

Re: Rape of children and women in Kobo (Amhara Region) on April 29, 2023!

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw your attention to the ongoing genocide in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, and the imminent threat of an attack by the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

On the 27th of April, an official of Abiy Ahmed's administration was executed in a manner that suggests the involvement of an armed group. However, a whistleblower from Abiy Ahmed's cabinet posted on Facebook, claiming that the Federal Government was responsible for the killing. This is not an isolated incident; Abiy Ahmed had previously killed several other officials in the Amhara Region, such as Engineer Semegnew, Ato Ambachew, Ato Megbaru, General Asaminew, Ato Abere, Ato Azeze and others, claiming that someone else was responsible for their deaths. No investigation was conducted, and no results of any investigation were communicated to the public. These killings were staged by Abiy Ahmed to justify his war against the Amhara people.

The situation in the Amhara Region is dire, with continuous reports of mass killings, arbitrary arrests, and detentions, as well as the burning of houses and properties. The people of Amhara are living in constant fear, with no end in sight. It is important to note that this genocide is not a spontaneous event, but rather a well-planned and orchestrated campaign by the Ethiopian Government. Abiy Ahmed has put most of the prominent Amhara intellectuals and journalists in prison before hand and interrupted the internet connections in the Amhara Region before the attacks took place. These actions clearly demonstrate that the Government was well prepared for what was about to happen, and that the attacks were premeditated.

To make matters even worse, Abiy Ahmed's Government launched a full-scale attack on the Amhara people on April 28 2023 and annexed the Amhara Region in three directions: Gojam, Wello and North Shewa. On the night of April 29 2023, the town of Kobo was under siege with members of the Federal Army carrying door-to-door operations, primarily raping women and young children, looting cash and jewelries.

This attack came under the backdrop of the recent statement made by Ambassador Michael Hammer, United States Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa urging Amhara Forces to be removed from Welkait and Raya (taken away forcefully in 1995 by the

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TPLF¹), suggesting that the United States might be backing the Ethiopian Federal Government operations against the Amhara people.

As a member of the international community, we implore you to take immediate action to address this urgent situation. We urge you to call on the Ethiopian Government to stop the genocide in the Amhara Region and request the US Government to stop backing these operations against the Amhara people. We also urge you to conduct a full and impartial investigation into the killings of officials and other civilians, including the recent *raping of children and women* in Kobo, and hold those responsible including the Bidenadministration accountable for their actions.

We also call on the UN Human Rights Council to establish an independent commission of inquiry to investigate these crimes against humanity and ensure that justice is served. The world cannot sit idly-by while innocent people are being massacred, raped and their livelihood destroyed.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt action.

Sincerely,

Yodith Gideon

Chavornay, May 3, 2023

¹ Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)