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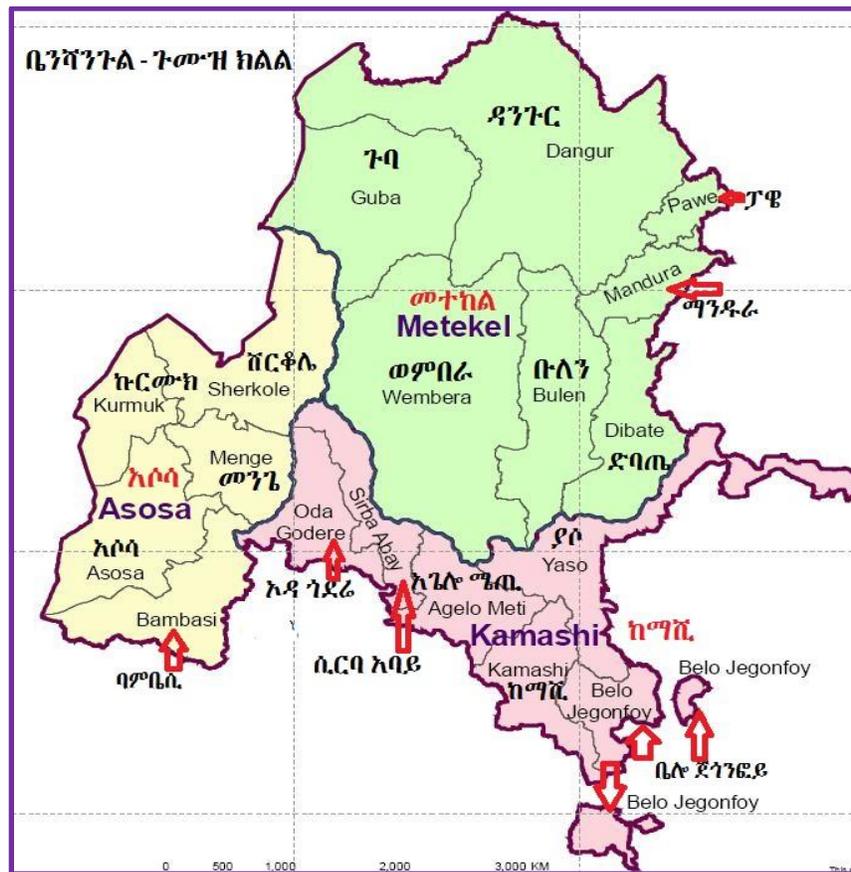
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8221 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. 20910

Tel: (202)-677-0094 Fax:

Web: <http://www.moreshwegenie.org/>

Genocide Committed Against the Amara (Amhara) in Ethiopia, specifically in Benshangul-Gumuz Regional State, Metekel Zone



Map:- Wereda Boundaries of Benshangul-Gumuz Regional State

Special Report on Genocide against the Amara (Amhara)

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Massacre of the Amara (Amhara) in Benshangul-Gumuz Regional State, Metekel Zone

- **The unspeakable atrocities committed are hard to understand and bear in mind.**
- **There is no sufficient vocabulary that can describe one human being murdering and cannibalizing another human being.**
- **Members of the Gumuz ethnic group slaughtered Amaras and consumed their flesh.**

1. Background/Introduction

This report has been compiled on the recent incidents of genocide in Wembera and Bulen district (Woredas) of Metekel Zone of Benshangul-Gumuz Regional State in Ethiopia. The report pinpoints and underscores the outrageous atrocities committed by members of the Gumuz ethnic group against Amaras with the full knowledge and encouragement of Tigrean People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the current Oligarchy ruling Ethiopia. The cruel and inhumane crimes are another sad chapter in recent human history.

During the last 25 years the ruling TPLF regime and its cohorts have committed various gruesome human rights violations against members of the Amara (Amhara) ethnic group in Ethiopia.

Based on factual evidence compiled by Ethiopian Human Rights Organization (EHRO), Human Rights Watch (HRW) and others, thousands of Amaras have been systematically evicted and displaced from all corners of Ethiopia through TPLF sponsored ethnic cleansing program. At a hearing testimony presented to the TPLF rubber stamp Parliament by Miss Samia Zekaria, Director of the Central Statistical Agency, she had publicly admitted that between 1994 and 2007, about 2.5 million Amaras have been systematically unaccounted for in the 2007 census

results¹. This fact is corroborated by independent research results, and through interviews of Amaras who escaped and survived the genocide and the systematic elimination. According to eye witness accounts of the survivors, the number of Amaras removed from their livelihoods and eliminated during the last 24 years could soar up to about 6 million². In a reminiscent of Italian fascist massacre of the 1930s, when captured Ethiopian resistance fighters suffered with not even a piece of cloth to hide their delicate organs day and night, beginning in 2012 through 2014, Amaras have been particularly singled out for eviction, genocide, and ethnic cleansing in Benshangul-Gumuz Regional State.

