

**Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review 47th session
(4 – 15 Nov 2024)
Universal Periodic Review of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

Submitted by :



Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience (CAP LC)

CAP Liberté de Conscience is a secular European created in 1995 and dedicated to protect the Right of Freedom of Religion and Belief. We combats all forms of discrimination based on religion or belief by alerting European and International bodies. We collects testimonies of discrimination and human rights violations affecting religious or belief communities in order to disseminate them to international bodies, and in order to raise

awareness and inform them as well as to generate debate on the protection of Freedom of Religion and Belief.

contact@coordiap.com

117, rue de Charenton 75012 Paris France

<https://freedomofconscience.eu/>



STOP AMHARA GENOCIDE

Stop Amhara Genocide works to end the genocide of the Amharas in Ethiopia. At its core, our mission is to advocate within the United Nations, the European Union and the African Union to put pressure on members of states and various human rights institutions to take action to end this genocide.

yodith.gideon@stopamharagenocide.com

<https://www.stopamharagenocide.com/>

Introduction

Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic country with over 76 different groups. The Amhara people are one of the largest ethnic groups with a history spanning over 4000 years in Ethiopia, distributed across various regions of the country. However, they have been impacted significantly by targeted attacks, displacement, and grave human rights violations. This report aims to address the widespread abuses faced by the Amhara community throughout Ethiopia,.

Many observers and human rights organisations now speak of a veritable genocide against the Amharas. This report aims to document these abuses, analyse their root causes and make recommendations underscoring the urgent need for intervention to protect their rights and safeguard their existence in all parts of the country in the context of the Universal Periodic Review.

The exact number of victims of the Amhara Genocide remains unknown due to the dangerous conditions hindering data collection, particularly as these killings are organised and implemented by the government.

For the past 34 years, there has been a systematic pre-genocide preparation against the Amhara people, particularly during the EPRDF era, where the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) held significant power and influence. The TPLF, along with the Oromo Democratic Party (ODPO), the Oromo wing of the EPRDF, actively participated in orchestrating this project. During the first 27 years, the killing and marginalisation of the Amhara were carried out covertly. Immediately after TPLF secured (pre Constitution (adopted December 1994)) governmental power in 1991, the Raya-Alamata and Welkaitwere annexed into the Tigray region. These lands have been ruled as southern and western parts of Tigray for three decades.

It is estimated that around 3 million Amhara lives were lost during those years.

After the Oromo wing took the upper hand in 2018, the Amhara people faced mass killings, ethnic cleansing mass displacements, and unprecedented warfare.

- **The pre-genocide preparation was carried out in the following manner:**
 - False narrative accusing the Amhara population of all grievances and painting the poor Amhara farming population as oppressors of other ethnic groups broadcasting via government-owned mass media, government meetings, schools, and educational materials including the Constitution. This has created ostracism & hatred of Amharas from the political discourse. This has created hatred of Amharas by other ethnic groups, further exacerbated by dehumanisation tactics such as calling the whole population 'Donkey,' 'Nefteгна,' 'Timkihtegna,' 'Qomata' 'yeMenelik Sefari', 'Fota Lebash', 'Jawesa' .
 - Limiting Amharas to a portion of land called the Amhara Region and disenfranchising over 20 million Amharas living outside of that region to reinforce their subjugation.
 - Amharas who did not want to join the EPRDF party lost jobs and opportunities for education and business.
 - Sterilising Amhara women without their consent through mechanisms of community health programme.
 - Lack of accountability for violence and savagery against the Amhara community and no justice for the crimes committed against them.
 - Undercounting the Amhara population to avoid accountability for the number of Amharas killed, limiting budget resources, delaying access to seeds and fertilizers, practicing different interest rates for loans in the Amhara Region, and

imposing higher tax collection in order to impoverish the Amhara population.

