



Suspected OLF militias kill as many as 12 ethnic Amhara farmers with knives, machetes and axes in Wollega, Ethiopia

Amhara Association of America (AAA) regrets to confirm that on Thursday 25 February 2021, at about 1 pm, as many as 12 ethnic Amhara farmers were killed by armed men, who the residents identified as being from OLF/Shenee militias. According to the account from at least six sources from the gorund, the attack occurred in Boka and Nechlo Kebele, Gida KIRAMU district, East Wollega Zone. Witnesses stated the victims were attacked while they were shelling maize (along with oromo farmers) in *Debo*; an adhoc labor sharing group where farmers cooperate to work for the members upon demand. They further noted that the militias selectively attacked Amhara farmers. For instance, Kebede Kelkay (name changed¹) told AAA that ‘the militias let ethnic oromo farmers go before attacking the Amharas with machetes, axes and knives.’ AAA also verifies that the one who called the Debo was an ethnic Oromo farmer, but it is not known yet whether or not he was behind the attack.

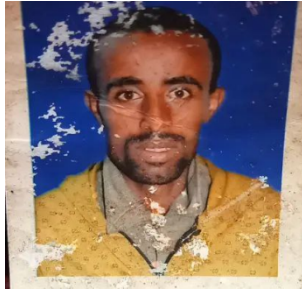
Those killed in the massacre include:

1. **Kindeneh Gizachew,**
2. **Tade Gurumneh,**
3. **Tadesse Muluneh,**
4. **Wubshet Ayaleneh,**
5. **Teshome Beyene,**
6. **Priest Anteneh Wabi,**
7. **Kassahun Dagnaw,**
8. **Habtamu Wendim,**
9. **Abebaw Zeleke,**
10. **Temesgen Dagnaw,**
11. **Sisay** (father name not confirmed) **and**

¹ Sources' names were changed as they requested to remain anonymous for security reason.

12. Endalamaw Kinde (a 7 years old child).

Photo: Kindeneh Gizachew



AAA's local source said one of the deceased, Kindeneh Gizachew, was his cousin, adding that the 25 years old Kindeneh was a father of a 4-year-old son. According to him, his cousin's body was found mutilated with his hands tied behind his back. He further noted that 'While we tried to transport Kindeneh's body to his relatives areas of residence in Amhara Region for burial, members of the Oromia Special Police Force closed roads and ordered the funeral to be held in the region [Oromia Region].' As a result, his body rested at Selassie Church in Bedessa Kebele, KIRAMU District. Describing the situation in Wollega as "appalling," Kebede Kelkay averred, in a worried voice, "the lives of many innocent Amhara farmers have been mercilessly cut short by OLF militias, but none of you, including the government, are showing us solidarity during these trying times."

Other members of the local community said they knew of Prist Anteneh Wabi in person and described him as a farmer and father of five children. Anteneh, 40, was a priest at and leader of Boka Kidane Mihret Church, they said. Another AAA's local source, Kebede Gizaw, stated three of the deceased, namely Wubshet Ayalneh, Teshome Beyene and Tade Muluneh, had lived in the same neighbourhood with him. Teshome beyene, 55, was a farmer and father of four, said Kebede, adding "his body still remains unburied on the bush." Tade Muluneh, 30, was also a farmer and father of four, according to Kebede.

Kebede said: "I feel like the Ethiopian government has turned a blind eye to our suffering. We feel neglected."

Apart from death, AAA also confirms from its sources that there are two Amhara farmers who went missing at the hands of the militias, however, their whereabouts and fate remain unknown.

Recommendations

The attack was the latest in a long line of fatal assaults against innocent Amhara farmers in Wollega, Oromia, Ethiopia. AAA is very concerned that OLF Shene militias continue to commit grave human rights abuses against civilians with near-total impunity. Therefore, it urges the



Government of Ethiopia to take drastic measures to uproot militants and restore law and order in Oromia region, particularly to deploy sufficient military personnel, police, and resources to deter further attacks on innocent Amharas; to investigate, prosecute and punish the ongoing human rights violations in Oromia; and to provide victims of human rights violations and their families with remedies and reparations. AAA would also like to call up on the international community to encourage the Ethiopian government to prioritize justice and to take immediate steps to stop further infliction of serious human rights violations against the Amhara people.