2. Precursors of the Massacre

The current crisis in Metekel Zone of Benshangul-Gumuz regional state was instigated in relation to the elections of May 2015. About a month before the fateful election, Special Police Force of the regional state had been sent to Wembera and Bulen Woredas of the zone to quell any rebellion against the TPLF rule. Since the TPLF coined in its political program as a struggle against “Amara and imperialism” and labeled the Amaras as staunch enemies of the Tigrean people, it is generally assumed that the opposition to TPLF’s apartheid-style rule would come from the Amara ethnic group. Accordingly TPLF instigated members of the Gumuz ethnic group to single out and hunt down Amaras living in Metekel Zone.

In this particular case the mission given to the Special Police Force was to terrorize the local population in Wembera and Bulen Weredas of Metekel Zone so that by coercion they are forced to elect TPLF candidates for local and national parliament. Those Amaras who were suspected of supporting opposition parties were rounded up and thrown into jail. The pretext given by local authorities was that those Amaras were armed and have been supporting rebel groups who

¹Starting from 16th minute: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndSzSPskwAw>

² http://ethiomeia.com/101facts/census_analysis_amara.pdf

waging armed insurrection against TPLF rule. Based on the pretext given, the remaining peaceful local Amara population came under constant harassment and intimidation by the Special Police Force.

In addition, Kebele officials in those Weredas were instructed by the regional and Zonal officials to persecute Amaras secretly and systematically in order to avoid any perceived condemnation by international organizations and foreign governments. About a month before the May 2015 election, a man from the Gumuz ethnic group was found dead in Wembera Wereda. The exact cause for the death of that person was a mystery. However, zonal officials came and gathered the local population in separate ethnic groups: the Oromo, Gumuz, Shinasha, Agew and Amara. The officials gathered the Amaras last, and demanded that they (the Amaras) should identify, who amongst them, has killed the Gumuz person. Since no one from the Amara ethnic group committed the crime, they were not in a position to identify the alleged Amhara killer amongst them. However, the zonal and Wereda officials were adamant that the Amaras committed the crime and directed the Kebele officials to settle the case without leaving any trace of evidence. That is how the massacre was started.

3. Massacre in Melkan Kebele

The instructions to round up and massacre Amaras were received by officials of Melkan Kebele in Wembera Wereda. On May 16 and 17, 2015 Amhara children, elderly, women, expecting mothers and the disabled were picked up from their homes, imprisoned and murdered in cold blood. Like Mussolini's fascist massacre of Ethiopians in Addis Ababa in the 1930s, the Gumuz carried out their mission of genocide using machetes, knives, shovels, axes and also with live bullets. In those two days 160 Amaras were slaughtered like sacrificial animals (Please refer the Table 1 for further details). Those who tried run and escape the wholesale massacre were chased, shot point blank and fell in the bushes of the area.

Young, old, pregnant, and elderly Amaras found hiding in their homes, were also slaughtered indiscriminately. All male victims were castrated; breasts of female victims were slashed, and taken as trophies by the Gumuz hordes. The killers left all the victims' beds and clothes stained in blood. After the massacre the killers used the dishes and utensils of the victims for feasting on the flesh of those they killed. The livers and kidneys of Amara victims were immersed in chili powder and eaten. In a nutshell the torso of the perpetrators became the burial grounds of the slaughtered Amaras. To date, not a single corpse of the massacred Amaras were buried, and their skeletons are either thrown into the Gursha River, which crosses the area, or scattered everywhere in the village.

4. Massacre Committed in Ayigali-Mozambique Kebele

About a month after the Melkan massacre, a similar incident occurred on June 19, 2015 in Ayigali-Mozambique Kebele, Bulen Wereda, Metekel Zone of the Benshangul-Gumuz region. In this case eye witness accounts said that the scale and breadth of the massacre could be less compared with what happened in Melkan Kebele. However, the Amara were the sole victims of the June 19, 2015 massacre. What happened in Ayigali-Mozambique Kebele has been the torchlight for this whole report. Two of the perpetrators from the local Gumuz community were apprehended by the police. The Bulen district police inspector, who investigated the two suspects, happened to be from the Oromo community. During the investigation, the police inspector asked the two suspects how they carried out the massacre. Unashamed of their deeds the suspects boastfully told the inspector how they committed the atrocity: They said that they killed the two Amaras, castrated their genitals, and consumed their livers and kidneys. Upon hearing the testimony of the two suspects, the Bulen Wereda police inspector was in an utter and complete shock. She then collapsed and threw up at the scene (Please refer the Table 1 for further details).