- o Killing Amhara men, forcing and raping their wives, and forcibly marrying them off to TPLF forces, who then seize land and properties in Welkait and Raya areas.
- o Eliminating any voices that warned against the aforementioned genocidal signs. For instance, Professor Astrat Weldeyes was jailed, denied medicine, and subsequently died. Others who spoke out against these injustices were also jailed, tortured, disappeared and killed. This suppression of dissent further perpetuated by government's oppressive tactics, controlled narrative and hindering efforts to expose and address the ongoing atrocities.
- o TPLF hand-picking bishops, including the Patriarch. This move is aimed at gaining full control over the Orthodox Church, enabling government forces to manipulate and potentially abuse the institution without internal opposition. Such actions are part of a broader strategy that includes the destruction of the church from within, contributing to the erosion of what they consider Amhara culture and beliefs.

Post the 2005 election whereby TPLF led a heavy loss across Ethiopia and specially in Addis Ababa, rigging the outcome led to mass violence and killings of innocent people in Addis Ababa, abuses, and torture against journalists and public figures in various regions, including in the Amhara. TPLF then started changing its handling drastically coupled with rapid face-lifting policy reform, investment, surveillance, and implementing antiterrorism programmes.

Since 2016 and the wave of demonstrations against the central government that shook Ethiopia, there has been an upsurge in ethnic violence, particularly against the Amharas. Here is a non-exhaustive list of the main massacres:

- July 2016: at least 30 Amharas killed by members of the mobs of Oromo ethnic group in Wolqait
- 14–16 September 2018: Burayu massacre: At least 65 people were killed out of which some were from the Amhara ethnic group by mobs of Oromo youth and Oromo Liberation Army
- September 2018: 58 Amharas massacred in Benishangul-Gumuz
- June 2019: 250 Amharas killed in attacks in Oromia
- October 2019: 31 Amharas executed by an armed Oromo group
- 30 June–2 July 2020: Shashemene massacre of at least 240 civilians mostly from Amhara ethnic group by mobs of Oromo youth and Oromo Liberation Army
- 4-5 September 2020: Bulan massacre of 150 Amhara civilian deaths in Metekel Zone in Benishangul-Gumuz by ethnic Gumuz militias
- 12 October 2020: 40 Amhara civilians killed in Metekel Zone in Benishangul-Gumuz by ethnic Gumuz militias

- 2 November 2020: Gawa Qanqa massacre killing 32-54 Amhara civilians in West Wellega by Oromo Liberation Army
- 14 November 2020: Passenger bus attack between Wenbera and Chagni in Benishangul-Gumuz killed at least 34 Amhara civilians by ethnic Gumuz militias
- 22–23 December 2020: Metekel massacre where 222 mostly Amhara civilians were killed by Gumuz militias
- November 2020: over 100 Amharas civilians massacred in Benishangul-Gumuz
- 9–10 November 2020: Mai Kadra massacre of 1500 Amhara civilians in Mai Kadra (Humera) killed by Tigran youth called Samri and Tigrayan Police
- 23 December 2020: at least 100 Amhara civilians were massacred in Bulen district of Metekel Zone Bekuji locality by Oromo regional state structure teamed up with Benishangul Gumuz region administration, including the region's president Ashadly Hassan.
- 7 January 2021: Debate district massacre in Balite kebele of Benishangul Gumuz region which killed at least 60 Amhara civilians and 22 wounded by Oromo Liberation Army Shene and Buadin (Gumuz Liberation Army)
- 12 January 2021: Daletti massacre in Benishangul-Gumuz of 80 Amhara civilians killed by unknown assailants
- 18–31 March 2021: Ataye massacre of 303 Amhara civilians killed and 269 injured by Oromo militias and Oromo Liberation Army
- 16–18 April 2021: Ataye massacre of 281 Amhara civilians killed and 197 injured by Oromo militias and Oromo Liberation Army
- 23 July 2021: Raya Kobo Wereda 11 Amhara civilians killed by TPLF militia
- 24 July 2021: Aderkay Wereda occupation during which at least 89 Amhara civilians were killed and at least 100 girls were raped by TPLF militia
- 6-29 August 2021: Meket Massacre of 160 Amhara civilians by TPLF militia
- 9 August 2021: Mersa and Habru Massacre of 102 Amhara civilians by TPLF militia
- 28 August- 29 September 2021: in Horo Guduru Wellega Zone, in East Wellega 34 Amhara civilians were killed and 7 injured by Oromo Liberation Army
- 30 August – 7 September 2021: in Were Babu wereda of 25 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defence Forces in the Amhara Region
- 31 August – 4 September 2021: Chenna massacre of 200 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defence Forces in and around the village of Chenna Teklehaymanot in the Amhara Region
- 1-2 September 2021: Debark massacre in Amhara Region of 120 Amhara civilians were killed by the Tigray Defence Forces

