

Genocide Prevention in Ethiopia (GPE)

A call to save lives of Amhara detainees¹ that are tortured and denied medical treatment by the regime in Ethiopia

GPE CALL TO ACTION!

Status: Ongoing

January 05, 2025

1. Call-to-Action to save the lives of Hon. Mr. Christian Tadele and Hon. Mr. Yohannes Boyalew

Genocide Prevention in Ethiopia (GPE) is hereby issuing a **CALL-TO-ACTION** to save the lives of critically sick and illegally detained Amhara House Representatives Hon. Mr. Christian Tadele and Hon. Mr. Yohannes Boyalew. We urgently call on all human rights organizations, human rights advocates and everyone who can make a difference and who stands for the sanctity of life to act so that they can be rescued.



Hon. Mr. Christian Tadele (Left) and Hon. Mr. Yohannes Boyalew (Right)

Both Mr. Christian Tadele and Mr. Yohannes Boyalew were detained despite the immunity afforded to them for being a house representative for the Amhara people in the lower house of the Ethiopian Federal Parliamentary Assembly and Amhara National Regional State house of representatives respectively. Their detaining is part of the wave of illegal abductions and arrests

¹Amhara detainees: throughout the report the term “detainees” refer to those that are detained either: 1. with no due process of law and are abducted and held just for their identity, 2. or those held with trumped up charges, 3. or those who are undergoing a seemingly legal process, when in reality their case is being sabotaged by the regime’s influence on the legal system. This includes the court presenting paid off and scripted witnesses against the ethnically targeted detainees.

that followed the State of Emergency that was illegally imposed on August 2023. Ever since rampant targeting of ethnic Amharas from all walks of lives has exacerbated. Most detainees (illegally detained, mostly held without charge or with trumped up charges) face torture, starvation, intermittent solitary confinement, and denial of family visitation etc...

The representatives were detained without any prior procedure to invoke their immunity afforded to them for being house representatives, furthermore they were targeted for speaking up for the people they represent. They both were first detained in Awash Arba an extremely poor condition detention center in a very hot climate area. Along with other detainees, they faced starvation, they were deliberately exposed to extremely hot temperatures, were beaten severely, they were also kept in extremely unlivable condition. They frequently needed medical attention due to extreme physical and mental abuse at the center. After months of being detained in Awash Arba, they were later transferred to a prison in Addis Ababa. The mistreatment continued in the form of starvation, denial of medical assistance, denial of visitation from family members and psychological abuse through either intermittent solitary confinement or mixing them up with dangerous inmates.

Currently, both face life threatening health complications. They both underwent abdominal surgery in December 2024. Despite the recommendation that they needed to stay under medical supervision, the regime took them back to prison. Their current condition is undoubtedly not safe for patients who just underwent surgery and are still facing unresolved health issues. They both reported of being under immense pain, however even pain killer was not approved for their use. Reports received thus far indicate that there is also a possibility of the presence of cancerous mass in their body. We have learned from medical practitioners we consulted that if there potentially is a malignant mass immediate biopsy and if indeed is proved to be cancerous immediate treatment is needed. However, regardless of the grave concerns of family, medical practitioners and the people who they represent, the regime in Ethiopia has not reacted in any manner that will save the lives of these representatives.

2. Background on the life-threatening situation of Amhara Detainees

GPE has collected enough actionable information to make an evidence-based determination that the regime in Ethiopia has an intent to kill-off key detainees. Ever since the illegal and out of procedure 'State of Emergency (SoE)' was imposed in August 2023 (six months after the regime in Ethiopia already declared an illegal war on Amhara); unexplained, non-procedural State-led murder, abduction and detention of Amharas has exponentially increased. Hundreds of thousands of detainees are being held in three types of centers. 1) official detention SOE² related centers set-up in 4 locations across Amhara region³, 2) unofficial concentration camps where extremely inhuman conditions are sustained, 3) regular jails and prisons.

