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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Sacrilege in East Showa: Ethnic cleansing by Amhara supremacists as Ethiopia collapses into chaos**

Ethiopian government forces attacked a Gadaa religious ceremony in Karrayu, East Showa on December 1<sup>st</sup>. They beat and abducted the Abbaa Gadaa - traditional head of religious, social, legal and economic affairs, other Gadaa and community leaders and young men. All the celebrants were unarmed, apart from traditional weapons which were stripped from them. **Forty one were beaten and taken away. The bodies of 14, including the Abbaa Gadaa, Jiloo Didoo (right) were found next day.** Two had escaped, leaving **25 others unaccounted for and feared dead.**



Report 58 of the Oromia Support Group, which is released today, includes information about this episode of ethnic cleansing of Oromo by government forces in East Showa (p.10), and ethnic cleansing by Amhara Region Militia of Oromo villages in East Wallega (p.21), of Kemant people in Amhara Region (p.17), and of Gumuz people in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (p.23). The clearance of Oromo farmers from Oromia Special Zone and adjacent zones of Amhara Region was reported in OSG Reports 56 (p.7) and 57 (p.10).

Amhara chauvinism and supremacism is also responsible for the 'genocidal rhetoric' of Abiy Ahmed (p.4) and in speeches by members of the Amhara Region Militia (p.3), the ethnic profiling and arrests of Oromo and Tigray people in and around the capital (p.4), and the ethnic cleansing of all of Amhara Region's neighbours by its regional militia (Tigray, Oromo, Gumuz) and of Agaw and Kemant residents within Amhara Region.

The resurgence of Amhara supremacism and ethno-nationalism began before the invasion of Tigray in November 2020. Abiy's peace deal with Eritrea, for which he was made a Nobel

**The December 1, 2021, attack by Ethiopian government forces against a Karrayu religious ceremony is like throwing a hand grenade into the Vatican, the House of Representatives, and the Supreme Court all at once.**

Laureate, was part of his plan to subjugate and lead a united Ethiopia, with none of the limited regional autonomy which was granted under EPRDF rule.

Ultimately, it is ethnic supremacism which underpins the portrayal of Ethiopia in the image of Amhara culture, religion, script, calendar and language. This has caused the centuries-long subjugation of the majority peoples of Ethiopia, at the cost of millions of lives and decades of missed development.

The current failure of Ethiopia - the collapse of its economy and infrastructure, inflation, unemployment, hundreds of thousands of political detainees, forced conscription, war and famine - is due to the failure of Amhara political elites to realise that the days of conquest and oppression are over.

Unfortunately, the African Union and USA power-brokers, intent on ending the conflict in Tigray, are also centuries behind in their thinking. Ethiopia's problems cannot and will not be solved by the northern belligerents - Tigray and Amhara - on their own.

In concert with Oromo human rights, advocacy and community groups around the world, the Oromia Support Group calls for a Dialogue which is defined, organised and run by the majority, oppressed peoples of Ethiopia, and which leads to the formation of transitional administrations for all the regions of Ethiopia.

As pointed out by [Alex DeWaal](#), the Oromo have 'the state at their feet. It is for them to determine Ethiopia's political settlement for a generation or longer.' All the oppressed peoples of Ethiopia and all international observers agree that Ethiopia's chronic insecurity and violence between its government and people can only be resolved by dialogue and the establishment of a political structure for its citizens by common agreement and consensus.

**Meanwhile, refugees are dying** because of the policies of the Ethiopian government. Oromo refugees are dying in detention in Saudi Arabia (p.31), in the desert in Yemen (p.34), in Djibouti (p.38), Somaliland (p.35) and Libya (p.41), being beaten in Egypt (p.40) or scared to move in Sudan (p.41). UNHCR is refusing refugee status to Oromo asylum-seekers anywhere and deportations are occurring from Djibouti and Somaliland (pp.36-39).

And, of course, the **killing of members of Qerroo continues**; the Oromo youth movement which brought down the EPRDF and allowed Abiy Ahmed to seize power continues to be systematically eliminated. OSG Report 58 includes accounts of detainees being tortured to death, killed in police custody, taken from prisons and executed or just shot on the street. For example, three civilians, including a 5 month pregnant woman, were executed after one week in incommunicado detention on 12 November; three students were taken from police custody and executed on 18 November (p.9).

The Oromia Support Group has now recorded **2701 killings of civilians** in Ethiopia by Ethiopian government security forces since October 2018, excluding the killings in Tigray and Afar Regions. 1905 of these killings have been of Oromo, 1548 were killed in 2020 and 2021.

The security of Oromo political detainees is a cause for concern. Oromo Federalist Congress detainees in Kaliti are at risk (p.17). Oromo Liberation Front detainees, in unofficial places of detention, are in greater peril of torture and abuse, away from the public eye (pp.13-17).