- 9 September 2021: Kobo massacre of more than 600 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defence Forces
- 20 October-7 December 2021: Tehuledere and Haik massacre of 218 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defence Forces
- 30 October 2021: Kombolcha massacre of 200 Amhara civilian youth mass extrajudicial and summary execution by the Tigray Defense Forces in South Wollo, in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia.
- 1 November- 19 December 2021: South Wollo massacre of 105 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defence Forces
- 2 December 2021: Antsokiya Gemza massacre of 66 Amhara civilians perpetrated by the Tigray Defence Forces and Oromo Liberation Army
- December 2021: Gidami Woreda Massacre where 160 Amhara civilians were killed by Oromo Liberation Army
- 18 June 2022: Tole-Gimbi massacre where 3000 Amhara civilians were killed by Oromo Liberation Army
- 4 July 2022: Kelem Wellega massacre: 308 Amhara civilians were killed by Oromo Liberation Army
- 25 May 2023: Debre-Elias Monastery massacre in Amhara region killed 570 Amhara civilians by military assault by the Ethiopian Defence Force.
- 29–30 January 2024: Merawi massacre of 100 Amhara civilians summarily executed by Ethiopian armed forces

Genocide committed on Amhara children

- Another female eye witness report from Wellega: “It is not Shene. It is the local officials at the Wereda who told us that all Amharic speakers must leave their area. They slaughtered the **children** and women. There was one woman who was 9-month pregnant. He cut her belly open, took out her **baby** and handed it to her, without her going into labour. They inserted sticks in the vagina of the **teenage girls**, those in their puberty and committed atrocities on them until they murder them by beheading them. It is the Oromia special forces who attacked us during the night at 4:00 am. They got us out of our houses and beat us up. Many of the elderly people and **children** were thrown into ditches. There are currently so many wounded **children** in the hospitals.
- Female eye witness report from Kellem Wellega now an IDP with her children: “A truck full of armed men came to our village with the order to seek all Amharic speakers and destroy them. They restricted our movements for 4 months and prevented us from fetching water and firewood. After witnessing the slaughter of 17 Amhara people and their body burnt by the local authorities, the women walked through the wilds for 3 to 4 days with the children crying from hunger and exhaustion.

- Female eye witness account of the June 2022 Wellega OLF massacre; “ I found myself among the many dead bodies, when I looked up I saw a *girl* of around 6 years surrounded by armed men. Even if I was close by, they did not pay attention to me. They were talking to the *girl* in Amharic. They were talking to her and laughing very loudly. Finally, I heard the child scream: “Welahi, I will not be Amhara again”. What I heard next was the sound of multiple gunshots. They all shot at her tiny body.
- According to Commissioner Abere Adamu in 2019, in Metekel a pregnant woman belly was cut open and her *baby* eaten by the local people.
- Amhara people were also the greatest victims of the war by the Federal Government with the TPLF. According to media and Amnesty International reports, fighters affiliated with the TPLF deliberately killed Amhara people, gang-raped women and girls – some as young as 14 and as old as 72.
- In the most recent attack of Debre Elias Selassie Monastery in East Gojam (Amhara Region) conducted on May 27 2023, the ENDF/OLF/OLA army bombed the monastery as part of the government's operation to arrest Eskinder Nega, a peaceful resistance fighter. The clashes which were centered in a local monastery have left around 95 percent of the estimated 600 people who used to live in the monastery dead, injured or dispersed, DW reported citing eyewitnesses. More than 100 civilians visiting the monastery for health purposes were massacred; **32 out of the 40 orphan children** who were raised and educated at the monastery were also massacred.
- Identity-based home demolitions in Addis Abeba have left close to 500 000 Amhara people homeless. *Children* coming back from school were left destitute with and have been seen sleeping in the streets with their families. A family whose houses were demolished had also their baby eaten by hyenas.

