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European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ)

Strasbourg, 2 June 2026

Mr. Chaloka Beyani
Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
United Nations

Subject: Renewed Appeal Regarding the Ongoing Risk of Genocide Against the Amhara People in Ethiopia

Your Excellency,

The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) extends its sincere congratulations on your appointment to the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and warmly welcomes your stated determination to mitigate the rising risk of atrocity crimes.

We wish to bring to your attention the alarming human rights situation in Ethiopia, particularly affecting the Amhara people.

The Amhara people's historical association with the Ethiopian monarchy and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has been instrumentalized by political actors to portray the community as a vehicle of cultural, political and religious hegemony over other ethnic groups. Over time, this framing has hardened from political rhetoric into a sustained and systematic pattern of persecution directed against the Amhara people. Credible reports indicate multiple instances of extrajudicial killings, mass displacements, mass arrests, and other acts that, by their organization and targeting, raise serious concerns under the Genocide Convention and warrant examination under the Rome Statute.

On 29 August 2023, we sent a letter to your office sharing our concerns regarding indicators of genocidal violence in Ethiopiaⁱ. Six weeks later, on 10 October 2023, your Office publicly warned of “a heightened risk of genocide and related atrocity crimes” in Ethiopia and further noted that there “have been numerous credible reports of violations against Amhara civilians since the announcement of a state of emergency in August 2023”ⁱⁱ.

In the thirty-one months since this warning, the situation has not improved. Aerial attacks on civilians in the Amhara region have intensified. According to the Amhara Association of America (AAA), between January and May 2026 alone, 135 aerial strikes were reportedly

conducted in the Amhara region, resulting in 217 civilian casualtiesⁱⁱⁱ. Similar strikes were reported throughout the previous year. In February 2025, Human Rights Watch documented two drone strikes in North Shewa that killed 19 civilians^{iv}. Two months later, airstrikes on civilians in East Gojjam killed at least 150 people^v.

The recurrence of such incidents could indicate that they are not isolated developments, but rather part of a continuing pattern of aerial attacks against civilians in the Amhara region that warrant close attention and independent investigation.

Furthermore, conflict-related sexual violence has become equally pervasive. A BBC News investigation published in November 2025 documented 2,697 rape cases at 43 health facilities in the Amhara region between July 2023 and May 2025. This covered approximately four per cent of the region's facilities^{vi}. The clinicians interviewed described the documented figures as a fraction of the actual scale. Further documentation suggests that perpetrators of sexual violence against Amhara survivors expressed the "intent to destroy their ethnic group, including by preventing births of children of that group"^{vii}.

The atrocities in the country are not limited to the Amhara region, as the systematic killing of Christians in the Oromia region has continued. Reports estimate that, in the Shirka district alone, up to 164 Christians have been killed for their faith over the last year^{viii}. Although the Church remained silent on the ethnic identity of the deceased, multiple sources report that these victims are predominantly Amhara civilians^{ix}. The ECLJ has published an investigative article on the topic detailing the incidents^x.

The sustained killings, aerial bombardments, mass displacements, and systematic sexual violence directed against the Amhara bear the hallmarks of a coordinated campaign of destruction. The State has proven unable or unwilling to protect this community, with credible reports even indicating its own direct participation in these acts^{xi}. These facts demand examination under the Genocide Convention.

In light of the gravity of the situation, the ECLJ recommends that your Office request a country visit to Ethiopia, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the relevant Special Procedures, in order to assess the situation of the Amhara community in the country. The risk of atrocity crimes in Ethiopia remains very high. Such a visit would most importantly serve to verify conditions on the ground. Additionally, it would signal to the Ethiopian government that its conduct remains under international scrutiny.

We further respectfully request that your Office issue an updated public assessment of the risk of atrocity crimes in Ethiopia, in light of the substantial developments that have occurred since its early warning of 10 October 2023.

