



## **Report on Prosperity Party’s mass arrest campaign and use of lethal force against peaceful protesters by security forces in May 2022**

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has verified from its sources that government security forces have been carrying out a campaign of mass arrests of ethnic Amhara political opposition members, journalists, government officials, civic organization members [e.g. Metekel Amhara Identity Restoration Committee (Metekel Committee)] and suspected Fano members. AAA managed to identify nearly one hundred political dissenters including at least 38 opposition political party members [33 from National Movement of Amhara (NaMA) party, 2 from Balderas for True Democracy (Balderas) party, and 3 from Enat party], at least 18 journalists, several former/current government officials, former security officials [primarily Amhara Special Forces (ASF)], civic organization members [e.g. Amhara Youth Association (AYA)] and suspected Fano members have been arbitrarily and illegally detained throughout the Amhara Region and Addis Ababa city. The Amhara Regional Government itself announced that it mass detained more than 4,500 people within a week of the crackdown being initiated across the region.

The arbitrary arrests and detentions are violating the due procedural right of detainees

recognized in Ethiopian and international bill of human rights. Majority of the victims were not given a reason for their arrest; not brought to court within the legally prescribed time; not formally charged; and seized and searched without court warrants.

The majority of the detainees are being held in detention sites in Nefas Mewcha (South Gonder Zone, Amhara Region) and Were Ilu (South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region) without any court oversight. Names and affiliations of 99 identified detainees are provided below.

No.	Name	Affiliation	Detention Date	Location Held
1	BGen Tefera Mamo	Former ASF Head	May-18	Bahir Dar Zetenezna Police Station
2	Cdr Getahun Biset	Former ASF Deputy Head	May-19	Undisclosed
3	Meskerem Abera	Professor, journalist, Nekat Media founder	May-21	Addis Ababa Sosegna Police Station
4	Engineer Belay	AYA Woldia branch member	May-19	Undisclosed
5	Yitbarek Abay	AYA Woldia branch member	May-19	Undisclosed
6	Kelemu Gelagay Akinie	Cameraman and editor-Ashara media	May-19	Nefas Mewcha prison
7	Gashaye Nigussie Ferede	Journalist-Ashara media	May-19	Nefas Mewcha prison
8	Getinet Yalew	Journalist-Ashara media	May-19	Nefas Mewcha prison
9	Habtamu Melese	Journalist-Ashara media	May-19	Nefas Mewcha prison
10	Daniel Mesfin	Cameraman and Journalist-Ashara media	May-19	Nefas Mewcha prison
11	Solomon Shumye	Founder and owner-Gebayanu Media	May-20	Nefas Mewcha prison
12	Tadios Tantu	Journalist and author (elderly)	May-18	Addis Ababa Sosegna Police Station
13	Tesfaye Bayih	Dangila Woreda council member (elderly)	May-18	Undisclosed
14	Endalamaw Dagne	NaMA Yejubie Branch-Chief of Youth Affairs	May-21	Undisclosed
15	Esubalew Bayneh	Dangila town-PR Chief	May-18	Undisclosed
16	Ashenafi Akalu	NaMA West Gojjam Branch Office Head	May-18	Undisclosed
17	Zelalem Chanie	NaMA member-Dessie city	May-18	Undisclosed
18	Dr. Ayalew Talema	NaMA member and candidate-Dessie city	May-18	Undisclosed
19	Genanew Atikut	NaMA Dangila Branch Office Chief	May-18	Undisclosed
20	Asmamaw Molla	NaMA member	May-19	Undisclosed
21	Gizachew Menber	NaMA Awabel Woreda Branch Office Chief	May-20	Awabel Woreda
22	Tihitina (Tina) Belay	NaMA member and activist-Bahir Dar city	May-21	Nefas Mewcha Prison
23	Ashenafi Alemu	Suspected Fano coordinator-Woldia city	May-21	Undisclosed
24	Endale Fentie	NaMA member	May-19	Undisclosed
25	Biniam Mulugeta	NaMA member	May-19	Undisclosed
26	Fitsum Aygegn	NaMA member-Dangila town	May-18	Undisclosed