Kidnapping, rape and brutal murder targeting Amhara University students in Oromia:

Dembi Dollo university: In 2019, 17 Amhara students (13 girls and 4 boys) were kidnapped from the University of Dembi Dollo and initially held at a location called Shinde are still not accounted for; **2 female students** were raped out of which one was gang raped by 7 men and was taken to Addis Abeba Black Lion hospital where she died due to her injuries. This resulted to close to 35 000 Amhara students dropping out of universities in Oromia.

Meda Walebu University: 1000 Amhara students had their academic records destroyed; 150 female students were beaten; 30 female students were kidnapped and held at a TekleHaymanot Monastery.

Oda Bultu University: 60 students had their academic records destroyed; 151 female students were beaten.

Haromaya University: **20 female students** were beaten; **24 female students** were held hostage in their dormitories; 134 were kidnapped from public transportations at Dengego and Kobo. After checking their ID, all Amhara students were taken out of the public transportation and never seen again; 7 of the *female students* were raped.

Jima University: 40 students had their academic records destroyed; 14 *female students* were beaten; 80 *female students* were held hostage while trying to leave the university following threats on the lives of Amhara students.

Dire Dawa University: 200 students had their academic records destroyed; one *female student* was gang raped by 4 people.

Arsi University: 60 female students were beaten.

Mass Arrests, Arbitrary Detentions, and Media Crackdowns

1. In September 2018, the Ethiopian government arrested approximately 1,700 individuals around the capital, Addis Ababa, following their condemnation of the door-to-door mass killings in Burayu, reportedly committed by the Oromo Queero group. These individuals were subsequently kept prisoner at the Tolai military camp, known for its difficult nature and infestation of vipers. The camp's harsh conditions raised additional concerns regarding the treatment and safety of the detainees.
2. Temesgen Desalegn: Arrested on May 26, 2022, from his office in Addis Ababa. Accused of inciting violence and public disturbance. Held for 5 months and 21 days without immediate release despite bail granted on July 4, 2022.
3. Yayesew Shimelis: Arrested on May 26, 2022, from his home in Addis Ababa. Accused of instigating rebellion and discord among religious groups.
4. Abay Zewdu: Detained twice, first on July 18, 2021, for 10 days, and then on September 10, 2022, for 24 days. Charges not specified.
5. Meskerem Abera: Arrested on May 21, 2022, released after 23 days. Re-arrested on December 13, 2022, released on January 5, 2023. Charges include dividing the national defense force and spreading hate.
6. Meaza Mohammed: Detained three times, with the latest arrest on September 7, 2022, for 37 days. Charges include inciting a riot.
7. Gobeze Sisay: Detained twice, first in May 2022 for 9 days, and then in August 2022 for 64 days. Charges include disclosing secrets of the national defense force.
8. Ashara Media and Nisir International Broadcasting Corporation journalists: Arrested on May 19-20, 2022, detained for 49 days. Accused of inciting violence against the government.
9. Tadios Tantu: Arrested on May 5, 2021, with bail paid but not released. Rearrested in May 19, 2022, with bail paid but not released. Charges include inciting disobedience among national defense force personnel and attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.
10. On 19-20 May 2022, security personnel in Bahir Dar city of Ethiopia's Amhara Region raided the studios of two media outlets, Ashara Media and Nisir International. The officers arrested several reporters and administrative workers. They also illegally seized media and office equipment. Three Ashara Media journalists Gashaye Nigussie, Getinet Yalew, and Habtamu Melese were arbitrarily detained. In addition, videographer and camera operators Kelemu Gelagay and Daniel Mesfin were also detained by regional security forces. Nisir

International Broadcasting Corporation journalists Haile-Mariam Tizazu, Yared Awoke, and another staffer were detained by security personnel from the Amhara Region.

11. Alex Sheger was arrested and taken to a local police station in Addis Abeba.
12. Dawit Begashaw was kidnapped from a hotel in Bahir Dar and later flown to Addis Abeba by helicopter.
13. The arrest of more than 4,000 people in the northern Amhara region of Ethiopia, as reported by local state media in May 2023, reflects a broader crackdown by Ethiopian authorities. This crackdown targeted Fanos, critics, and members of the press.

