



Report on Massacre of ethnic Amhara civilians in Gashena town in the North Wollo Zone of Amhara Region by the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF)

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has verified from officials, families of victims and eyewitnesses on the ground that at least 53 civilians were massacred and 17 more injured between August 3rd and December 2nd, 2021, by the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) occupying forces in Gashena town, Wadla Woreda (district), North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, and its surroundings. The Gashena town municipality head, Melaku Woreta told AAA

“it was me who counted casualties. I have recorded 53 killings, 17 injuries and damage of institutions of all kind worthy of millions by the invading TPLF.”

According to another resident of the town, Alemu Sete (name changed), The TPLF did not even spare the vulnerable. According to Alemu a TPLF militiaman murdered a 50-year-old blind man named Yalew Ayele as he attempted to prevent the TPLF militiamen from raping his daughter. In another incident the TPLF militias murdered a 38-year-old priest named Derb Alebachew, a father of four. The victim’s brother-in-law, Deacon Sisay expressed the ordeal as

“My wife is most affected by the horrors of [TPLF]. On August 20th, 2021, the TPLF militias knocked on the doors of my brother-in-law’s house. One of them

shot him on his head. He never carried anything except a cross in his hands. Afterwards they dragged his body on the ground. They prevented us from burying him. We buried our brother on the following day.”

According to Deacon Sisay they also committed similar crimes when they returned to the area a week after they were pushed by Ethiopian forces. According to all the above eyewitnesses and the head of the town’s municipality, the deadliest of all the incidents took place on December 1st, 2021, as the TPLF forces retreated. At least 13 civilians were hiding in a house located in Addis Alem area of the town to save themselves from potential attacks from retreating TPLF militias which have a modus operandi of reprisal killings. The militias broke into the house with the hiding civilians and opened fire using automatic weapons leaving all 13 dead with no survivors. Witnesses told AAA four of the victims were buried in Gashena St. Michael’s Church and the remaining bodies were taken to surrounding rural villages by their respective families for burial. Victims of the massacre include the administrator of Gashena St. George’s Church, priest Dawit Abebe.

The following table contains 46 names of identified victims based on AAA’s investigation including names of 37 killed and 9 injured.

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Outcome of the attack
1	Misgan Molla		M	Death
2	Wondye Tega		M	Death
3	Yemataw Mekonen		M	Death
4	Fentagegnew Belay		M	Death
5	Molla Fentagegnew		M	Death
6	Ayeten Derese		M	Death
7	Yemidir Mekonen		F	Death
8	Muluye Melesse		F	Death
9	Eset Masrie		F	Death
10	Birlew Tesfie		M	Death

11	Abeje Yemanie		M	Death
12	Mulu Tilahun		M	Death
13	Seble Getaye		F	Death
14	Eyeberu Alebachew		M	Death
15	Priest Derib Alebachew	38	M	Death
16	Tesfaye Akele		M	Death
17	Priest Dawit Abebe	36	M	Death
18	Mussa Yesuf	28	M	Death
19	Chekole Tesfaw	30	M	Death
20	Dessalegn Abebe	34	M	Death
21	Addis Ashagrie		M	Death
22	Mekuanint Misganaw		M	Death
23	Yeshiwork Fikrie	27	F	Death
24	Deacon Destaye Abay	33	M	Death
25	Tekach Alemu	28	F	Death
26	Esubalew Mulu		M	Injury
27	Feleke Fisie		M	Injury
28	Sisay Belay		M	Injury
29	Sisay Yemdir Alem		M	Injury
30	Getie Agazh		F	Injury
31	Tesfa Ayalew		M	Injury
32	Priest Ayalew Tekalign		M	Injury
33	Baye Woday		M	Injury
34	Wuletaw Masreshaw		M	Injury
35	Emiamrew Ayalew	32	M	Death
36	Wolde Alemayehu	34	M	Death
37	Kassanew Semie	40	M	Death

38	Yalew Alen	50	M	Death
39	Asfachew Fasil	40	M	Death
40	Zeru Alebachew	30	M	Death
41	Deacon Terefe Fikrie	65	M	Death
42	Achenef Abebe		M	Death
43	Yekaba Misganaw		F	Death
44	Belay Alemu	42	M	Death
45	Molla Misganaw	26	M	Death
46	Priest Misganaw Dessalegn	52	M	Death



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 1: Photographs of families mourning loss of loved ones in the Gashena massacre, crying over their bodies [Photographs taken by Abel Gashaw].



Figure 2: Photograph of deceased victim Dessalegn Abebe (34-year-old male)

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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