



Amhara Association of America
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Awaken, Organize, Struggle

PRESS RELEASE

4 March 2023

A call for immediate Amhara administration of Addis Ababa

Since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and his Oromo Prosperity Party (OPP) came to power in 2018, the genocide, ethnic cleansing, and marginalization of Amharas has accelerated at an unprecedented rate. Tens of thousands of Amharas have been massacred by the Oromo Regional Government under Regional President Shimelis Abdisa and the Oromo Liberation Front/Army (OLF/A) and over one million Amharas have been displaced from areas in western Oromia Region in 2022 alone. The Amhara Association of America (AAA), understanding this as a precursor for a broader genocide campaign and ethnic cleansing, has repeatedly called for the resignation and removal of both Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Oromia Region President Shimelis Abdisa.

One of the primary goals of the OPP since coming to power has been the full incorporation of Addis Ababa into the Oromia Regional State. In the past five years Amharas have witnessed the suppression of their political and civil rights in Addis Ababa – unable to hold meetings, unable to hold peaceful rallies or protests, and facing detainment, beatings, and enforced disappearance on the basis of their identity. This suppression rapidly accelerated to implementation of Oromizing the city's cultural and educational symbols, including:

- Ethnic cleansing of Amharas (and other non-Oromo groups) on the outskirts of Addis Ababa under the newly established *Sheger* city administration.
- Banning display of the Ethiopian flag and depictions related to Ethiopian history including previous heads of state.
- Forcefully imposing the Oromia Region flag, nationalist anthem, Oromiffa language and revisionist history in public schools.
- Oromo domination of civil and security apparatus.
- Renaming historical and cultural areas as admitted by Shimelis Abdisa.
- Banning non-Oromo public events, including the celebration of Adwa.
- Relocating Oromo celebrations such as such as *Irreecha* from usual celebration cites in Oromia to Addis Ababa and use these celebrations to call for ethnic cleansing and suppression of Amharas, including through hate speeches by Oromia region President Shimelis Abdisa.

In an effort to minoritize Amharas and fully annex Addis Ababa, OPP has also implemented a demographic engineering project. The OPP has resettled thousands of Oromo farmers from remote areas in Somali and Oromia Region borders, with a publicly stated objective of changing the demography of Addis Ababa, as publicly stated by the then Oromia Region President Lemma Megersa. The OPP has admitted to blocking, on multiple occasions, Amharas who reside in Amhara Region from entering Addis Ababa and such restrictions have continued. Similar campaigns were conducted in other historical Amhara lands including Shewa (Addis Ababa, Dera, Nazareth, Debre-Zeyit, etc) and Wollega. OPP is at the moment implementing a campaign of demolition of houses of non-Oromos with an apparent objective of displacing them to Amhara Region.

The OPP/OLA is driven by an ideology of hate towards the Ethiopian state and is motivated to dismantle Ethiopia. The assault on Addis Ababa and Adwa Victory celebration and the ongoing assault on the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church are the latest elements to dismantling the fabric of Ethiopianism and the Ethiopian state itself.

Addis Ababa belongs to all Ethiopians but is an Amhara city historically and demographically. Unfortunately, the survival of Amharas and non-Oromos in Addis Ababa is at stake, and a fate similar to the Amhara Genocide in Wollega is in the making.

With this understanding at this critical juncture, AAA recommends that Amharas and other Ethiopians demand for Addis Ababa and all areas where Amharas are facing an imminent genocide be incorporated into the Amhara Region. AAA made a similar recommendation for the Wollega Zones in 2022. A reintegration of these historical Amhara lands and the people into Amhara Region is the only way to avert an impending genocide in Addis Ababa. The Amhara Region is the only decentralized and federally administered region in Ethiopia that respects and promotes diversity. Thus, Amhara administration of Addis Ababa is not only a viable way to prevent Amhara Genocide in Addis Ababa but will also ensure rights of non-Amhara minorities in Addis Ababa are protected.

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a non-profit advocacy organization that investigates and documents human rights atrocities and repression against regional minorities, including Amhara civilians in different parts of Ethiopia. AAA works with relevant governments and international institutions to advocate on behalf of the Amhara people to end the ongoing Amhara Genocide and hold perpetrators accountable.

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