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STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA FOR THE 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review

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#### Status of Human Right in Ethiopia for the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review

#### Introduction

1. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) is an international, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights around the world. The ECLJ also holds Special Consultative status before the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This report discusses the status of human rights in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Ethiopia) for the 47th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

#### Background

2. Ethiopia is a country located on the Horn of Africa and has a population of approximately 109.9 million people.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 43% of the population identifies as Orthodox Christian, 33% as Muslim, and 20% as Protestant.<sup>2</sup> Ethiopia is home to a diverse array of cultures, languages, and ethnicities and has undergone significant social, economic, and political transformations. Ethiopia is shaped by its rich history and its large ethnic diversity; it has over ninety distinct ethnic groups with unique languages and traditions.<sup>3</sup> The Oromo, Amhara, Somali, and Tigrayans are among the largest ethnic groups.<sup>4</sup>

3. Ethiopia has the second-largest Orthodox population in the world, numbering around 36 million people.<sup>5</sup> With deep historical roots, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has profoundly influenced the values, norms, and traditions of the nation. Islam, too, has played a similar role, especially in the eastern and southeastern regions. However, this influence has been a source of tension as other ethnic groups, particularly the Oromos and Tigrayans, fostered a sense of marginalisation. In its 2024 World Watch List, Open Doors ranked Ethiopia as the 32nd worst country for Christians.<sup>6</sup>

4. Ethiopia's previous review was held on May 14, 2019.<sup>7</sup> As a result of the review, Ethiopia received 245 recommendations, 231 of which Ethiopia supported.<sup>8</sup> It was recommended by France, and supported by Ethiopia, that the government "[p]rotect individuals across the country against rising inter-ethnic violence, guarantee respect for human rights in the regions, and promote conditions allowing security forces to intervene to ensure the

docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session33/ET/Infographic\_Ethiopia.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> *Ethiopia*, BRITANNICA (Mar. 26, 2024), https://www.britannica.com/place/Ethiopia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ethiopia: Religious Tension is Getting Worse – 5 Factors Driving Groups Apart, CONVERSATION (Oct. 9 2023), https://theconversation.com/ethiopia-religious-tension-is-getting-worse-5-factors-driving-groups-apart-214278.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Ethiopia*, MINORITY RTS. GRP., https://minorityrights.org/country/ethiopia/ (last visited Apr. 4, 2024). <sup>4</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Orthodox Christianity in the 21st Century, PEW RSCH. CENT. (Nov. 8, 2017),

https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2017/12/Orthodoxy-II-FULL-REPORT-12-5.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Ethiopia*, OPEN DOORS, https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/ethiopia/ (last visited Apr. 3, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Universal Periodic Review – Ethiopia, OHCHR, https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/et-index (last visited Apr. 3, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ethiopia Infographic, OHCHR, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-

protection of populations in the event of threats."<sup>9</sup> It was further recommended by Libya, and supported by Ethiopia, that the government "[c]ontinue to support dialogue on culture and religion for all ethnic groups in Ethiopia."<sup>10</sup>

## Legal Framework

5. Article 27 of Ethiopia's Constitution enshrines protections for religious freedom and guarantees that "[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."<sup>11</sup>

6. Ethiopia is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which also enshrines the right to religious freedom.<sup>12</sup> Under Article 18 of the ICCPR:

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.<sup>13</sup>

## **Ethnic and Religious Persecution**

7. In recent years, Ethiopia has experienced a significant escalation in human rights violations, further exacerbated by conflicts in the Tigray, Oromia, and Amhara regions. While these issues have garnered international attention, the extent of the abuses, specifically those inflicted upon the Amhara population, lacks sufficient coverage. This report addresses this oversight by offering a thorough examination of the severe human rights challenges faced by the Amhara community.