Drone Attacks

1. August 7, 2023 a drone attack on Debre Birhan, led to civilian casualties and significant damage to properties.
2. August 14, 2023, in Finote Selam, at least 30 people had died in a suspected air strike by federal forces. In total 4 people died at the hospital, in addition 22 either died at the scene or on their way to hospital. Also 55 people were treated for injuries sustained in the explosion, 40 were gravely injured.
3. Drone attacks on Monday, September 4, 2023 killed more than 11 innocent citizens on Moseba Shime Abo Kebele Hall, Bibune District, East Gojam Zone.
4. Drone attacks on Monday, September 4, 2023 killed more than 9 innocent civilians in Arafa Madhanemalem Kebele, Dega Damot District, West Gojam Zone.
5. On Sunday September 17 2023 a drone attack was carried in Quarit, in Amhara Region. Civilians walking together were targeted in one of the attacks, and at least 30 of them were killed.
6. On September 17, 2023, at least 18 civilians were also killed in another drone strike in Dembecha town of Western Gojam, as they were returning from church service. The attack took place near Michael's church.
7. On October 16 2023 morning targeting the police station of the woreda, which is located in Metebila town on Berehet woreda, situated in the North Shewa Zone, Amhara region, resulted in approximately 35 deaths and injuries to an additional 27.
8. On October 16 2023 noon, targeting the center of four kebeles of the woreda, hitting a vehicle carrying civilians fleeing the town and children who were near. Among the dead, there were 7 civilians under the age of 19, as well as a 40-year-old mother with her two-year-old child.
9. On October 16 2023 drone attack in Minjar, North Shoa. At least 12 people are said to have killed in the attack.
10. October 16 2023, a 19-month-old child was among the several civilian victims of a drone strike in the Metihteh Bila town of Berehet Woreda, North Shewa Zone. The attack left at least 35 Amhara civilians dead and an additional 27 injured.

11. October 19, 2023 a drone strike killed 8 civilians in Debre Markos town.
12. On 6 November 2023, a drone launched by government forces struck a primary school in the Wadera district in North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region, killing 7 people, including 3 teachers.
13. Another drone attack hit a bus station in Waber town in East and West Gojjam zones on November 9 2023, killing 13 people who were waiting to board a bus. The attack killed at least 30 civilians. The targeted areas included a school and a bus station.
14. November 9, 2023 a drone attack in Amahara Region, East Gojam Zone, Bibugn wereda killed at least 16 people.
15. On November 27, 2023 evening, a drone attack in Amahara Region, East Gojam Zone, Bibugn wereda carried out on Tarekegn Restaurant killed at least 20 people. They were buried in a mass grave.
16. On November 27, 2023 Waber area in East Gojjam, in Ethiopia's Amhara region, resulting in the tragic loss of over 30 lives, including several civilians. Residents confirmed that the drone, which was reportedly engaged in combat air patrol, launched the fatal attack.
17. On November 29, 2023 there were two drone attacks in North Wello, Bugena Wereda, DariaYesus Kebele. The attacks claimed the life of at least 65 people including civilians as well as many injured as the attacks were perpetrated during the market day.
18. A deadly drone attack on November 30 2023 evening at approximately 5:00 p.m killed 30 people out of which 5 were civilians in the town of Wegel Tena, located in the Delanta district of the South Wollo zone, in Ethiopia's Amhara region. An ambulance carrying crucial medical supplies from Desse town to Delanta Primary Hospital was targeted by a drone upon its arrival in the town. Eye witness described how "bodies were burned so badly they had turned to dust. I saw the finger bones of one of the victims still shaped as though it was still clutching a mobile phone". The drone fired on an ambulance as it approached the Delanta Primary Hospital in Wegel Tena and obliterated it. Hospital staff, including a doctor and the ambulance driver, as well as employees from a nearby construction site died instantly.
19. On November 30, 2023 there were two drone attacks in Delanta Woreda which left 5 civilians killed including a medical doctor, & other civilians injured. The target was an ambulance that was transporting medication and staff from Dessie.
20. On November 30, 2023 the second drone strike hit Goshiamba Kebele – not far from the scene of the first incident. But no casualties are reported from this one, according to the source.
21. On December 5, 2023 a drone attack allegedly targeting militants in an area between Menz and Merhabete areas of North Shewa Zone killed 10 people with no involvement in the fighting. Among the victims, 6 were described as children who were looking after cattle as shepherds, the remaining victims were women.
22. On December 5, 2023, a second drone strike occurred near Wegel Tena town in South Wello zone, again resulting in 10 fatalities, including civilians.
23. On December 5, 2023, a drone attack in Lasta kills 73 people killed in the Ayena and Bugna districts of Lasta, North Wollo Zone in the Amhara region of Ethiopia.

