



Oromia Global Forum

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RE: OGF strongly condemns the barbaric acts of horror and state-sponsored terrorism orchestrated by the Ethiopian government and Amhara Fano terrorists

Oromia Global Forum ([OGF](#)) - a global alliance of Oromo civic, professional, faith-based organizations, prominent human rights defenders and activists, residing in North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa, condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the recent horrific slaying of 31+ innocent Oromo civilians in Dincho village, Gidda Ayana district, East Wollega Zone in Western Oromia, Ethiopia, by the Amhara FANO terrorist group.

The horrifying event occurred on September 15, 2023, a day after an ethnic Amhara Ethiopian Defense Force (ENDF) member, stationed in a military camp on the Amhara Region side of the border between the Amhara and Oromia Regions, defected to the FANO group, crossed over to Oromia and murdered a mini-bus driver, Mohammedo Mohammed, and wounded two other civilians- Abara Abdissa, a teacher and Imiru Tolera, a farmer.¹

Using the incident as an excuse, members of the ENDF stationed in the same camp invaded Gidda Ayana and conducted what amounted to a terror campaign, under the pretext of conducting a law-and-order operation targeting the FANO group they blamed for the earlier killings. On September 15, the FANO group launched yet another wave of massacre, attacking passengers traveling from Naqamte to Gidda Ayana for the funeral of the driver killed on September 14. In a brutal and barbaric fashion, the attackers sprayed the passengers with bullets and slit their throats in a gruesome killing spree, with the first count of 11 Oromo civilians dead. And many more wounded. According to an eyewitness account, young men were specifically targeted for the killing. At the end of the horrific attack, a total of 31 people were reported dead at the site.



The Ethiopian Government constituted, trained, armed, and deployed FANO, along with the Ethiopia's National Defense Force (ENDF) and the Amhara regional forces, during the civil war in Northern Ethiopia that lasted from November 2020 through November 2022². While Fano is targeting and killing the Oromo civilians in various regions of Oromia, the Ethiopian government is manipulating the situation and orchestrating the killings for its own political benefits. These attacks are often carried out by forces who are dressed in Federal police and ENDF uniforms. Moreover, the Abiy government has been conducting a hidden war on the Oromo people since it came to power. Therefore, the Ethiopian government bears the responsibility for the killings, directly or indirectly.

It is worth mentioning that the US State department asserts⁶ “Members of the Amhara forces also committed the crime against humanity of deportation or forcible transfer and committed ethnic cleansing in western Tigray”. Both during and after the war, FANO has expanded its operations throughout Oromia, conducting daily extrajudicial killings, targeting Oromo civilians. Currently, the group appears to openly coordinate its genocidal terror campaign in close consultation with and participation of Amhara residents of major Oromia cities and diaspora Amhara extremists around the world.^{3,4,5} This is a recipe for an extreme blood shade, probably never seen in the country’s recent history. This destructive force must be stopped and stopped immediately.

Reputed international observers predict Ethiopia is on a path to a failed state if it is not there already. The sharpening and deepening animosity between the country’s major ethnic groups, especially between the Amhara and Oromo is likely to accelerate the process. The Amhara elites and extremists’ have asserted their commitment to turn the clock back to the feudal system, with Amhara hegemony entrenched all over Ethiopia. For instance, the FANO’s spokesperson in the United States, Major Dawit W/Giorgis⁶, recently declared his group’s vision of Ethiopia as a country molded by Amhara only for Amhara. They seek to accomplish this through ethnic cleansing, by rejecting negotiated peaceful settlement with the other nations and nationalities. By contrast, Oromo’s and other nationalities’ position is to defend their homeland, identity, integrity, culture, and language by all means necessary. Accordingly, unless the international community intervenes and does so urgently, the country faces imminent bloody dissolution.

The OGF thus wish to take this opportunity to appeal to the international community, especially the U.S. Government, EU, AU, UN Human Rights Commission, and International Development Banks such as the IMF and WB to use their respective financial and diplomatic leverages to compel the Ethiopian Government to protect the safety and security of civilians in Oromia and throughout the country in the immediate future and resolve the conflict ravaging the region through negotiated settlement involving the Oromo Liberation Front urgently.

References:

¹ <https://addisstandard.com/news-armed-men-assault-on-civilians-in-western-oromia-leaves-several-dead-injured/>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/may/30/more-than-4000-arrested-in-amhara-as-ethiopia-cracks-down-on-militia>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tmz0zkanauM>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wioh6XO8QhY>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzNbyRC75jU>

⁶ <https://www.state.gov/war-crimes-crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-in-ethiopia/>

Signatories - OGF Member Organizations

1. Advocacy4Oromia
2. Bilal Oromo Dawa Center
3. Canaan Oromo Evangelical Church
4. Charismatic International Fellowship Church

- 5 DMV Oromo Islamic Center
- 6 Gaadisa Sabboontottaa KP
- 7 Global Gumii Oromial
- 8 Global Waaqeffannaa Council
- 9 Gurmuu Hayyoota Oromoo
10. Horn of Africa Genocide Watch
- 11 Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa
- 12 Mana Kiristaanaa Fayyisaa Addunyaa
- 13 Network of Oromo Studies
- 14 Oromia Support Group
- 15 Oromo Communities' Association of North America
16. Oromo Community of Columbus Ohio
- 17 Oromo Community of Oslo
- 18 Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society
- 19 Oromo Human Rights and Relief Organization
- 20 Oromo Human Rights Organization
- 21 Oromo Relief Organization, ORA in USA
- 22 Oromo Seniors Welfare & Benevolent Association In Victoria (OSWBAV) Inc.
- 23 Oromo Society of Science and Technology
- 24 Oromo Women Association UK
- 25 Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church
- 26 Tawfiq Islamic Center
- 27 Tumsa Sochii Haqa Oromoo
- 28 Union of Oromo Communities in Canada
- 29 United Oromo Chirstian Church in Australia
- 30 United Oromo Evangelical Church
- 31 Washington DC Metropolitan Oromo SDA Church