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27	Belete Ejigu	NaMA member	May-18	Undisclosed
28	Negash Getinet	NaMA member	May-21	Undisclosed
29	Alehegn Walie	NaMA Debre Elias Branch Office Chief	May-18	Undisclosed
30	Minishaw Abate	NaMA member	May-18	Undisclosed
31	Alemu Temesgen	NaMA member	May-19	Undisclosed
32	Endale Addis	NaMA member	May-19	Undisclosed
33	Amare Temesgen	NaMA member	May-19	Undisclosed
34	Getinet Adugna	NaMA Tilili Woreda Branch Office Chief	May-19	Undisclosed
35	Engineer Birhanu Silesh	NaMA Central Gonder Branch Office Chief	May-21	Undisclosed
36	Fentie Lulie	NaMA Baso Liben Branch Office-Legal Affairs	May-21	Undisclosed
37	Amare Workie	South Wollo Zone admin-Chief of Finance	May-18	Undisclosed
38	Agengew Workie Gobaw	NaMA member-Mekane Selam town	May-22	Undisclosed
39	Abay Areda	NaMA Gonder city Office Chief	May-23	Undisclosed
40	Aynadis Walelign	Suspected activist	May-23	Undisclosed
41	Abubeker Hailu	Suspected Fano-Woldia city	May-23	Undisclosed
42	Tomas	Suspected Fano-Woldia city	May-23	Undisclosed
43	Addisu Getaneh	Lawyer and political commentator	May-24	Undisclosed
44	Nigus Alemayew	NaMA Gonji Kolela Office Chief	May-23	Undisclosed
45	Negash Dagne	NaMA member	May-21	Undisclosed
46	Awoke Kassahun	NaMA Jawi town Branch Office Chief	May-22	Undisclosed
47	Adane Baye	Awabel Woreda Agricultural Office Chief	May-22	Awabel Woreda
48	Mogne Tewabe	NaMA member	May-22	Awabel Woreda
49	Abraham Wodiyfraw	NaMA member	May-22	Awabel Woreda
50	Melese Dejen	AYA member	May-24	Undisclosed
51	Haile Simeneh	Suspected Fano supporter	May-18	Undisclosed
52	Natnael Yalemzewd	Balderas Party member	May-25	Addis Ababa police station
53	Getu Alebachew	Suspected Fano member in Delgi town	May-24	Undisclosed
54	Endalew Addis	Chief-Metekel Committee	May-09	Undisclosed
55	Ajamaw Simeneh	Vice Chief-Metekel Committee	May-21	Undisclosed
56	Tekletsadik Mekuria	Suspected activist	May-21	Undisclosed
57	Nigus Girma	Suspected activist	May-21	Undisclosed
58	Abraraw Mengistie	Suspected Fano-Maekelawi Armachiho	May-18	Undisclosed
59	Abiyot Tekeba	Suspected Fano-Maekelawi Armachiho	May-18	Undisclosed
60	Shaleka Anteneh Dires	Suspected Fano leader-Gonder city	May-13	Undisclosed
61	Girmaw Ashebir	Director of Internal Comms-Bahir Dar University	May-24	Undisclosed
62	Girum Missale	AYA Durbete branch chairman	May-24	Undisclosed