Moresh Wegenie Amara Organization has managed to collect basic information on the names and addresses of 88 of the total 162 Amara victims. We are still in the process of collecting and compiling further evidence in this regard. More is yet to come to light in the near future.

Table 1: List of the Amara victims who were massacred by members of the Gumuz community in Melkan and Ayigali-Mozambique Kebeles

No.	Name of Victim	Number of Family Members Killed	Wereda (Kebele)	Remarks
1	Mr. Walelign Geremew		Wembera (Melkan)	The remains of most of the victims were thrown into the Gursha River. However, how many of the corpses were thrown into the river and how many of them were consumed by the perpetrators had not been confirmed. This information is kept as a top secret by the Government of the Benshangul-Gumuz Regional State. The Regional Government has admitted that 30 Amaras (Amaras) have been killed.
2	Mr. Alemu Kassa	4	Wembera (Melkan)	
3	Mr. Melku Bitew	2	Wembera (Melkan)	
4	Mr. Almeze Abebe	4	Wembera (Melkan)	
5	Mr. Bekele Abebe	3	Wembera (Melkan)	
6	Mr. Kassie Abebe		Wembera (Melkan)	
7	Mr. Mulat Tadesse		Wembera (Melkan)	
8	Mr. Demissie Walelign	6	Wembera (Melkan)	
9	Mr. Demeke Tadesse		Wembera (Melkan)	
10	Mr. Nebret Melesse	5	Wembera (Melkan)	
11	Mr. Chale Mengiste	1	Wembera (Melkan)	
12	Mr. Shiferaw Worke		Wembera (Melkan)	
13	Mr. Alemu Tilaye		Wembera (Melkan)	
14	Mrs. Tirunesh Tilaye	3	Wembera (Melkan)	
15	Mrs. Yirgedu Tilaye		Wembera (Melkan)	
16	Mrs. Felegush Kassaye	4	Wembera (Melkan)	
17	Mr. Getahun Debasu		Wembera (Melkan)	
18	Mr. Abitew Wole	3	Wembera (Melkan)	
19	Mr. Adisse Wole (Student)		Wembera (Melkan)	
20	Mr. Kindineh Wole (Student)		Wembera (Melkan)	

21	Mrs. Kebebush Girma		Wembera (Melkan)	
22	Mr. Ayalew Getahun	4	Wembera (Melkan)	
23	Mr. Dereje Adamu	5	Wembera (Melkan)	
24	Mr. Tehayneh Adamu		Wembera (Melkan)	
25	Mr. Wassihun Girma	5	Wembera (Melkan)	
26	Mr. Yesanbel Zemene		Wembera (Melkan)	
27	Mr. Yitbarek Melaku		Wembera (Melkan)	
28	Mr. Atinaf Alemu		Wembera (Melkan)	
29	Mr. Melesse Hunegnaw		Wembera (Melkan)	
30	Mr. Workineh Tefera		Wembera (Melkan)	
31	Mr. Desalew Bayable		Wembera (Melkan)	
32	Mr. Welelaw Seyoum		Wembera (Melkan)	
33	Mr. Geremew Fente		Wembera (Melkan)	
34	Mr. Muluneh		Wembera (Melkan)	
35	Mr. Bire Solomon		Wembera (Melkan)	
36	Mr. Weregna Zeleke		Wembera (Melkan)	
37	Mr. Meshesha Desalegn		Wembera (Melkan)	
38	Mr. Gashaw Fantahun		Bulen (Aygali-Mozambique)	His kidneys and liver were consumed by the killers; remains of his corpse were not buried.
39	Mr. Takele Bizualem		Bulen (Aygali-Mozambique)	His kidneys and liver were consumed by the killers; remains of his corpse were not buried.
	Total	88 persons		

5. What Awaits the Amara in Metekel Zone

From reports we have received almost all Amara who used to live in some Kebeles of Wembera Wereda have been systematically eliminated by the local Gumuz and Shinasha communities. A contingent of about 28 members of the Special Police Force of Benshangul-Gumuz region, are

hunting down any remaining Amara in those areas. No one is spared; even pregnant women, the elderly, the disabled and children. Based on the information we have, about 224 Amaras have been displaced and forced to flee for their lives from Dobi and Chilanko Kebeles of Bulen Wereda (Please refer Table 2 for the details).