24. December 10, 2023 drone attacks in Amhara Sayint Wereda, South Wello Zone, in Amhara Region killed 30 to 40 people.
25. December 10, 2023, at around 6 pm, ENDF forces carried out 3 air strikes including 2 drone attacks killing at least 57 civilians in Mehal Sayint Woreda.
26. December 22, 2023, two successive drone attacks in Kork town of Baso Liben Woreda, in East Gojam, Amhara Region killing at least 8 civilians and wounding others.
27. January 3, 2024, regime forces killed at least 9 civilians through the use of drone strikes and gunshots in Beto and Derega Kebeles of Kelela Woreda in Amhara Region.
28. January 12 2024, ENDF conducted a drone strike on a recreation center near a high school in Alem town, Merabete Wereda, North Shewa, causing 2 reported fatalities and several civilian injuries.
29. 19 February 2024: Drone strike of a large Isuzu truck in Mojana district, North Shewa Zone killed at least 30 civilians coming from a baptism ceremony, more than 20 people were wounded.

Ethiopian Orthodox Church Targeted: Genocidal Assault Linked to Perceived Amhara Cultural and Religious Identity

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is facing an unprecedented wave of violence and persecution, resulting in a humanitarian crisis of alarming proportions. Across various regions, Orthodox churches are being deliberately targeted, vandalized, and burned down, symbolizing a systematic assault on religious freedom and cultural heritage. Clergy members, along with their families, are subjected to barbaric acts of violence, with many being brutally slaughtered in appalling attacks. Innocent believers, including women and children, are not spared from the horrors, as they fall victim to merciless killings and atrocities.

Furthermore, spiritual students and pilgrims seeking solace and retreat are met with devastating attacks, with incidents of bombings and drone strikes adding to the escalating violence. These ruthless assaults leave communities shattered, overwhelmed with grief, and living in constant fear for their lives and the safety of their religious institutions.

Amidst the chaos, government interference exacerbates the crisis, leading to further divisions within the church and severe restrictions on religious practices. Figures such as Abune Lukas and Abune Petros face opposition and persecution for their outspoken criticism of government actions, highlighting the perilous state of religious freedom in Ethiopia.

The plight of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is exacerbated by its direct association with the ongoing Amhara genocide. The church is wrongly perceived as the religion of the Amhara, leading to targeted attacks. Orthodox believers from other ethnic groups are treated as sympathizers of the Neftegna dehumanizing name given for the Amhara population.

For comprehensive details and insights into the ongoing crisis, refer to the Report of Jubilee Campaign on Ethiopian Orthodox.

3. Elements of genocide:

According to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group: a) Murder of members of the group b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group c) Intentionally inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

In view of the repeated and systematic attacks specifically targeting the Amharas, with the clear intention of eliminating them from certain regions, it can be said that criteria a), b) and c) have been met. These are therefore acts of genocide under international law.

4. Responses from the Ethiopian government

In the face of this violence, the Ethiopian government's response appears to be highly inadequate and even complicit in its inaction:

