



Arrest campaign targeting Amhara residents in Gurage Zone following visit by Prime Minister Abiy

Updated May 21st, 2024

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has verified that following a visit to Wolkite town by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on April 20th, 2024, arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions of Amhara residents have followed in Wolkite town and surrounding areas of Gurage Zone of Central Ethiopia Region. Among the targets of the arrest campaign are politically active young adult men, public officials and civil servants of Amhara ethnic identity including individuals with ties to the *National Movement of Amhara* (NaMA) party. The arrests have been carried out at night and the victims' whereabouts are not known at the time of compiling this report. However, the victims' due procedural rights have been violated as they have not been brought before a court of law, the location of their suspected detention has not been made clear, and they are not receiving visits from family members. It has been known that some of the detained individuals have been taken to a small town called Gunchire in Enmor Woreda of the same zone, located 100-km from Wolkite town. The far distance has also been prohibitive to visits from family members. AAA's investigators were able to identify names of nine Amhara individuals detained by

government security forces in Wolkite town since April 20th, 2024. The names of the detained victims and their occupations are provided in the table below.

No.	Victim Name	Profession/Title
1	Menelik Haile	Head of NaMA's Gurage Zone Branch Office
2	Dessalegn Worku	Professional Auditor, Abeshige Woreda Cooperatives Union
3	Gashaw Antenayehu	Ambulance Driver
4	Zemete Ayfokru	Abeshige Woreda Vice-Administrator
5	Girma Haylegnaw	Trader
6	Sintayehu Molla	Owner of a Mobile Centre
7	Worku (last name unknown)	Contractor and Trader
8	Tsegaye Misganaw	ENDF Veteran
9	Ashagrie (last name unknown)	



(a) Menelik Haile



(b) Zemete Ayfokru



(c) Sintayehu Molla



(d) Gashaw Antenayehu

Figure 1: Photographed are some of the victims arrested in Wolkite town since April 20th, 2024.

About the Amhara Association of America (AAA)

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a non-profit civic organization based in Charlotte, North Carolina that investigates and documents human rights violations in the context of conflict, violence and political repression in Ethiopia. AAA seeks to inform U.S. policymakers, international human rights organizations, journalists, researchers, 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.

- Contact us via Email: info@amharaamerica.org
- Visit our website at www.AmharaAmerica.org
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#)
- To make donations: <https://www.amharaamerica.org/get-involved>