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63	Zemene Kassie	AYA Durbete branch member	May-24	Undisclosed
64	Mulat Adino	AYA Durbete branch member	May-24	Undisclosed
65	Mariye Yimenu	Suspected Fano	May-24	Undisclosed
66	Yeshitila Kibret	Enat Party member and candidate	May-18	Undisclosed
67	Temesgen Desalegn	Feteh Magazine Managing Director	May-26	Addis Ababa Police Station
68	Bekalu Alamrew	Owner of Alfa TV	May-27	Addis Ababa Police Station
69	Sintayehu Chekol	Balderas Party senior official	May-27	Undisclosed
70	Chekole Worku Kebede	Suspected Fano supporter	May-23	Undisclosed
71	Kasey Tegegn	Suspected Fano	May-26	Undisclosed
72	Yohannes Abiye	Suspected Fano coordinator-Awi Zone	May-26	Undisclosed
73	Zinabu Adino	Suspected Fano	May-18	Undisclosed
74	Ashenafi Alemu	Suspected Fano	May-19	Undisclosed
75	Belay Dessale	Suspected Fano	May-18	Undisclosed
76	Takale Tesfaye	Suspected Fano	May-18	Undisclosed
77	Arega Dessale	Suspected Fano	May-18	Undisclosed
78	Yimer Said	Suspected Fano	May-18	Undisclosed
79	Yayesev Shimeles	Journalist at Ethio Forum	May-26	Addis Ababa Police Station
80	Gobeze Kebede	Policeman-Ebinat	May-23	Undisclosed
81	Tade Chekole	Unknown	May-23	Undisclosed
82	Solomon	Unknown	May-23	Undisclosed
83	Fisseha	Teacher	May-23	Undisclosed
84	Tadele Gash	Enat Party member	May-21	Undisclosed
85	Migbaru Asmare	Enat Party member	May-21	Released
86	Simegn Tademe	Enat Party member	May-21	Sodo Police Station
87	Ahmed Yesuf	Suspected Fano member	May-28	Undisclosed
88	Yibrie Kassu	Suspected Fano member	May-28	Undisclosed
89	Awoke Tenaw	Suspected Fano member	May-29	Undisclosed
90	Abraham Abinew	Suspected Fano member	May-29	Undisclosed
91	Mulugeta Yeshitila	Suspected Fano leader-South Wollo Zone	May-18	Undisclosed
92	Arega Tadesse	Suspected Fano member	May-18	Undisclosed
93	Yimer Sayed	Suspected Fano member	May-18	Undisclosed
94	Masrie Kassaw	NaMA member-Nefas Mewcha town	May-28	Undisclosed
95	Takele Wagaw	NaMA Tenta Branch Office Chief	May-28	Undisclosed
96	Gashaw Tegegne	NaMA Metema Branch Office Chief	May-28	Undisclosed
97	Meaza Mohammed	Journalist, co-founder and host of Roha TV	May-28	Addis Ababa Police Station
98	Yalelet Wondiye	Journalist	May-30	Undisclosed

## Use of lethal force by security forces against peaceful protestors

On May 20th, 2022, the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and other security forces wearing ASF uniforms fired onto peaceful demonstrators who were calling for the mass arrests to be stopped in in Motta town (East Gojjam Zone, Amhara Region) and Woldia city (North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region). AAA has verified at least 7 civilians were killed and an additional 10 were injured in Woldia while the exact number in Motta is unknown. Among the civilians killed were Seid Tesfaye, Samuel (last name unknown), Amare Zewdu (28-years-old), and Shambel (last name unknown). The same day, residents of Merawi town (West Gojjam Zone, Amhara Region) entered into clashes with security forces in their attempt to arrest Fano Zemene Kassie, leader of Amhara Popular Force (APF). It is believed the clash has claimed the lives of residents numbering in the dozens.

Photographs of protesters killed by government security forces in Woldia city (North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region).



(a) Amare Zewdu (deceased)



(b) Samuel (last name unknown) (deceased)

**Figure 1:** Photographs of residents of Woldia city killed by government security forces in May 2022.

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## About Amhara Association of America (AAA)

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a non-profit civic organization located in Charlotte, North Carolina that investigates and documents human rights atrocities and repression against Amharas in Ethiopia. AAA seeks to inform U.S. policymakers, international human rights organizations, media, and all Ethiopian stakeholders to pressure Ethiopian leaders to change laws, policies, and practices in Ethiopia so perpetrators are held accountable and victims receive justice. AAA also collaborates with Amhara organizations in the U.S., supports independent Amhara organizations in Ethiopia, and provides humanitarian aid for Amharas impacted due to targeted ethnic attacks. AAA's funding comes directly from members and supporters; the organization is not affiliated with any Ethiopian or American political or governmental entities.

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