



## **Abductions and Killings of ethnic Amhara civilians by the Oromo Liberation Army in East Wollega and Horo Gurudu Wollega Zones of Oromia Region from August 28 to September 29, 2021**

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) continues to document the ongoing human rights abuses and atrocities committed by suspected militias of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) against ethnic Amhara civilians in the Misraq (East) Wollega and Horo Guduru Wollega Zones<sup>1</sup> of Ethiopia's Oromia Region. Between August 28, and September 29, 2021, AAA documented 9 incidents which resulted in 17 dead, 17 abductions (majority assumed dead or unaccounted for) and 7 injured (with some suffering life threatening injuries).

On August 28th, 2021, in Libo Kebele (ward/precinct) of Sibru Sire Woreda (district), a district in East Wollega Zone, an ethnic Amhara by the name of Abebe Ashagrey, was abducted mid-day while returning home from a local market and later killed by OLA militias.

On August 29th, 2021, AAA documented two abduction cases, one in East Wollega Zone and one in Horo Guduru Wollega Zone. At around 11 am, an ethnic Amhara farmer by the name of Sheah Seayd Mehdi was abducted by gunmen thought to be OLA militias in Lelistu

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<sup>1</sup>Note "Wollega" is sometimes transliterated as "Wellega" with either a single *l* or double

Kebele, Mercato town of Sibru 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 that afternoon, OLA abducted three people and wounded two others in a raid in Begi village, Gorte Kebele, Abe Dongoro Woreda of Horo Guduru Wollega Zone. Sources from the ground told AAA that the five victims were tending to their cattle when they were cornered and targeted by a group of OLA militias. Upon their arrival, the militias shot at one of the victims by the name of Beshir Hassen twice and abandoned him, assuming he was dead. Thereafter, they beat the remaining victims savagely and subsequently took them at gunpoint 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 of attack
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

On September 4th, 2021, OLA militias abducted five Amharas in Tinishr village, Haro Kebele of Kiremu Woreda in East Wollega Zone. 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 as follows:

No.	Names of the victims	Age	Sex	Outcome of the attack
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

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On September 5th, 2021, five ethnic Amhara residents were abducted in the Gida Woreda of East Wollega Zone of the Oromia Region by militias of the OLA. Even though their fate and whereabouts remain unknown to date, they are generally assumed to have been killed by the militias.

Listed below are the names of the abducted.

No.	Names of the victims	Age	Sex	Outcome of attack
1	Kassie Admassu	45	Male	Abducted
2	Belay Ayalew	53	Male	Abducted
3	Getinet Belay	18	Male	Abducted
4	Tseganeh Aniley	35	Male	Abducted
5	Alemnew Wassie	-	Male	Abducted

On September 7th, 2021, an ethnic Amhara named Shumye Arega was abducted by OLA militias in Wedesa Dima Kebele of Kiremu Woreda, East Wollega Zone. Shumye was said to have gone to his farm in a remote village when the militias stormed the farm and abducted him.

On September 8th, 2021, OLA militias kidnapped an Amhara farmer by the name of Hassen Munye. He was abducted from his farm in Qoye village, Boka (aka Buqa Suruma) Kebele of Kiremu Woreda, East Wollega Zone.

On September 16th, 2021, at least thirteen ethnic Amhara IDPs, including eight women, were killed and five others injured in Kiremu Woreda, East Wollega Zone <sup>2</sup>. The victims were killed and wounded after they had been abducted by OLA. According to AAA's investigation, the IDPs were whisked away by OLA militias from Laften village, Boka Kebele, Kiremu Woreda, East Wollega Zone at around 8 a.m. local time when they were returning to their homes from Kiremu 01, hoping the security situation had improved. One day later, on September 17th, 2021, the remains of 12 of the victims were found in a home in Laften Village, according to AAA sources. Some of the victims were beheaded, chopped to pieces, and then

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<sup>2</sup>See also [Ethiopian Human Rights Commission's Statement released on September 21, 2021](#)

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burned, leaving parts of their bodies not only charred but also deformed in various ways. Five of the abductees were also found inside another nearby house in critical condition and one died of her injury days later.

No.	Names of the victims	Sex	Outcome of the 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	Killed (died of injury days later)
14	Adem Ismael	M	Wounded
15	Halima Mohammed	F	Wounded
16	Fatima Beshir	F	Wounded
17	Kedja Bedru	F	Wounded

On September 29th, 2021, in a village in Ejere Kebele of Gida Woreda, OLA militias killed four ethnic Amharas of the same family. Sources told AAA that the militias stopped a public minibus heading from Gida to Kiremu, when it reached Yejere Kebele, and dragged away four of the passengers into the surrounding woods, which is controlled by OLA, and the victims were found dead with throat slit a day after. The victims were returning from Gida Hospital

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No.	Names of the victims	Family status	Sex	Outcome of the attack
1	Mekuriya Manaye	Father	Male	Killed
2	Tiringo Merid	Mother	Female	Killed
3	Kokobe Mekuriya	Daughter	Female	Killed
4	Shibre Mekuriya	Daughter	Female	Killed

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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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