We trust that you will accord this matter the urgent attention it so critically requires. We remain at your disposal should your Office require any further information or documentation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Dr. Grégor Puppincq
General Director



ⁱ European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), "*Urgent Action to Protect the Amhara People of Ethiopia Against Ethnic Violence and Genocide*," 29 August 2023, available at <http://media.aclj.org/pdf/ECLJ-Urgent-Action-to-Protect-the-Amhara-People-of-Ethiopia-Against-Ethnic-Violence-and-Genocide-August-29-2023-1.pdf><http://media.aclj.org/pdf/ECLJ-Urgent-Action-to-Protect-the-Amhara-People-of-Ethiopia-Against-Ethnic-Violence-and-Genocide-August-29-2023-1.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, "*Ethiopia: United Nations Special Adviser Warns of Heightened Risk of Genocide and Related Atrocity Crimes amid Increased Violent Clashes in Tigray, Amhara, Afar and Oromia*," 10 October 2023, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-united-nations-special-adviser-warns-heightened-risk-genocide-and-related-atrocity-crimes-amid-increased-violent-clashes-tigray-amhara-afar-and-oromi>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Amhara Association of America (AAA), "*Concern over Emerging Patterns of Genocidal Violence by State Actors in Amhara Region and Surrounding Areas of Ethiopia*," 27 May 2026, available at <https://www.amharaamerica.org/post/aaa-statement-2026-05-27>.

^{iv} Human Rights Watch, "*World Report 2026: Rights Trends in Ethiopia*," 13 January 2026, available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report-2026/country-chapters/ethiopia>.

^v Germany, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), "*Briefing Notes, Calendar Week 18/2025*," 28 April 2025, available at <https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/EN/Behoerde/Informationszentrum/BriefingNotes/2025/briefingnotes-kw18-2025.pdf>.

^{vi} BBC World Service, "*'It Would Have Been Better if They'd Killed Me': A Forgotten War Destroying Women's Lives*," 19 November 2025, available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ex2p8dpw1rw><https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ex2p8dpw1rw>o.

^{vii} Organization for Justice and Accountability in the Horn of Africa (OJAH) and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), "*You Will Never Be Able to Give Birth': Conflict-Related Sexual and Reproductive Violence in Ethiopia* (New York: Physicians for Human Rights, July 2025), p. 42, Table 35, available at <https://phr.org/our-work/resources/you-will-never-be-able-to-give-birth-conflict-related-sexual-and-reproductive-violence-in-ethiopia>.

^{viii} ImpACT International, "*Arsi Massacres Expose Ethnic Cleansing by Paramilitary Forces in Oromia*," 5 March 2026, available at <https://impactpolicies.org/news/822/arsi-massacres-expose-ethnic-cleansing-by-paramilitary-forces-in-oromia><https://impactpolicies.org/news/822/arsi-massacres-expose-ethnic-cleansing-by-paramilitary-forces-in-oromia>.

^{ix} Voice of Amhara, "*Another Tragedy in Arsi: Dozens of Amhara Orthodox Christians Killed in Oromia*," published November 11, 2025, accessed February 16, 2026, <https://voiceofamhara.com/another-tragedy-in-arsi-dozens-of-amhara-orthodox-christians-killed-in-oromia>, See also, Amhara Association in Netherlands, "*Massacre of Amhara Orthodox Christians in Arsi Reflects Continued Violence in Oromia*," published November 8, 2025, accessed February 16, 2026, <https://amharacommunity.nl/massacre-of-amhara-orthodox-christians-in-arsi-reflects-continued-violence-in-oromia>.

^x European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), "*Ethiopia: The Ethnic-Religious Violence Continues Amid International Reactions*," 4 March 2026, available at <https://eclj.org/geopolitics/un/ethiopia-the-ethnic-religious-conflict-continues-amid-international-reactions?lng=en><https://eclj.org/geopolitics/un/ethiopia-the-ethnic-religious-conflict-continues-amid-international-reactions?lng=en>.^{xi} Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, "*Active Genocide Alert for Ethiopia - Update 2*," 15 May 2026, available at <https://www.lemkininstitute.com/active-genocide-alert-1/active-genocide-alert-for-ethiopia---update-2>.