8. The findings reveal a troubling pattern of extensive human rights abuses against the Amhara people in Ethiopia, marked by recurrent incidents of massacres, extrajudicial killings, drone strikes, forced displacements and mass arrests. These acts are predominantly driven by ethnic and religious discrimination, leading to substantial casualties, and exacerbating conflicts within the country. These violations not only qualify as crimes against humanity but also evince a systematic trajectory toward genocide.

## I. Ethnic Violence and Genocidal Tendencies in Ethiopia

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> OHCHR, UPR of Ethiopia (3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle – 33<sup>rd</sup> Session): Thematic List of Recommendations, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-

docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session33/ET/UPR33\_Ethiopia\_Thematic\_List\_of\_Recommendations\_E.doc x.

 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> CONSTITUTION OF ETHIOPIA art. 27, https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Ethiopia\_1994. <sup>12</sup> *Ratification Status for Ethiopia*, OHCHR,

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=59&Lang=EN (last visited Apr. 3, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights art. 18, Dec. 16, 1966, 999 U.N.T.S. 171,

https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights.

9. The Amhara people have been subjected to recurring massacres, especially in the last five years. These acts of violence are orchestrated by armed groups and often involve the complicity or passive acquiescence of local authorities.

## 1. <u>A Series of Attacks on Christians in Ethiopia</u>

10. On February 16, 2024, four clergymen were kidnapped from the Ziquala Debre Kewakibt Abune Gebre Menfes Kidus Monastery in the Oromia region.<sup>14</sup> These individuals were Aba Teklemariam Asrat, the monastery's head administrator; Kidanemariam Tilahun, the secretary; Gebremariam Abebe, a religious teacher and priest; and Hailemariam Woldesenbet, a monk.<sup>15</sup> They were killed on February 17, 2024, and their bodies were later recovered in a forest. In response to this act, the church released a statement attributing the kidnapping and killings to the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and called upon the government to intensify its efforts in safeguarding the security of its citizens, emphasizing the urgent need for heightened vigilance.

11. On December 28, 2023, Christian pilgrims were brutally attacked as they returned from the annual feast of the Archangel Saint Gabriel at Kulubi.<sup>16</sup> Near the town of Metehara, the group encountered gunmen resulting in eight deaths and ten abductions among the pilgrims.<sup>17</sup>

12. On November 27 and 23, 2023, a series of attacks took place in three villages in the Arsi zone of the Oromia region,<sup>18</sup> a total of thirty-six Orthodox Christians were forcibly taken from their homes and executed.

13. On November 24, 2023, in the Gidami district of the Kellem Wollega zone, nine individuals from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus were kidnapped and killed while participating in an overnight prayer service.<sup>19</sup> The victims were church leaders and organizers engaged in prayers and preparations for the Sunday service.<sup>20</sup> They were abducted by unidentified armed men during their prayers and found deceased two days later.

14. The efforts of certain Oromo factions to transpose ethnic tensions onto religious terrain reached a climax in January 2023 when three Oromo archbishops of the Ethiopian Orthodox

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> *ቤተ ክርስትያን ኦርቶዶክስ ተዋህዶ ኢትዮጵያ፡ ኣርባዕተ ፈለስቲ ብዕጡ ቓት ከምዝተቐተልዋ ኣፍሊጣ*, BBC TIGRINYA (Feb. 24, 2024), https://www.bbc.com/tigrinya/articles/c6pqeege3e2o; *see also የዝቋላ ንዳማው ያንን በንደሉ* 

