



## **Report on Massacre of ethnic Amhara civilians in Kobo town and surrounding areas in the North Wollo Zone of Amhara Region by the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF)**

### **The Massacre**

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has verified from survivors and eyewitnesses on the ground that large scale massacre on civilians has been committed by the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) occupying forces in Kobo town (located in the Raya Kobo Woreda [district]), the second most populous town in North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, and its surroundings. Eyewitnesses and community volunteers including from the Raya Kobo Support and Reestablishment Association estimated a death toll between 300 to 800 based on the scale and duration of the attack they witnessed. The attack was indiscriminate and lasted for two days between September 8th and 9th, 2021, though isolated attacks dated back at least two months prior and have continued until now. Our endeavor to get data on estimates and other detailed information are hampered by deliberate network outage by the TPLF militias in addition to security and safety threats on both AAA’s staff members and sources on the ground.

According to eyewitnesses including Dessalew Belay and Abdu Mengesha (whose brother was wounded in the same incident), IDPs in Dessie, the TPLF militias began searching homes

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for firearms on August 28th, 2021. The militias approached the house of Kassa Kebede, a local farmer in the Gedemeyu Kebele (precinct/ward), Raya Kobo Woreda (district). One of the militiamen fatally shot him on his head after he told them he was not in possession of any firearms. Another militiaman also shot to death the victim Kassa's 13-year-old son, when he cried for help after seeing his father's corpse. The witnesses also told AAA killing of at least two other farmers (names are not known) who were killed in a similar manner by the TPLF militiamen.

According to AAA's sources, the militiamen kept on searching for firearms until at least September 8th, 2021, in Kobo town. The TPLF militiamen used beating and physical intimidation as tactics to confiscate firearms from the town residents including a man by the name of Aberra Worash. Around 2:00 p.m. the same day, the TPLF militias had skirmishes with local farmers at Gedemeyu Kebele, situated roughly 10-km east of Kobo town that resulted in the farmers getting the upper hand and TPLF militias being driven back to and eventually out of Kobo town. Eyewitness Dessalew Belay told AAA that when the militias were pushed back from Kobo town by local fighters they began to shoot indiscriminately at any civilians they could find. They shot and killed six people including Addisu Belay Mengesha, a farmer, and his five seasonal workers not known by name while they were working on the farmland known as Abatalew located on the northern outskirts of Kobo town.

When the farmers left the town on the same day around 4:00 a.m., the TPLF militias controlled it again and began searching and killing anyone they found including children. They indiscriminately shot at anyone they could find across farms and streets. AAA source Dessalew said he saw TPLF militias taking sniper positions on a building of Alemseged, situated in the Segno Gebeya part of Kobo town and shot at anyone they had seen on the streets including Abera Dessale and Abebe (father's name not known).

According to eyewitnesses including Dessalew Belay and Ayene Belay the TPLF militias went house-to-house searching and executing people. For instance, the TPLF militias seized three brothers, Tadesse Gugsa, Assefa Gugsa, Molla Gugsa (wounded survivor), their sister's

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husband, Waskem Kebede, their sister's son not known by name and other two people, residents of Ketena 5, Kobo town and brought them to a street in front of Ewket Chora School. The militias tied the victims with each other and lined them up along the street and proceeded to shoot them execution-style. All six died instantly while the 7th one survived with serious gunshot wound.

AAA contacted survivor, Molla Gugsu who confirmed the above provided information and added that at the moment of the incident he was tied up with his brother Tadesse Gugsu. When his brother was shot, they both fell together but the bullet fired at him struck his shoulder so the wound was non-fatal. He rose up and started to run but the leader of the militias seized him and threw him to a house TPLF turned to a prison that was holding hundreds of people of all ages, some of whom were crying as a result of torture at the hands of the TPLF militias. According to him, the young people in the concentration camp were executed the next morning on September 9th, 2021. He is now in Dessie city receiving medical treatment.

According to Dessalew Belay, 64 dead bodies were buried at Kobo St. George's Church while another 31 bodies were mass buried at Kobo St. Michael's Church and still many corpses were not yet buried and were scattered across farmlands, streets and bushes with some even eaten by wild animals. Other sources including Sisay Derbie told AAA the number of corpses that were buried in mass graves at St. George's Church compound are beyond 50 and confirmed the rest of the information gathered from Dessalew. Among those buried at St. George's Church include Assefa Gugssa, Tadese Gugsu, Bekaris Ayene, Mamu Genbaw, Fentaye Abate, Ermias Asnake, Nigus Amare, and Molla Gebayaw .

