



Update on atrocities committed against Amhara civilians committed by Tigrayan forces during latest round of invasion of Raya Kobo Woreda and surrounding area (North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia) since August 24, 2022

Third round of full-scale invasion by the TPLF into Amhara Region on August 24, 2022

In violation of the self-declared cessation of hostilities, on August 24th, 2022, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) forces began re-invading and attacking the Raya Kobo Woreda (district) of the North Wollo Zone in Amhara Region, Ethiopia, for the third time. Between June and December 2021, the TPLF invaded the Amhara and Afar Regions and caused immense suffering to civilians (second round of full-scale invasion in Amhara Region by TPLF). By late December 2021, TPLF forces were pushed out from many occupied areas but sporadic attacks continued despite the Ethiopian Government's position that war had subsided. Between January to August 2022, several areas in Telemt/North Gonder, Raya/North Wollo and Wag Hemra Zones remained under TPLF control and were used as a base to launch further attacks. Telecommunications, electricity and banking ser-

vices have been unavailable in areas occupied by TPLF where tens of thousands have been displaced and where remaining residents have been subject to further ethnic-based, targeted attacks by TPLF forces. Residents in these areas have also had no access to humanitarian assistance. On August 24th, 2022, the TPLF opened large-scale attacks on Ethiopian allied forces stationed in Raya Kobo Woreda including Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), Amhara Special Forces (ASF), and local volunteer “Fano” militias who organized to defend their people. Though, the TPLF shift blames that they were attacked first and acted in defense. The deadly consequences of the invasion that ensued during the following days prove that the TPLF forces instigated conflict to reinvade and cause mass suffering on the Amhara people once again. At the time of composing this report, the TPLF took control of large parts of Raya Kobo Woreda including Kobo town, the second most populous town (inhabited by 180,000 people) in the North Wollo Zone of the Amhara Region. Currently, the TPLF is fighting against the Ethiopian forces to seize the zonal capital, Woldia city.

Targeted attacks against Amhara civilians in occupied areas of Raya Kobo Woreda: at least 53 Amhara civilians killed by TPLF forces since August 24, 2022

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has received reports of widespread human rights violations such as targeted killings of civilians, rape, widespread property destruction, looting of farming villagers’ homes and essential service facilities (health institutions and schools) perpetrated by the TPLF. Recent reports are consistent with previous patterns of systematic violence and atrocities committed by invading TPLF forces during previous rounds of invasion including the full-scale invasion of Amhara Region in 2021. Communication blackouts and security concerns have made it difficult to verify the full extent of atrocities but AAA believes the full extent of atrocities is likely to be drastically under-

reported.

AAA was able to confirm that TPLF militants killed at least 53 Amhara civilians in Raya Kobo Woreda and the surrounding areas. An unspecified number of people were reportedly killed during crossfire and artillery shells. Among these incidents, at least 4 civilians were killed on September 6, 2022, in Gobiye town when TPLF forces used them as human shields and they were struck by drone attacks by the ENDF. The same day, a woman (not identified by name) whose husband Getachew Dejen was killed in the 2021 TPLF invasion, and her two little children were also killed by drone attacks in Kobo town, in front of Ewket Chora School while the targeted TPLF military commanders blurred with civilians. In addition, at least 7 other civilians were killed by artillery shells fired by TPLF in Amaya and Abarigo Kebeles of Raya Kobo Woreda.

Between August 27 and September 6, 2022, the TPLF also killed at least 15 Amhara civilians accusing them and their family members of working with Fano or allied forces. For instance, a priest by the name of Priest Belay [last name not known] was shot dead in the Gedeba area of Raya Kobo Woreda as he was accused of being the father of a Fano member. Other victims, including Kora Birhanu (Aradom town), Molla Dessiye (Rama area), and Alemu Gubisa (Aradom town), were killed in similar ways, accused of being Fano members. Other victims, including Worku Yimer, were executed in Gobiye town, accused of hiding Fano and members of the allied forces in their homes. On August 27, 2022, the TPLF forces carried out door-to-door killings of at least 16 civilians including women, their names were Beza Tizazu (24-years-old), Atalie Zinabu (26-years-old), and Belaynesh Gugsa (55-years-old) in Aradom town of the same woreda. Furthermore, on September 6, 2022, two Amhara men namely Zewdu and Yohannes [their last names are not known] who were trying to protect private properties from looting by the TPLF forces were all executed in Kobo town. In the same incident, a woman was shot with gunfire that resulted in serious injury. On September 15, 2022, four religious students from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church aged under 15-years-old were executed in Aradom

town by the TPLF forces being accused of spying for government forces. On September 27, 2022, five Amhara civilians, including Fentaw Zegeye were buried in the Kobo St. Michael's Church alone.

