



For Immediate Release

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Subject: OGF condemns Abiy's genocidal war against the Oromo people and Oromia

We, members of Oromia Global Forum ([OGF](#)) - a global alliance of Oromo civic, professional, faith-based organizations, and human rights defenders residing in the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa - condemn, in the strongest terms possible, the total war the Ethiopian government is waging against the Oromo people, under the guise of eradicating the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA).

Abiy Ahmed came to power, on April 2, 2018, on the shoulder and sacrifices of thousands of Oromo youth. Nevertheless, only a few months after, Abiy placed Oromia under an illegal Martial Law. All civil rights were suspended, and the region came under several military command-post administrations. This was done to subdue and crush the spirit of the Oromo youth that removed the TPLF-led EPRDF from power and ironically paved the way for Abiy to clinch power.

Under the command posts, mass arrests, extra-judicial killings, targeted political assassinations, torture, rape, maiming, forced displacement of Oromo people, burning of homesteads, destruction of harvests, looting of properties, land grab by the government entities became the rule, not the exception. Moreover, to hide these crimes from the international communities, the Ethiopian government repeatedly cut off the internet, electricity, and telephone services in many areas of Oromia.

As if the crimes committed under the command posts were not enough, on April 9, 2022, Abiy Ahmed's government officially declared an all-out war against the Oromo people and Oromia, using the pretext of eliminating the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). It should be noted that the Oromo people love and support OLA because it provides the protection they badly need for their lives, homes, properties, identity, human dignity, and all the rights the Ethiopian government denies them. We want the international community to know that members of OLA are the young, educated, and enlightened people who successfully toppled the notorious EPRDF government and brought Abiy Ahmed to power through a non-violent struggle over four years ago. They joined OLA as soon as they noticed that Abiy turned out to be their existential enemy instead of the trusted ally they expected him to be.

Contrary to the Ethiopian parliament's false claims and the declaration that OLA is a terrorist entity, Abiy Ahmed recently informed the parliamentarians that OLA enjoys the full support of the Oromo people, nonetheless dismissing the organization as nothing but a nuisance.

The recent official declaration of total war against the Oromo people by Abiy Ahmed is nothing but the implementation of his government's policy of "Drying Out the Sea to Kill the Fish." This approach was pronounced on national television by Mr. Fekadu Tessema, a high-ranking Prosperity Party operative and government official. Mr. Fekadu's policy statement clearly showed that his government plans to slaughter millions of innocent Oromo civilians (OLA supporters) since eradicating OLA is impossible without killing millions of the Oromo population (the sea). A case in point is the gruesome and indiscriminate killing and burning of homes, farms of parents and siblings of suspected OLA members, all reported by several human rights defenders. All these are unique identifiers of Abiy Ahmed's lawlessness and predisposition to commit war crimes and crime against humanity.

As part of the strategy of waging a total war against the Oromo people, Abiy Ahmed's government incites inter-communal violence by deploying special forces and militia from other regional states, including Fano, a terrorist vigilante group from the Amhara region. With the approval of Abiy's government, Fano and other forces of the Amhara region have repeatedly crossed into Oromia; Wallagga, Karrayyuu, Walloo, and Central Oromia, killing and maiming thousands of Oromo civilians. In addition, they razed down homes, displaced millions of children, women, and the elderly, and looted their properties. All of this is intended to evict the Oromo people from their ancestral land and expand the territories of the Amhara Regional State.

In addition to implementing the expansionist policy of Amhara extremists, Abiy's government is intentionally creating animosity and causing disharmony amongst neighboring Cushitic populations, such as the Somali, the Sidama, Afar, and the other Regional States, by deliberately deploying special forces and militia from these regions into Oromia, to participate in killing orgy of Oromo civilians.

We know that the UN, the EU, the AU, the US, and other world governments have been calling on Abiy Ahmed to end hostilities, negotiate a ceasefire, and take concrete steps towards an all-inclusive peaceful political dialogue and settlement. But instead, Abiy, known for his lies and deceptions, has successfully maneuvered all the emissaries, telling them whatever they want to hear and doing precisely the opposite on the ground.

Abiy's declaration of an all-out war against the Oromo people and Oromia demonstrates his utter disregard for the international community's calls, his disinterest to heed all international appeals, and his unwillingness to make peace is a case in point. His intensification of military operations in Oromia is a deliberate and direct action against every international community's effort to bring peace to Ethiopia. Moreover, excluding OLA and the Tigray Defense Force (TDF) from Abiy Ahmed's single-party initiative called "National Dialogue," already rejected by most stakeholders, shows the regime's dug-in policy of destruction and no peace. Abiy Ahmed is perpetrating a genocidal war in Oromia similar to the one he committed in Tigray, with the support of the Eritrean army, Amhara Fano, and other neighboring Regional States militia.

Thus, we call upon the US government and the international community to condemn Abiy's madness, stop him from continuing a devastating war on the Oromo people and Oromia immediately and unconditionally, and compel him to negotiate with OLA for a peaceful outcome, as he is doing now secretly with TDF. The ongoing genocidal war will disintegrate Ethiopia and lead to the worst crisis in the Horn of Africa if the international community and the UN standby and watch the slaughter of innocent Oromo civilians, destruction of properties and infrastructure that has already triggered a devastating famine and a freefalling economy.

We also call upon the Somali, Sidama, Afar, and the other Regional States to refrain from being used by Abiy Ahmed. His sole motive is to stay in control indefinitely by sowing hatred, violence, and disharmony among our brotherly populations.

Finally, we call upon the Oromo people to continue standing in unison, reject, oppose, and resist Abiy's war of genocide and fully defend its political, economic, social, human rights and national interests.

Sincerely,

Oromia Global Forum