



## **Ethnic bloodletting in Horo Guduru Zone of Oromia Region continue unabated: At least 25 Amharas killed in latest spate of ethnically motivated massacres**

Amhara Association of America (AAA) regrets that Oromia Region has continued to be a killing field of defenseless Amharas. It confirms that at least 25 Amharas killed in the latest ethnic massacre in Horo Gudro Zone of Oromia Region. This massacre occurred just three days after the [Baleegziabher massacre](#), which left more than 23 Amharas dead, about two-third of whom were children and women.

At about 4 p.m. on March 9, OLF militias stormed the villages of Dachin Gefersa and Jawja in Haro Da'i Kebele of Jardega Jarte district and killed at least 25 Amharas, and possibly many more, and wounded four more, including children, one about 3-months-old, and looted their homes. The bodies of 22 victims were laid to rest on Wednesday, 10 March 2021. One body was discovered on Thursday, and another two on Friday. According to AAA sources, the actual numbers of those killed and injured are most likely much higher, given that some people are still missing. At the time of writing this report, 25 people were confirmed dead. Among the victims were 9 women—2 of them new mothers, 7 children— including two kids under age 1, and at least 4 elderly men. Recounting the massacre, survivors and victims' families said some of the OLF militias were going from home to home and massacred nearly everyone they found in a hail of gunfire while others encircled the villages and shot fleeing Amharas.

Those killed in the massacre include the following:

| No. | Names of the decedents | Sex | Ages |
|-----|------------------------|-----|------|
| 1   | Mulu Mekonin           | F   | 40   |
| 2   | Medina Seid            | F   | 15   |
| 3   | Abdu Syed              | M   | 12   |
| 4   | Hasina Syed            | F   | 10   |
| 5   | Fatima Indris          | F   | 13   |
| 6   | Shegitu Dawit          | F   | 50   |
| 7   | Kedo Hassen            | M   | 25   |

|    |                                 |   |             |
|----|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 8  | Godana Hassen                   | F | 20          |
| 9  | Zenit Dawd                      | F | 8-month-old |
| 10 | Dawd Aleme                      | M | 30          |
| 11 | Agrjew Ahmed                    | F | 13          |
| 12 | Fatima Mekonin                  | F | 70          |
| 13 | Beletech Endris,                | F | 30          |
| 14 | Merdu Yimer                     | F | 10          |
| 15 | Yimer Hassen                    | F | 50          |
| 16 | Wasse Seid                      | M | 63          |
| 17 | Oumer Ahmed                     | M | 62          |
| 18 | Zeynya Werku                    | F | 30          |
| 19 | Askal (father not confirmed)    | F | 50          |
| 20 | Alemu Bogale                    | M | 74          |
| 21 | Emawey Isleman                  | F | 40          |
| 22 | Emawey Isleman's 5-year-old boy | M | 5           |
| 23 | Jemanesh Indris                 | F | 40          |

## Families decimated in the massacre

### ❖ Sheah Syed Ali's Family

Sheah Syed Ali, 56, said he lost nearly his entire family in the massacre, including his wife Mulu Mekonin; his children Medina Syed, Habtu Syed and Hasina Syed; and his brother's child Fatima Endris. Four other family members of Seid were also injured in the massacre and they are undergoing treatment at Shambu General Hospital. These are: his three-month-old baby girl, Hayrat Syed; his child in law, Hayat Yibre; his nephew, Ahmed Endris; and his brother's son's wife, Kedja Wasse. Sheah Syed recounted:

*'On that day, I was out to attend a marriage ceremony in a nearby village. When I was on my way home from the wedding event, I heard multiple gun shots and then saw armed militias chasing people into the bush and killed them. I rushed home as fast as I can to spare my family members, but I was already late. My family was decimated by the militias.'*

*I found my wife and three of my children already dead. By the grace of Allah, my three month old baby girl survived a bullet that shattered her arm.*

According to Sheah Syed, all of his family members were mown down by guns.

Abdu Syed, 12, was shot in his back and died immediately.



Fatima Indris, 13, was shot in the forehead and pronounced dead at the scene.



Medina Syed, 15, shot two times, once in the back and once in the chest and died on the scene.



Hassina Syed, 10, was shot in her head and pronounced dead at the scene.





Pictures showing the three month old Hayrat Seyd (picture left) with her cousin Ahmed Indris (picture right) while receiving medical treatment at Shambu General Hospital

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Pictures: Hayat Yibre (picture left) and Kedja Wasse picture right) while receiving medical treatment at Shambu General Hospital

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*Hayat Yibre, 18, was wounded just eight days after her wedding. She was taken to Shambu General Hospital where she is treated for her non-life threatening gunshot wound.*

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### ❖ **Shegitu Dawit's family**

Another hard-hit family by the massacre was Shegitu Dawit's family. Shegitu Dawit, 50, was killed along with her six family members: her two children Kedo Hassen, 25, and Godana Hassen, 20; her daughter's baby girl Zenit Dawd, 8 month; her son in law Dawd Aleme, 30, and her niece Agrjew Ahmed, 13.