1. SOE related detention centers: evidence thus far indicated that summary execution, torture, starvation and deliberate administration of poison has been practiced on detainees on all SOE

² SOE: State of Emergency

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/OHCHR-Update-HR-situation-in-Ethiopia-in-2023.pdf>

detention centers, detainees in this category are Amharas that have been vocal regarding the ongoing genocide against Amhara people. These are mainly human rights advocates, journalists and Amhara people's representatives in both Federal and Regional houses. 2. Concentration camps: these are unofficial establishments used to abduct and hold ethnic Amharas. Targeted detainees are generally picked up with no warning, all age groups including children and senior citizens have been reported to be abducted and thrown in these concentration camps. Usually, those abducted in this manner are picked up for no other reason than being Amharas, in some cases, once abducted their properties are usually taken over with no due process of law. 3. Regular prisons and jails: Amhara detainees who already have trumped up cases pending in the court process are mostly kept in official prisons and jails. However, there are also some that are following cases in court but are kept in SOE related detention centers.

3. Elimination by design

In all cases, Amhara detainees were killed, maimed and tortured without any due process of law across all kinds of detention centers. We have observed a very concerning pattern as epidemics, starvation, summary killings, torture and poor sanitary conditions are reported across concentration camps and detention centres that are informally run by the regime in Ethiopia. In prison, jails, or correction facilities, they use a slightly different method to hurt detainees as family members and lawyers know where detainees are held. They are either intermittently kept in solitary confinement to psychologically abuse them or they mix them up with criminals so that they are harmed through inmates that are indirectly handled by the regime. We have now evidence that key detainees are deliberately being harmed so that they die before their court case is adjourned and are released as the charges put up against them are all trumped up.

4. CALL – TO – ACTION

GPE asserts that the continuous blow the regime is facing from the Amhara resistance in general and Fanos (an Amhara armed resistance that was born out of resisting the genocide against Amharas in Ethiopia) in particular, has frustrated the regime to the point of panic where they may be forced to release hundreds of thousands of ethnic Amharas they targeted and detained across the three types of establishments described above. The regime understands the mistreatments, conditions and the cruelty detainees faced is evidence towards the genocide it is conducting against Amharas. Quite recently, the regime has started directly assassinating successful Amhara businessmen, artists and persons of notable achievement without even bothering to detain them or abducting them. Together with the strategic and design-based elimination of key detainees these new strings of assassination of Amharas is an indication of yet a new level of severe targeting Amharas are facing by the regime in Ethiopia. The international community needs to truly act as quick as possible to save the lives of these targeted Amharas. The kill-off plan is underway as the regime is acting in a mindset of destroying evidence, therefore unless urgent and decisive pressure is applied on the rogue and genocidal government in Ethiopia a disaster the international community vowed not to witness with the 'Never Again' motto will realize in Ethiopia all over again.

Specific recommendations for immediate action

1. Immediate intervention to get Hon. Christian Tadele and Hon. Yohannes Boyalew released so that they get the urgent medical care they need to save their lives.
2. Immediate call to get all Amhara abductees, detainees and prisoners who are targeted just for their identity to be released unconditionally.
3. Immediate call to get all Abductees, detainees and prisoners who are targeted either because they tried to expose the genocide against Amharas or because they tried to oppose all the genocidal and tyrannical actions of the regime in Ethiopia.

Recommendations to avert the impending State-led crises in Ethiopia

4. Recognize that an active coordinated and planned targeting is ongoing against Amharas in Ethiopia. This will pave the way so the international community can **investigate about the active genocide against Amharas**, which we at the GPE already determined to be under way based on the extensive data, evidence and testimony we gathered over the past 5 years.
5. Put direct political pressure on the regime to stop the currently ongoing **war on Amhara**. Primarily:
 - 5.1 Targeted sanctions against all the major political leaders of the regime in Ethiopia including barring them from travel and freezing their financial assets overseas.
 - 5.2 Targeted sanctions against all military officials that are involved with war crimes, genocidal attacks and performed large scale illegal profiling, abduction and detention of ethnic Amharas and others solely based on their identity.
 - 5.3 Put political pressure on nations including The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran, China, and Turkey that are providing armed drones which are being used against civilian targets to the regime in Ethiopia, so they cease to provide deadly support to the ongoing genocide in Ethiopia.

Appendix 1: Detainees that are currently undergoing court cases (not a complete account)

This is a generic list of Amhara detainees that are currently undergoing a court case in Addis Ababa. The list also includes a few non-Amhara detainees that were illegally detained for exposing the ongoing genocide against Amharas in Ethiopia.