ታጣቂዎች ላይ ርምጃ እየተወሰደ ነው - የኦሮሚያ ክልል, VOA AMHARIC (Feb. 23, 2024),

https://amharic.voanews.com/a/ziquala-monastery-killing/7500155.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Wazema Daily News, Feb. 22, WAZEMA (Feb. 22, 2024), https://wazema.substack.com/p/wazema-daily-news-feb-22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> *Gunmen Target Ethiopian Orthodox Pilgrims Returning from an Annual Feast*, ORTHODOXY COGNATE PAGE (Jan. 1, 2024), https://ocpsociety.org/gunmen-target-ethiopian-orthodox-pilgrims-returning-from-an-annual-feast/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> News: Eight killed, 10 more abducted as civilians return from St. Gabriel celebration in Kulubi, ADDIS STANDARD (Jan. 2, 2024), https://addisstandard.com/news-eight-killed-another-10-abducted-as-civilians-return-from-st-gabriel-celebration-in-kulubi/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> በቪርካ ወረዳ ሃይማኖት የለየ በተባለ ጥቃት 36 ምእመናን ሲንደሉ ቀሪዎቹ እንደሸሹ ተንለጻ, VOICE OF AM. AMHARIC (Nov. 30, 2023), https://amharic.voanews.com/a/east-arsi-killing/7378932.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> News: 45 Believers Killed in Two Separate Attacks in Arsi and Kellem Wollega Zones, Oromia Region, ADDIS STANDARD (Dec. 1, 2023), https://addisstandard.com/news-45-believers-killed-in-two-separate-attacks-in-arsi-and-kellem-wollega-zones-oromia-region/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Gidaamitti 'Amantoonni Sagal Waldaa Keessaa Baafamanii Ajjeefaman' – Waldaa Makaana Yasuus, BBC (Dec. 1, 2023), https://www.bbc.com/afaanoromoo/articles/c6pelpr46e9o.

Church rebelled and formed a new "Oromo" synod. This schism was state sponsored, but widely rejected by the population. Therefore, it caused a massive social upheaval and extensive demonstrations with believers barring these bishops from presiding over their places of worship and conducting liturgical ceremonies. This led to the intervention of the Oromo special forces in support of the new synod which exacerbated the discord, culminating in violent encounters between security forces and churchgoers. These violent incidents resulted in the loss of multiple lives, most notably at St. Michael Church in Shashemene, where law enforcement resorted to the use of live rounds against the assembly on February 4, 2023.

15. According to the Amhara Professional Union, in 2018 and 2019, some thirty churches were attacked across the country, with more than half burnt to the ground.<sup>21</sup>

#### 2. <u>Amhara Massacres in Wollega</u>

16. On July 4, 2022, just mere weeks after the Gimbi massacre, the OLA carried out a massacre within the Qelem Wollega zone.<sup>22</sup> The victim count was at least 308 people.<sup>23</sup>

17. On June 18, 2022, the Amhara community in Wollega was brutally slaughtered in what is now known as the Gimbi massacre.<sup>24</sup> The perpetrator was reportedly the OLA terrorist group; however, the armed force has denied responsibility and claims that government forces are responsible for this killing. The victim count was between 400 and 554 people. According to a report by the Amhara Association of America (AAA), thirteen people were killed by being burned alive and "in at least two cases, pregnant women had their wombs cut open with a knife."<sup>25</sup>

18. On November 1, 2020, an attack in Gawa Qanqa, a village in the Guliso District of West Wollega Zone,<sup>26</sup> resulted in the deaths of fifty-four individuals from the Amhara ethnic group.<sup>27</sup> This violent assault, allegedly carried out by the OLA, occurred right after the Ethiopian Defense Forces' sudden and enigmatic departure from the region.

