of this report's preparation, the situation in Adea Melkie and Koro Gindeberbere is tense because the OLA militants are approaching to open another round of attack. The OLA militants also opened a sudden attack and burned down an unknown number of houses in Gode Cheffe Kebele of Dera Woreda. Displaced residents of Gundo Meskel returned home after their displacement, on November 14th when the OLA was pushed out of the town.

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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