
PRESS RELEASE

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Citizens pay the price as terror reigns in Oromia: Time for Western Foreign Policy on Ethiopia to change direction

August has brought more abuse to Oromia, as the 27 June [pact between Amhara and Oromia Regional Presidents to eliminate OLA](#) began to bear fruit and the troops which arrived in columns from Amhara Region tore into Oromo communities, killing and burning.

As shown in the information which follows, abuses against ordinary Oromo are committed for two reasons; to eradicate the support base for OLA and to clear Oromo from areas claimed by Amhara region forces. They are driven in hundreds of thousands from their homelands; millions are hungry; thousands are dying; agriculture and commerce halted.

The failure of western foreign policy to achieve peace and stability in the country, and therefore region, is due to its failure to engage with, or even acknowledge, the opinions and wishes of Ethiopia's majority peoples.

There must be a fundamental re-alignment of western thinking and policy regarding Ethiopia; beginning with a casting off of preconceptions and myths about the greatness of an empire which was in truth based on slavery and extortion of the majority of its peoples.

The current humanitarian disaster, though exacerbated by four years of drought, is man-made. Resilient and potentially productive areas are now places of famine and displacement.

The failure of US and European foreign policy is due to its blind-spot; its gaze diverted and vision clouded by deliberate disinformation so that the voices of its majority peoples – the resources for Ethiopia's potentially great future – are ignored.

A complete ceasefire is imperative. In order to establish, as well as engage with, civil society, military command posts must be dismantled and civilian administration re-established. Only then will unhindered access for vital humanitarian aid be possible.

At the same time as the hungry and displaced should be receiving much-needed assistance, they deserve the acknowledgement of their stories; their tales of fleeing from ethnic cleansing by Amhara region militias and of escaping execution by government forces for being 'associates' of OLA, the Oromo Liberation Army.

It is time for US and European stakeholders to recognise that OLA is a legitimate defensive force, largely derived from the peaceful pro-democracy Qeerroo movement. Not only was the

unique achievement of Qeerroo – the toppling of an authoritative regime by peaceful organised protest – never given appropriate recognition; the systematic execution of its members by government soldiers operating from military command posts has also never been acknowledged by media or human rights bodies. Having been forced to the bush to join OLA, the Qeerroo generation are now subjected to vicious disinformation campaigns in order to deny them a voice at any negotiation table.

It is not too late to re-ignite the pro-democracy fervour which spread from Oromia, where it cost thousands of lives between 2014 and 2018. All the movement needs is an international audience which understands and acknowledges it, so that grassroots democracy can be respected and planned into the design and execution of any dialogue process leading to peace.

The misunderstandings about the oppression and frustration of the ignored majority peoples of Ethiopia – Oromo, Sidama, Somali, Walaita, Gumuz, Anywak, Qemant, Agaw and many others – and the labelling of OLA and other legitimate defence forces as ‘terrorists’ and ‘abusers of human rights’ have their origins ultimately in the fear and insecurity felt by Amhara people which is amplified in the echo chamber of the Ethiopianist/Amhara propaganda machine.

The effect of hate speech, which is what false flag atrocities such as the mass killings in Tole encourage and produce, is to increase the likelihood of ethnic conflict rather than encourage dialogue between equals. The likelihood of ethnic conflict on a biblical scale increases with every piece of disinformation.

Oromo political and civil society organisations welcome open, inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders. OSG calls on all regional and national forces to return to their bases and allow unrestricted aid into Ethiopia while dialogue is encouraged.

All Oromo advocacy and human rights groups, Oromo political organisations and the Oromo Liberation Army, welcome independent, impartial and thorough investigation and reporting of all human rights abuses in Ethiopia.

Oromo civil and political society invite constructive dialogue and mutual understanding with all peoples and bodies which desire representative democracy and a peaceful and equitable outcome to Ethiopia’s crises, working together to build a stable political system agreed by its peoples.