Trumped up ‘terrorism’ related charges

1. Dr. Wondossen Assefa Hailemariam and 23 others listed under a similar charge
2. Hon. Mr. Yohannes Boyalew, 16 detainees in total under the same charge
3. Mr. Melak Misale Mengistu, 13 detainees in total under the same charge
4. Mr. Sintayehu Nigatu Gebreyesus, 43 detainees
5. Mr. Yordanos Aleme Kebede, 9 detainees
6. Dr. Tewodros Hailemariam Gedlu, 5 detainees
7. Mr. Solomon Fekadu Tase, 6 detainees
8. Mr. Tewodros Tamraye Fentaw, 23 detainees
9. Mr. Mulunch Aytenfusu Woldtsadik, 4 detainees in total
10. Mr. Wondimagegn Bergena Balcha, from Woliata ethnic group
11. Mr. Zenebe Shita, 3 detainees in total
12. Mr. Awol and Mr. Hassen (Brothers)
13. Mr. Asmare Worket
14. Mr. Mikael Melake, Human Rights Defender and Journalist
15. Mr. Wegene Sirak, 2 detainees
16. Mr. Chilot Yismaw, 4 detainees
17. Mr. Tamrat Misganaw
18. Dr. Daniel Tesfa
19. Mr. Destaw Mammo, 2 detainees
20. Mr. Abebaw Fikadu
21. Mr. Haile Kebede
22. Gosaye Wondimu, 7 detainees

Other trumped-up charges

23. Mr. Yusuf Yirga (detained and brought from Wollega), 9 detainees, two of them ethnic Oromos. These were taken to Ziway, Oromo Region, except one detainee who is kept in Qilinto Correction centre in Addis Ababa
24. Mr. Tadios Tantu, Journalist and Historian (ethnic Wolaita)

There are a total of 168 detainees who are undergoing a court case based on trumped up charges levelled by the regime. Out of these 164 are held in Qilinto, 4 (females) in Kaliti and 1 in Aba Samuel.

The wrongfully detained people listed above and others who are not listed here face several challenges beyond being randomly tortured and psychologically abused. The following issues are the most concerning for the detainees and their families.

1. Those that are civil servants among the detainees had their salaries cut-off.
2. There are family members of detainees who became homeless as they could not afford rental fees, due to the only breadwinner of the family being detained.
3. Children of some detainees have been forced to discontinue school and are forced to become homeless
4. Detainees have been strung along without any verdict due to courts time and again giving unnecessary extensions citing lack of witnesses etc...
5. Deliberate starvation of detainees and denial of medical assistance.
6. Family members of detainees have repeatedly asked for swift justice but have been ignored.
7. Detainee families have requested for assistance as they reached a point where they cannot deliver basic needs to family members.

The above list includes some of the prominent Amhara detainees targeted by the regime for trying to raise awareness about the ongoing genocide against Amharas. Although, the detainees are facing immense suffering throughout the time they are under detention, their whereabouts was known for most of their time under detention. There are also those with worse fate, thousands of Amharas that were abducted arbitrarily and kept in various concentration camps across the country are not accounted for and will most probably not be heard of ever again.

Therefore, this call-to-action is a call for saving lives. These abductions, detentions and unjust imprisonment of Amharas en masse is an aspect of the genocide that is ongoing against ethnic Amharas in Ethiopia. The immense suffering faced by these targeted Amharas across all types of detention centres, concentration camps and correction facilities is akin to stories reported out of the most heinous genocides that took place in human history. Currently, everyday there are people who are tortured, mutilated, starved, and facing life threatening health issues. The details of physical and mental abuse against these Amhara detainees is too severe and inhumane. What is ongoing right now against Amhara people in Ethiopia is a stain on humanity's legacy. Therefore, we call upon all human rights organizations, the international media and multi-lateral organizations concerned with the well-being of humanity, to urgently address the situation. GPE is ready to provide evidence and documentation regarding the gross human rights violations that are faced by Amharas in Ethiopia in general and Amhara abductees and detainees in particular.

Appendix 2: Previous alerts regarding Amhara detainees:

1. GPE. 2023. SEVERE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: WAR ON AMHARA AND AMAHRA GENOCIDE IN ETHIOPIA; Urgent briefing for human rights organizations, ally nations and multi-lateral organizations. Report date: September 10, 2023. Report No: GPE_AR_20230910-01 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mfUCDaa7vjV1Lg58HRAIAT6idObHjFjR/view?usp=drive_link
2. GPE. 2023. Second round of mass abduction of ethnic Amharas across major cities in Ethiopia. Report date: June 26, 2023. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SV6xbZGWMk4wY4TCPom3VQokP-CeRnIB/view?usp=drive_link