The following table contains names of some of the victims from the killings in the ways described above.

No	Name	Sex	Age	Address (town/Kebele)
1	Kassa Kebede	M	45	Gedemeyu/040
2	Gugsu Desiye	M	75	Gedemeyu/040
3	Addisse Rodso	M	57	Gedemeyu/040

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4	Mohammed Seid	M	27	Gedemeyu/040
5	Getahun Taye	M	60	Gedemeyu/040
6	Yimam Kebede	M	43	Gedemeyu/040
7	Mohamed Seid	M	37	Gedemeyu/040, Amusit
8	Jemal Aymut	M	26	Gedemeyu/040
9	Yimam Adem	M	45	Gedemeyu/040
10	Mengesha Molla	M	29	Gedemeyu/040
11	Molla Mekuye	M	55	Gedemeyu/040
12	Kura Belay	M	59	Kobo
13	Seid Adem	M	35	Kobo
14	Bekaris Ayene	M	25	Kobo
15	Asnika Abegaz	F	38	Kobo
16	Asnake Getahun	M	45	Kobo
17	Misgan Mengesha	M	35	Kobo
18	Berihun Mirete	M	28	Kobo
19	Sisay Wodajo	M	46	Kobo
20	Mengesha Kedir	M	27	Kobo
21	Eynu Jemere	M	42	Kobo
22	Abiye Melaku Kassaye	M	79	Kobo
23	Addisu Belay Mengesha	M	44	Kobo
24	Abebe (father's name unknown)	M	35	Kobo
25	Abera Dessale	M	28	Kobo
26	Sisay Amare	M	46	Kobo
27	Tadesse Gugsa	M	43	Kobo
28	Assefa Gugssa	M	45	Kobo
29	Waskim Kebede	M	41	Kobo
30	Demlie Assefa	M	32	Kobo

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31	Mamo Genbaw	M	30	Kobo
32	Dessale Molla	M	70	Kobo
33	Birhan Dessye	M	31	Kobo
34	Abebe Molla	M	50	Kobo
35	Mengesha Biset	M	38	Kobo
36	Adino (father's name unknown)	M	35	Kobo
37	Worku (father's name unknown)	M	37	Kobo
38	Fentanesh Molla	F	40	Kobo
39	Fentaye Abate	F	37	Kobo
40	Tekuar (father's name unknown)	M		Kobo
41	Wakshin (father's name unknown)	M		Kobo
42	Ermias Asnake	M	16	Kobo
43	Nigus Amare	M	28	Kobo
44	Molla Gebeyaw	M	25	Kobo
45	Solomon (father's name unknown)	M	22	Kobo
46	Mergeta Afework	M	45	Kobo
47	Assefa Takele	M	47	Kobo
48	Ephrem Shibabie	M	32	Kobo
49	Sisay Tekaw	M	34	Kobo
50	Mekonnen (father's name unknown)	M	42	Kobo
51	Ayalew Kebede	M	30	Kobo
52	Hamza (father's name unknown)	M	43	Kobo
53	Nigus (father's name unknown)	M	16	Kobo
54	Aberra (father's name unknown)	M	17	Kobo, Ketana 5
55	Yimam (father's name unknown)	M	49	Kobo, 04 Kebele
56	Fentaw Worku	M	65	Kebele 08
57	Abate Tawye	M	73	Kebele 08

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58	Channie Derbew	M	60	Kebele 07
59	Gobeze Sisay	M	65	Kebele 07
60	Molla Marye	M	50	Kebele 07
61	Melakie Debash	M	40	Kebele 07
62	Sheganesh Tebeje	M	50	Kebele 07
63	Ayalew Tekuar	M	45	Kebele 07

### **Internal Displacement**

Due to this attack, an estimated 40,000 people were displaced and have gone to the nearby Zobel Kebele of the same Woreda since safe passage to desired destinations such as Dessie have been blocked by the TPLF militias. According to eyewitnesses, the IDPs have no access to shelter, food, medicine and other critical services. They appeal their story to be told to the government and the world to provide solutions.

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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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