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Recent killings and burning of property

Killings

On 4 August, federal soldiers and Amhara 'Shield of the Regime' militia **shot dead ten** residents of Kobor, Begi district, W Wallega (*Gadado* 5 August and [FNN News 12 August](#)).

Some were named by FNN:

Biranu Bekele
Sadiko Abdulle
Yadata Daffissa
Abdalla Qamato
Ayu Jibril
Qana Shiber
Haada Wara
Obbo Taha
Haji Yunus



Brothers, **Moti and Lammi Dhaba** (right), were visiting their parents during their summer vacation in Guddinaa Calliyaa village, Gida Ayana district, E Wallega, when they were **shot dead** by government soldiers on 4 August. 'They were not involved in politics.' (*Gadado* 4 August).



Addisu Tafara, 8th grade student (left), 'was **killed** on the way home from his farm in Kiramu district' E Wallega on 4 August. 'His body was thrown into the river and left behind, locals said.' (*Gadado* 5 August.)

On August 5, 2022, **Habte Biranu** (right), a young man who was detained in Daduu town police station, Hababo Guduru district, Horo Guduru Wallega, 'was **killed** by the town policemen at



2:30 pm' and his body 'thrown outside' (*Gadado* 7 August).

On 5 August, previously unrecorded killings were reported to OSG by *Gadado*. 'They are still taking Oromo children out of prison and killing them and throwing them in the fields.'



Out of more than **11 people taken from prison and summarily executed** by government soldiers in and around Nekemte, E Wallega, were three killed in Guliso village, in neighbouring Sibu Sire district.

On 9 June, at 8.00 pm, **Wolelinye (Mammush) Elias** was abducted from the bus station, beaten, detained and tortured. His home was searched and

his wife arrested although nothing was found at his home. He was then taken from prison **with two others**, including a man from Sire town, and **executed**. Their bodies were left 'in a field' and 'eaten by animals' (above).

The killings were ordered and sanctioned by the district administrator and the chief of police, according to local sources.

Destruction of property, more killings

There has been an upsurge in properties being destroyed ostensibly because they belong to suspected supporters of OLA and of homes razed in episodes of ethnic cleansing by Fano and regular Amhara region militia.



[Video recording](#) of Amhara-speaking militia burning Gumuz homes and produce in Metekel zone of Benishangul-Gumuz Region (screenshots above) was sent by the *Gadado* network on 2 August.

Gadado reported 6 August that Fano militia, ‘cooperating’ with government forces, attacked a village in Amuru district, Horo Guduru Wallega on 4 August.

The Fano brigade ‘looted more than 100 horned cattle and 50 sheep from the people and drove them away’. They **brutally murdered** an 8-month pregnant woman named **Yimalee Andu’alem and her 3 year-old child** while they were fleeing in the forest.’

On 5 August, government troops, ‘in the name of destroying “Shanee” . . . in Warra Jaarsoo district’, N Showa, burned and destroyed homes and contents belonging to:

Dabala Molla

Tasfayee Molla

Nagash Abbas

Tade Dame – two homes

Boja Abbas

Boja Molee

Zallaqa Taddala – two homes

Unknown – two homes and 50 ‘rabbit cages’

Taddala – two homes and eight quintals of grain

Lama – two homes, seven quintals of grain and over 70 ‘rabbit cages’

Unknown – two homes.

‘There are also people whose houses and properties were burnt down whose names have not been identified . . . Families whose homes and properties were destroyed are scattered in the fields’ (*Gadado* 7 August).

Military occupation of Oromia

Gadado forwarded information from Oromia on 11 August that schools, especially in rural areas (as shown



right), were being emptied of students and occupied by government soldiers who have been sent to root out and destroy OLA and its associates, [as predicted](#) in May. *Sagalee Qeerroo* reported that this was occurring and disrupting education throughout the zones of Wallega and Showa and in Guji and Borana zones.