#### 3. <u>The Metekel Massacres</u>

19. From 2020 to 2023, the Metekel Zone in Benishangul-Gumuz region became the epicenter of massacres targeting the Amharas along with other minorities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> James Jeffrey, *Huge Moment for Ethiopia as Abiy Ahmed Wins Nobel Peace Prize*, GLOBAL ISSUES (Oct. 12, 2019), https://www.globalissues.org/news/2019/10/12/25743.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> An Interim Report on the June 18th, 2022 Amhara Massacre in the Tole Kebele, Gimbi Woreda, West Wollega Zone of Ethiopia's Oromia Region by Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) Militants, AMHARA ASS'N OF AM. (July 3, 2022), https://www.amharaamerica.org/post/june-18th-2022-amhara-massacre-in-the-tole-kebele-west-wollega-by-olf [hereinafter July 18 Report].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Update on the July 4, 2022, Amhara Massacre in Lemlem Kebele, Hawa Gelana Woreda, Qelem Wollega Zone of Ethiopia's Oromia Region by Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) Militants, AMHARA ASS'N OF AM. (July 10, 2022), https://www.amharaamerica.org/post/they-attacked-us-for-the-simple-reason-of-being-amhara.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Ethiopia: Civilians in Western Oromia Left Unprotected, HUM. RTS. WATCH (Aug. 31, 2022), https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/31/ethiopia-civilians-western-oromia-left-unprotected.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> July 18 Report, supra note 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Wollega Zone: Massacre of Civilians, ETHIOPIAN HUM. RTS. COMM'N (Nov. 2, 2020), https://ehrc.org/wollega-zone-massacre-of-civilians/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> *Ethiopia: Over 50 Ethnic Amhara Killed in Attack on Village by Armed Group*, AMNESTY INT'L (Nov. 2, 2020), https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/11/ethiopia-over-50-ethnic-amhara-killed-in-attack-on-village-by-armed-group-2/.

20. On July 7, 2023, Gumuz fighters mass acred seventeen ethnic Amharas in the Metekel Zone.  $^{\rm 28}$ 

21. On January 12, 2021, more than eighty people were massacred in the Metekel Zone in Benishangul-Gumuz region.<sup>29</sup>

22. On the night of December 22, 2020,<sup>30</sup> suspected Gumuz fighters killed 222 and displaced approximately 40,000 people.<sup>31</sup> The village was reportedly "surrounded by up to 500 gunmen" who inflicted several hours of terror upon the community. <sup>32</sup> This brutal massacre followed closely on the heels of another incident that occurred on November 14, 2020, targeting a bus traveling in the zone. During this earlier event, thirty-four people from the Amhara and Agew communities were killed by Gumuz militiamen.<sup>33</sup>

23. The ongoing violence and massacres in Metekel point to the government's failure to protect the Amhara community and other vulnerable minorities within the region.

## 4. The Shashemene Massacres

24. On June 29, 2020, a renowned Oromo singer and political activist was assassinated in Ethiopia, leading to massive protests that escalated into a premeditated massacre. In the subsequent weeks, a group identifying as "Queroo" ("youth" in Oromo language) targeted Amhara and Orthodox believers in the Oromia region killing many people. A harrowing account from a survivor details the brutal killing of his nine-month-pregnant wife in front of their children. "They killed her because she is an Orthodox Christian" he recalls, "[t]hey said that Christian children should not be born, Amhara children should not be born." The Minority "Rights Group" reported that the attacks were well-prepared.<sup>34</sup> The rioters had a list of names and went from house to house checking ID cards and conducting massacres accordingly to the list.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Genocide Prevention in Ethiopia (@GPEthiopia), TWITTER (July 10, 2023, 10:54 AM), https://twitter.com/GPEthiopia/status/1678417364818206720.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Over 80 Civilians Killed in Latest West Ethiopia Attack, AL JAZEERA (Jan. 13, 2021),

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/13/over-80-killed-in-west-ethiopia-attack-rights-commission. <sup>30</sup> Benishangul Gumuz Crisis: 207 Civilians Gruesomely Slaughtered Says Ethiopian Rights Group, ETHIOPIAN CITIZEN (Dec. 26, 2020), https://www.ethiopiancitizen.com/2020/12/207-civilians-gruesomely-slaughteredsays-Ethiopian-rights-group.html.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Ethiopia: 222 Killed in Village Massacre as Ethnic Tensions Flare - Red Cross, SKY NEWS (Dec. 23, 2020),
https://news.sky.com/story/ethiopia-222-killed-in-village-massacre-as-ethnic-tensions-flare-red-cross-12172583.
<sup>32</sup> News Alert: Eyewitnesses Say More than 90 Killed in Fresh Attack in Bulen Wereda, Benishangul Gumuz;