- Oromo elites, notably including Shimelis Abdisa, the head of Oromia Region, have been implicated in delivering speeches that explicitly incite violence and propagate hatred against the Amhara people during public addresses and regional meetings. Despite the gravity of these actions, there has been a conspicuous lack of accountability for these individuals.
- Reluctance of the federal government to condemn ethnic violence: The federal government's response to the violence appears to be timid and evasive. It has not taken clear and strong measures to condemn ethnic violence or implement effective action plans to address the situation. Most of the time, incidents are totally ignored by the government, further exacerbating the lack of accountability and perpetuating impunity for the perpetrators.
- Passivity or complicity of local security forces: There is evidence suggesting that local security forces have failed to intervene to stop the massacres targeting Amhara civilians. In some cases, these forces are reported to be actively participating in the atrocities. Additionally, it has been reported that the Federal Defense Forces, sometimes present in the area, were ordered to leave before the attacks, indicating a potential complicity or facilitation of the violence.
- Lack of serious investigation and prosecution: Despite overwhelming evidence implicating individuals responsible for the killings, there has been a failure to conduct serious investigations and prosecute those accountable. Many perpetrators, including officials, remain at large.
- Restrictions on media and NGO access: The government has imposed restrictions on access to the affected areas for media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking to document the situation. Journalists and human rights activists have been threatened or arrested for attempting to report on the violence.
- Disarming of Amhara populations: Amhara populations are often disarmed carefully by the government before an attack so that they will not defend themselves, leaving them vulnerable to violence and unable to protect themselves from attackers.

- **Suppression of dissenting voices:** The government has jailed any voice that speaks or writes about the ongoing Amhara Genocide, accusing individuals of fabricated crimes or detaining them without presenting them before a judge. This suppression of dissenting voices further contributes to the lack of accountability and perpetuates a climate of fear and intimidation.
- **Obstruction of international investigation:** The government has obstructed investigations by international experts on Ethiopia assigned by the United Nations Human Rights Council during the northern war. This obstruction prevents the international community from gaining crucial insights into the human rights situation in the region and impedes efforts to address the ongoing atrocities.

This inaction is tantamount to a denial, or even tacit approval, of the genocide in progress. It is in total contradiction with Ethiopia's human rights obligations.

- **Ethiopia's international obligations**

Ethiopia has ratified the main international and regional human rights instruments, including :

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Under these texts, Ethiopia has an obligation to protect all its citizens without discrimination, to investigate crimes and to bring the perpetrators to justice. It must take all necessary measures to prevent genocide, combat it and punish those responsible. It is clear that Ethiopia has failed in these duties.

Ethiopia is also violating several articles of its own Constitution, which guarantees the equality of all citizens, prohibits ethnic discrimination and promises protection for minorities.

- **Recommendations**

Given the seriousness of the situation, an urgent response commensurate with what is at stake is essential. In the context of the Universal Periodic Review, we call on Ethiopia to :

- Publicly acknowledge the existence of genocide against the Amharas and condemn it unambiguously.
- Ensure an open door for international independent investigation into the genocide, regardless of whether the government admits or denies its occurrence.
- Ensure all perpetrators of the genocide, regardless of rank or affiliation, are brought to justice.
- Establish an independent and impartial justice system free from government influence and control to ensure fair trials and serve justice.
- Compensate victims of the genocide for their losses and suffering.
- Implement measures to prevent future atrocities, such as promoting ethnic equality, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence through education and media initiatives.

- Provide humanitarian aid and support to displaced populations affected by the genocide.
- Guarantee freedom of the press and protection for human rights defenders who document abuses.
- Liberate immediately all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners, ensuring their rights and freedoms are upheld.
- Collaborate with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international bodies to implement these recommendations effectively.

If rapid and concrete measures are not taken, the international community will have to consider firmer actions such as :

- Referral to the UN Security Council to declare the situation a threat to peace and security and authorise intervention
- Referral of the crime of genocide to the International Criminal Court
- Individual sanctions (freezing of assets, travel bans, etc.) against those responsible for abuses
- Suspension of development aid and preferential trade agreements in the event of non-cooperation

Conclusion

The Amharas of Ethiopia are facing an existential threat. Victims of a rampant but increasingly outspoken genocide, abandoned by their own government, they are in urgent need of protection and justice. It's a matter of life and death for this community.

The Universal Periodic Review is a unique opportunity for the international community to finally react to this tragedy. Beyond the usual declarations of principle, strong action is expected to put pressure on Ethiopia.

Every day that goes by without a determined response is one day too many, leaving the executioners free rein. Each new massacre that goes unpunished is an affront to the fundamental values of humanity and dignity. It is high time to say "never again", and above all to take action. The lives of millions of Amharas depend on it.