Below is a list containing names and relevant details of 43 Amhara civilians killed since August 24, 2022, during TPLF's full-scale invasion of Raya Kobo Woreda.

No.	Name of Deceased Victim	Age	Sex	Town/Kebele	Woreda/town	Manner of killing
1	Shambel Derbie		M	Kobo city	Raya Kobo	Execution
2	Fentaw Zegeye		M	Kobo city	Raya Kobo	Execution
3	Kassa Semaw		M	Kobo city	Raya Kobo	Execution
4	Zewdu [last name unknown]		M	Kobo city	Raya Kobo	Execution
5	Yohannes [last name unknown]		M	Kobo city	Raya Kobo	Execution
6	Yirga Tadesse		M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
7	Kora Birhanu	18	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
8	Alemu Gubisa		M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
9	Molla Dessiye		M	Rama	Raya Kobo	Execution
10	Aba Yosef		M	Rama	Raya Kobo	Execution
11	Sheikh Aliyu Hamiza		M	Robit	Raya Kobo	Execution
12	Worku Yimer		M	Gobiye	Raya Kobo	Execution
13	Derbew Kassa		M	Gobiye	Raya Kobo	Drone Strike
14	Fentabil Melese		M	Gobiye	Raya Kobo	Drone Strike
15	Tigist Belay	16	F	Gobiye	Raya Kobo	Drone Strike
16	Mekonen Degu		M	Gobiye	Raya Kobo	Drone Strike
17	Alemu Misgan		M	Amaya	Raya Kobo	Shelling
18	Sisay Jembere		M	Amaya	Raya Kobo	Shelling
19	Dinku Asnake		M	Amaya	Raya Kobo	Shelling
20	Misgan Ayene		M	Amaya	Raya Kobo	Shelling
21	Amare Ayene		M	Amaya	Raya Kobo	Shelling

22	Andarigie Abate		M	Abarigo	Raya Kobo	Shelling
23	Alemu Dejen		M	Abarigo	Raya Kobo	Shelling
24	Misgan Desale		M	Abuare	Raya Kobo	Execution
25	Priest Belay		M	Gedeba	Raya Kobo	Execution
26	Priest Asmare		M	Shoch	Raya Kobo	Execution
27	Fentaye Abdi		M	Timuga	Raya Alamata	Execution
28	Assefa Molla		M	Kebele (01)	Raya Kobo	Execution
29	Belaynesh Gugsa	55	F	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
30	Alemu Gugsa	20	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
31	Ayalew Abera	52	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
32	Sisay Ayene	54	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
33	Zegeye Taye	57	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
34	Dessale Biset	38	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
35	Amare Kassaw	30	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
36	Kassa Berihun	45	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
37	Girma Tadesse	32	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
38	Beza Tizazu	24	F	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
39	Atalie Zinabu	26	F	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
40	Tadesse Kora	32	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
41	Demele Chanie	28	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
42	Dessale Marye	54	M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution
43	Yirga Tadesse		M	Aradom	Raya Kobo	Execution

Internal displacement update: intensification of humanitarian crisis

The TPLF's invasion resulted in internal displacement of tens of thousands of Amhara from the affected areas. So far, 12,777 IDPs have been temporarily sheltered across 11

IDP sites, primarily public schools in Mersa and Wurgesa towns of Habru Woreda of the same zone. Sources have also told AAA that more IDPs are flooding in, and new shelters have been made ready in the nearby town of Wurgessa as the shelters in Mersa are full. More than 30,000 IDPs displaced before the re-intensified invasion are currently sheltered in Jara IDP camp in Habru Woreda, located in the same zone. Many IDPs feel unsafe, and some of whom are leaving the camps in fear of threats coming from the TPLF that suggest they will bring the fight near to them. Other IDPs in large numbers are sheltering in host communities in Woldia, Dessie and Kombolcha cities.

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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