*Region Cautions Civilians to Join Safe Villages*, ADDIS STANDARD (Dec. 23, 2020), https://addisstandard.com/news-alert-eyewitnesses-say-more-than-90-killed-in-fresh-attack-in-bulen-weredabenishangul-gumuz-region-cautions-civilians-to-join-safe-villages/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Benishangul-Gumuz Region: Swift Coordinated Action Important to Improve Safety and Security, ETHIOPIAN HUM. RTS. COMM'N (No. 15, 2020), https://ehrc.org/benishangul-gumuz-region-swift-coordinated-action-important-to-improve-safety-and-security/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Recent Violence in Ethiopia's Oromia Region Shows Hallmark Signs of Ethnic Cleansing, says MRG, MINORITY RTS. GRP. (July 22, 2020), https://minorityrights.org/recent-violence-in-ethiopias-oromia-regionshows-hallmark-signs-of-ethnic-cleansing-says-mrg/.

## 5. Forced displacement of the Amhara community

25. Since January 1, 2023, there have been consistent reports of the government orchestrating discriminatory displacements, targeting primarily non-Oromos, especially Amharas, in the vicinity of the capital. Tens of thousands of houses were demolished in this context.<sup>35</sup> While the government justifies these actions by labeling the houses as "illegal settlements" needed for the "Sheger City" project, their motives come into question. Dr. Teshome Adugna, the mayor of Sheger City, when questioned about the selective nature of these demolitions, responded that they aimed to avoid displacing the "indigenous" people.<sup>36</sup> The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) found that the house demolitions included features of ethnic discrimination.<sup>37</sup>

#### **II. Military Operations in the Amhara Region**

26. In response to escalating security issues in the Amhara region, Ethiopia's government instituted a state of emergency on August 4, 2023. Subsequent reports reveal a concerning pattern of human rights abuses since this declaration.

## 1. Drone Attacks on Civilians in the Amhara Region

27. Seif Magango, the spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office, recently addressed the severity of these incidents in a statement.<sup>38</sup> He pointed out that on November 6, 2023, a drone strike targeted a primary school causing seven casualties, including three teachers. Magango underlined in his statement that "[s]uch attacks amount to arbitrary deprivation of life under international human rights law."

28. On October 16, 2023, a strike targeting Berehet Woreda resulting in the deaths of thirtyfive Amhara civilians.<sup>39</sup> Shortly after this incident, another drone strike occurred on October 19, 2023, killing eight civilians.<sup>40</sup>

29. On September 17, 2023, the Ethiopian government reportedly carried out drone strikes in the towns of Kuarit and Dembecha, located in the Gojjam zone of the Amhara Region.<sup>41</sup> The estimated casualties are thirty civilians. Concurrently, in Dembecha, another drone strike resulted in the tragic loss of eighteen lives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Report on Home Demolitions and Forced Evictions of Amharas in the Newly Established Sheger City Administration of the Oromia Region: A City that Denies Amhara Existence in their Homeland of Ethiopia, AMHARA ASS'N OF AM. (May 14, 2023), https://www.amharaamerica.org/post/forced-evictions-and-homedemolitions-of-amharas-in-sheger-city-oromia-region.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> EBC, *Etv ብርቱ ወግ በሽገር ከተጣ ምስረታ ላይ ከከተማው ከንቲባ ዶ/ር ተሾሞ አዱኛ ጋር የተደረገ ቆይታ*, YouTuBe (June 20, 2023), https://www.youtube.com/live/-x3wf55mSq8?si=PAmj\_qKxTBvGaOMG.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Newly Formed Sheger City Breaches Human Rights Law: Report, REP. ETH. (Sept. 15, 2023), https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/32769/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Seif Magango, Ethiopia: Violence in Amhara Region, OHCHR (Nov. 17, 2023),

https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/11/ethiopia-violence-amhara-region.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Amhara Association of America, "Abiy Ahmed Ali Regime's Drone Strikes: 35 Amhara Civilians Killed, 27 Injured in Berehet Woreda," October 17, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Air Strike Kills at Least 30 in Dembecha, Quarit, ETH. OBSERVER (Sept. 19, 2023),

https://www.ethiopiaobserver.com/2023/09/19/air-strike-kills-at-least-30-in-dembecha-quarit/.