Table 2: List of the Amara victims who have been evicted from Dobi & Chilanko Kebeles, Bulen Wereda, Metekel Zone

No.	Name of Displaced Person	Family Size Affected	Wereda (Kebele)
1	Mr. Melke Zegeye	10	Bulen (Dobi)
2	Mr. Chale Melke	7	Bulen (Dobi)
3	Mr. Ijigu Yismaw	11	Bulen (Dobi)
4	Mr. Sintayehu Ijigu	3	Bulen (Dobi)
5	Mr. Belete Mulu	5	Bulen (Dobi)
6	Mr. Tewachew Gashu	3	Bulen (Dobi)
7	Mr. Nebretu Melesse	8	Bulen (Dobi)
8	Mr. Wudneh Zegeye	5	Bulen (Dobi)
9	Mr. Girmaw Zegeye	4	Bulen (Dobi)
10	Mr. Melkamu Melaku	5	Bulen (Dobi)
11	Mr. Sewareg Adamu	8	Bulen (Dobi)
12	Mr. Melsew Sewareg	2	Bulen (Dobi)
13	Mr. Matebe Muluneh	3	Bulen (Dobi)
14	Mr. Astewul Ayalew	5	Bulen (Dobi)
15	Mr. Abebe Alebachew	3	Bulen (Dobi)
16	Mr. Endeshaw Tarekegn	2	Bulen (Dobi)
17	Mr. Adigo Gedefaw	5	Bulen (Dobi)
18	Mr. Assefa Tilahun	3	Bulen (Dobi)
19	Mr. Nibret Yilmaw	4	Bulen (Dobi)
20	Mr. Simeneh Nibret	2	Bulen (Dobi)

21	Mr. Gereme Ijigu	2	Bulen (Dobi)
22	Mr. Alemineh Welelaw	5	Bulen (Dobi)
23	Mr. Wuletaw Endeshaw	4	Bulen (Dobi)
24	Mr. Desse Endeshaw	5	Bulen (Dobi)
25	Mr. Kelemu Taye	7	Bulen (Dobi)
26	Mr. Melkamu Taye	3	Bulen (Dobi)
27	Mr. Kassa Tefera	7	Bulen (Chilanko)
28	Mr. Abebe Kassie	2	Bulen (Chilanko)
29	Mr. Gedamu Mulu	12	Bulen (Chilanko)
30	Mr. Melkamu Abeje	7	Bulen (Chilanko)
31	Mr. Negash Abeje	6	Bulen (Chilanko)
32	Mr. Chane Tilahun	7	Bulen (Chilanko)
33	Mr. Desse Gedam	5	Bulen (Chilanko)
34	Mr. Getaneh Gedam	4	Bulen (Chilanko)
35	Mr. Nega Asfaw	6	Bulen (Chilanko)
36	Mr. Bere Gashew	4	Bulen (Chilanko)
37	Mr. Mulealem Abebe	4	Bulen (Chilanko)
38	Mr. Mengistu Ewunetu	3	Bulen (Chilanko)
39	Mr. Chale Abe	4	Bulen (Chilanko)
40	Mr. Baze Chekol	5	Bulen (Chilanko)
41	Mr. Desse Abe	8	Bulen (Chilanko)
42	Mr. Admite Keleme	3	Bulen (Chilanko)
43	Mr. Wasse Addis	6	Bulen (Chilanko)
44	Mr. Gete Adugna	2	Bulen (Chilanko)
45	Mr. Tefera Admas	3	Bulen (Chilanko)
46	Mr. Shite	2	Bulen (Chilanko)
	Total	224	

6. A Call for Action

It is apparent from the international news blackout that little has been reported about this massacre in the media. Unless awareness to the atrocities mentioned here is highlighted through the international media, we are certain that the Amaras are condemned to perish from various regions of Ethiopia without any trace.

We learn from history that similar genocide took place in the past on Armenians by the Ottoman Turks, on the Jews by Nazi Germany, on the Tutsis by the Hutus, and so on. The world community will never react and stop the genocide unless members of the victimized ethnic group come together and take action. Therefore, we specifically call upon all Amaras scattered throughout the globe to sensitize the world community at large about the genocide and ethnic cleansing committed and still being committed against the Amara in Ethiopia. It is a moral and judicial responsibility of international organizations such as the UN, governments which support the TPLF regime such as the United States, Great Britain, and members of the European Union, to stop the ongoing genocide on the Amara, which is deliberately orchestrated by the TPLF and its cohorts.

Let's act together to stop this carnage against the Amara!