

A Response to the false allegations against the Amhara Regional Government

This is a broad reflection to the Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch query referenced as TG AFR 25/2022.2718.

The Tigrayan People Liberation Front, TPLF, has labeled the Amharas as 'enemies' some four decades before and targeted our people in all walks of life. That hatred has been enlarged during its tenure in the name of political and ideological reforms; and finally an official sidelining from the state apparatus was due. Further, after the overthrow of the group from the Ethiopian political power four years back, TPLF entered to a direct attack against our people. The false narrations across generations then, upgraded and helped them to invade us, the premises of our people; committed calamitous massacres against civilian ensued from the anti-Amhara sentiment spread across generations, looted properties in the most invaded areas and created appalling crisis that bounce from rights violations to war crimes.

The Dreadful Scenes that all humans shall bear in mind

To help you well understand the whole story and construct a refined frame, few incidents are presented below.

The November 9-10, 2020, Maikadra Massacre on ethnic Amharas is one of the greatest brutality against humanity. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) had deployed an investigation team to Maikadra, Abrahajira, Sanja, Dansha and Humera and between November 14 and 19th 2020. According to the Commission's findings, dreadful crimes were committed by the TPLF expertise on murders. Evidence gathered and analyzed by the EHRC revealed that the Maikadra attack is not a simple criminal act but is rather "a premeditated and carefully coordinated grave violation of human rights."

Members of Samri (youth groups assigned for the massacre), with the help of the Tigrayan police and militia crossed Tekeze River unveiled the cruel and atrocious rampage on people they pre-identified/profiled as Amharas. They slaughtered more than 1,600 innocents, beating them with batons/sticks, stabbing them with knives, machetes and hatchets and strangling them with ropes. They also looted and destroyed properties. It has been made apparent that the attack was ethnicity based and specifically targeted men the attackers profiled through, amongst other things, identification cards, as Amharas.

Indeed, our people have suffered the economic damages and well planned pillages have equivalently exceeded hundreds of billions of Ethiopian Birr. This has really caused significant impact on the Ethiopian economy.

After such torments, the TPLF forces invaded the Amhara Region while we were on peace efforts. The North Wollo, Waghimra, Soth Wollo, North and South Gondar, North Shewa and Oromo nationality Special Zones of Amhara Region were raged by the invasion. Incidents are investigated as the most horrible and inhumane acts.

The Mehoni, Agamsa, Chena, Boza, Kobo, Hayk, Worebabo, Kombolcha, Gashena and Antsokiya massacre are not just stories of antique, but fresh and shocking scenes.

However, rebuffing all the trajectories our people have come through, the unfounded allegations against our people, governance and security forces is bothersome. Equally, the frequent mention of the 'Western Tigray' that is not existing even in the vocabulary of our administrative entities but often associated with the Amhara Region is the romance of the TPLF dictators. We do not have such constituency that we run for, thus there is no canton called or known with this name. The false accusations of the 'expel of Tigrayans' from the Amhara Region is also cynical. Rather, we have compiled tens of thousands of TPLF invading forces infantry personnel list found (and meticulously audited) in North Shewa in August. The lists along with five other classified documents have disclosed that a remarkable number of the TPLF military staff deployed for invasion were residents in our Region, but diagnosed the biodata as they joined TPLF, invaded us and fought against our people. This is the fact that anyone can audit for further report.

Final Remark: Unleashing the Power of Peace

TPLF did everything to annihilate youths, women, people with disabilities, and farmers. The mass it agitated invaded most of our farming communities, looted ranches, moved door to door to murder boys and rape girls, including nuns. The invasion and its consequences are still resonating in the minds of our innocent people and of course remained the most disconcerting factors. The international community, media, rights groups and the humanitarian agencies shall provide basic needs to the victims and uncover the very atrocities of the TPLF.

Despite all these stories, human rights protection is the priority of the Amhara Regional State. The Region respects rights and fights against any violations. Therefore, contrary to the TPLF's terror entrepreneurship, the Amhara Regional government and its people justly remain committed to the rights and security of civilians regardless of their political, ethnic and gender differences. We aspire peace and development for our people and the nation at all. We are working for that. We are walking the untrodden ways for mutual peace. Hence, we tolerate no rights violations in the territory we govern and beyond, so that we firmly denounce the baseless stories that hash behind.

Amhara Regional State

Bahir Dar, Ethiopia