### ❖ **Fatima Mekonin's family**

Fatima Mekonin, 70, was also killed with three of her family members. These were: her daughter Beletech Endris, 30; her son in law Yimer Hassen, 50, and her granddaughter Merdu Yimer, 10. According to Kebede Lema (name changed), a relative of Fatima's family, the militias beat Fatima until she was half death, and then they shot her. He added Yimer Hassen was stabbed multiple times, had his throat slit and was shot in the forehead. As for Merdu Yimer, she was stabbed in the chest, and then shot to death, according to the account of Kebede Lema. Emawey Isleman, 40, was also killed with her five-year-old son.

Survivors and victims' families avowed that the situation is very alarming. A 56-year-old man, Sheah Syed, who lost five members of his family in the massacre, stated that ethnically driven attacks against Amharas become more frequent and brutal. He added "they target us because we are Amharas. For instance, my three month old baby girl did not do anything wrong. She was shot just because of her identity. My family members, including my three children, were killed based simply on their ethnic identity." Ayele Grum (name changed), survivor of the massacre, said "our plight is likely to continue indefinitely because there is no justice." He blames the regional government of Oromia, saying that "the regional officials do nothing to spare us from the ongoing massacres. They are even predatory towards us rather than ensuring our safety. They threaten us to be silent in the face of this immense extermination." Alemayehu Girma (name changed), a relative of Syed's family said "they want to exterminate the Amharas from the region [Oromia Region]. They described us 'remnants of Neftegna' [the term Neftegna is used in a derogatory and dehumanizing fashion to refer to people of the Amhara ethnic group]. Another survivor of the massacre, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 'there is little they will not do to wipeout Amharans from the region.



Driven by fear of further violence, thousands have fled their homes. For instance, Sheah Syed and Alemayehu Girma said that they, along with hundreds of other displaced people, are currently resides in Harologo Kebele, another kebele in Jardega Jarte district. They further avowed that after they flee their home due to the massacre, the militias and some Oromo villagers took their property, including their cows, goats and agricultural products.

AAA is very alarmed that Shimelis Abdisa, President of the Oromia region, has turned a blind eye, deaf ears and muted lips to the unimaginably atrocious crimes committed against Amharas for no reason other than their ethnicity in Oromia Region. His leadership has failed miserably to break the cycle of ethnic based attacks against Amharas by taking serious measures against the militias and bringing to justice the perpetrators of these heinous crimes. AAA also regrets that the Regional Government of Amhara is watching nonchalantly the persecution and massacres of ethnic Amharas in Oromia Region.

## Recommendations

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### **To the Government of Ethiopia:**

- Take all necessary measures to uproot OLF militias and restore law and order in Oromia region including by increasing patrolling and establishing additional security posts in vulnerable areas such as Horo Guduru Welega Zone, West Welega Zone, East Wollega Zone and Kelam Welega Zone;
- Ensure that Oromia Regional officials at various levels are investigated by a competent, independent and impartial body to verify whether or not they are implicated in the massacres of Amharas, and where sufficient evidence is found, those responsible should be held to account to justice;
- Suspend those officials who are suspected of implicating in atrocities from government positions pending investigations and prosecutions;



- Make clear public statements reflecting the government commitment to the protection of Amharas in Oromia Regional State and condemning all ethnically motivated attacks against the Amharas;
- Promptly and impartially investigate, prosecute and punish all serious incidents of violence against ethnic Amharas in Oromia Region and, whenever requested, permit full, unhampered access to those who wish to investigate the grave human rights violations documented in this report;
- Provide victims of human rights violations and their families with remedies and reparations;
- Ensure members of the Oromia Special Police Force protect all civilians impartially, regardless of their ethnicity;
- Organize community meetings in areas where Amharas have been repeatedly targeted to explain the steps taken to investigate alleged crimes and the government's intention to prosecute anyone implicated in retaliatory violence;

**To the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and the United States**

- Encourage the Ethiopian authorities to implement the above recommendations;
- Assist in all possible ways to ensure effective investigation and punishment of all human rights violations against Amharas in Ethiopia, particularly massacres committed in Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz Regions.

**To Human rights organizations and Medias, both national and international:**

- Consistently and publicly press the Ethiopian government to promptly investigate and appropriately prosecute all those implicated in the massacres;
- Do more to ensure that the plights of millions of Amharas in Oromia Region are exposed to the international community and preserve evidence of possible genocide.





Below are a few pictures of the victims of Haro Da'i massacre (killed and injured)







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Amhara Association of America

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