30. On August 13, 2023, a drone attack took place in the central town of Finote Selam in the Amhara region, killing at least twenty-six civilians and injuring fifty others.<sup>42</sup>

## 2. Extrajudicial and Summary Killings

31. The Guardian's Lucy Kassa draws attention to accusations against Ethiopian federal troops.<sup>43</sup> These troops allegedly committed mass killings, looted villages, and executed unarmed farmers. The estimated death toll from these actions exceeds seventy civilians.

32. These allegations of extrajudicial killings have been substantiated by the EHRC's report published on September 15, 2023, confirming the occurrence of such incidents in the Amhara region.<sup>44</sup> A particularly disturbing aspect revealed in the report is the systematic nature of these executions, often occurring during door-to-door searches conducted by the Ethiopian National Defense Forces.

33. The EHRC released another report on October 30, 2023, bringing to light a harrowing incident: the killing of twelve "*Abinet*" students in the *Filseta Debre Maryam* Church.<sup>45</sup> The victims killed were young students of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.<sup>46</sup>

## 3. <u>Mass arrests</u>

34. In May 2022, the government reportedly detained over 4,000 ethnic Amhara individuals.<sup>47</sup> This number surged following the declaration of the state of emergency on August 4, 2023, with claims suggesting that around 14,000 Amhara individuals have since been apprehended.<sup>48</sup>

#### Recommendations

35. Given the severe human rights abuses against the Amhara people in Ethiopia, it is critical that the government take immediate action to protect the Amharas and provide them with humanitarian aid. The ongoing conflict and increasing persecution against the Amharas have created a massive humanitarian crisis, leaving many civilians displaced from their homes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Airstrike in Ethiopia's Amhara Region Kills at Least 26 People, GUARDIAN (Aug. 14, 2023),

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/14/airstrike-in-ethiopia-amhara-region-kills-people.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Lucy Kassa, *Ethiopian Troops Accused of Mass Killings of Civilians in Amhara Region*, GUARDIAN (Sept. 8, 2023), https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/sep/08/ethiopian-troops-accused-mass-killings-amhara-civilians-region-fano-militia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> *አማራ ክልል:- ከትጥቅ ግጭት ጋር በተያያዘ አሳሳቢነታቸው የቀጠለ የሰብአዊ መብቶች ጥሰቶች*, ETHIOPIAN HUM. RTS. COMM'N (Sept. 15, 2023), https://ehrc.org/አማራ-ክልል-ከትጥቅ-ግጭት-ጋር-በተያያዘ-አ/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Dawit Endeshaw, *Conflict in Ethiopia's Amhara Kills Dozens, Rights Body Says*, REUTERS (Oct. 30, 2023), https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/conflict-ethiopias-amhara-kills-dozens-rights-body-says-2023-10-30/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> EHRC Press Release: Ongoing Human Rights Violations in Amhara Region's Armed Conflict, AMHARA ASS'N OF AM. (Oct. 31, 2023), https://www.amharaamerica.org/post/ehrc-press-release-ongoing-human-rights-violations-in-amhara-regions-armed-conflict.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Ethiopia Arrests 4,000 in Amhara Region Crackdown, Local State Media Report, REUTERS (May 23, 2022), https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ethiopia-arrests-4000-amhara-region-crackdown-local-state-media-report-2022-05-23/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> *Thousands Arrested in Addis Ababa, Other Cities*, APA NEWS (Aug. 8, 2023), https://apanews.net/security-forces-arrest-thousands-of-people-in-ethiopias-capital/.

Ethiopia must fulfill its basic obligations to protect its citizens from ethnic violence and the abuse from the military, which is perpetrating violence against its own citizens.