



Press Statement PE02/24
08.04.2024; Frankfurt;

Ethiopia

Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya: Where the TPLF elites lived out their inhumanity

Recent historical events and political assessment

The period from 1983 to 1990: invasion and occupation of Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt by the TPLF

In retrospect, the struggle for existence of the Amhara people began in 1983 in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt. The Amhara in these areas resisted the invasion of the TPLF (Tigray People's Liberation Front) to defend their Amhara identity. From 1983 to 1990, the TPLF was still an armed organisation operating in Tigray. During this time, the TPLF crossed the Tekeze River, occupied these areas and committed shocking human rights violations against the Amhara people. On April 5, 2022, researchers from Gondar University published the discovery of twelve mass graves containing about 59,000 bodies in the Wolkait region, the place called "Gehennem" (Amharic: hell). According to the publication, the inhabitants were tortured and killed for rejecting the Tigray ethnic identity imposed on them and professing the identity of Gondar.¹

The period from 1991 to 2020: Serious human rights violations against the Amhara people by the TPLF

Why we speak of justice and freedom for the Amhara people in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya!

Because the following fundamental rights violations was the order of the day:

- Demographic change in favor of the Tigre,
- Systematic disappearances,
- Forced assimilation and murder
- Enslavement,
- Rape,
- Ethnic cleansing of the Amhara people from the above-mentioned areas from 1984 to 2020.

After taking control of Wolkait, Tegede and Telemt in the early 1980s, the TPLF went all out to displace, expel and kill the Amharas, especially the elders, and change the demographics in these areas in favor of the Tigre population. It did this by settling hundreds of thousands of Tigre in Wolkait, Tegede and Telemt in more than 16 settlement colonies.²

From the beginning, the TPLF sought to change the ethnic composition as quickly as possible in favor of the Tigre in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya.

The case of Humera and the surrounding area (Kabtiya Humera) is a prime example of this:³

The 1991 census (when the TPLF was already in power in Addis Ababa) gave a population of 47,919 for Kabtiya Humera. According to the UN report of 1991, the number of Amharas and Tigre should be the same. This information must have been provided to the UN by TPLF officials. The 2007 census brought a complete surprise: the population was given as 92,167, of which 86% were Tigre (79,264), Amhara 7.8% (7,189) (7% other). The following table shows the TPLF's objective in the occupied territories, Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya, through an aggressive settlement policy of the Tigre, flanked by brutal expulsions of the Amharas from the occupied territories.

¹ <https://borkena.com/2022/04/05/wolkait-mass-grave-researchers-say-tplf-had-killed-and-tortured-about-59000-people/>

² Annexation and Structural Genocide in Welkait-Tegede and Telemt: University of Gondar Research Team; Kindle Edition (Amharic); published Dec. 5, 2022, S.110

³ Annexation and Structural Genocide in Welkait-Tegede and Telemt: University of Gondar Research Team; Kindle Edition (Amharic); published Dec. 5, 2022, S.79

	Census 1991 Analysis Kabtiya Humera	Census 2007 Kabtiya Humera	Notes
Total population Kabtiya Humera	47.919	92.167	
Amhara population in Kabtiya Humera	23.960 (50%) UN-Report	7.189 (7,8%)	Without the expulsion of the Amhara from Kabtiya Humera, this drastic decline in the number of Amhara would not have been possible.
Tigre population in Kabtiya Humera	23.960 (50%) UN-Report	79.264 (86%)	Without the Tigrayization (settlement of the Tigre) this number of Tigre would not have been reached.

One of the Tigrization methods used by the TPLF in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt was the forced adoption of the Tigray language. Another method was the Proclamation (Directive No. 86/2007) issued in 2007 to prohibit the use of Amharic in schools and public spaces.

As part of their investigation into human rights violations by the TPLF (1983 to 2020), researchers at the University of Gondar selected 912 victims who were interviewed in detail. The victims were also able to name the perpetrators (individuals, groups, authorities and institutions).

Below is a small excerpt from the results of the 2021 survey of Amhara victims on the human rights violations committed by the TPLF against the Amhara in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt:⁴

1. Murder: 798 (87.5%) of the 912 victims confirm that the TPLF murdered Amharas.
2. Deprivation of food and medicine: 707 (77.5%) of 912 victims confirm deprivation.
3. Enslavement: 816 (89.5%) of 912 victims confirm that the TPLF enslaved Amharas.
4. Torture: 869 (95.3%) of 912 victims confirm that the TPLF tortured Amharas.
5. Disappearance: 858 (94.1%) of 912 victims confirmed that the TPLF disappeared Amharas.
6. Displacement: 874 (95.8%) of 912 victims confirmed that the TPLF forcibly displaced Amharas.
7. Apartheid or ethnic cleansing: 829 (90.3%) of 912 victims confirmed that the TPLF forcibly displaced the Amharas.
8. Rape of women: 662 (70.1%) of 912 victims confirm that the TPLF raped Amhara women.
9. Forced pregnancy: 596 (65.4%) of 912 victims confirm that the TPLF forcibly impregnated Amhara women.
10. Forced sterilization of women: 588 (64.5%) of 912 victims confirm that the TPLF forcibly sterilized Amhara women.
11. Children were forced to assume a different identity? 813 (89.1%) of 912 victims confirm that the TPLF forced Amhara children to assume a different identity.

The Amharas in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya have been eagerly awaiting justice for a long time!

Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya is all about justice for the Amhara victims who were invaded, occupied, dispossessed, massacred and buried in mass graves by the TPLF. Despite serious human rights violations against the Amharas in these areas, the TPLF and the Prosperity criminals want to return to the site of their crimes and insist on the return of the territories to the TPLF. This is unthinkable for the Amharas!

We are certain that without the restoration of justice and freedom for the Amharas in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya, the Amharas' struggle for existence will not be successful.

For this reason, the attempt by the two criminal parties, the TPLF and the Prosperity Party, to reinstall the TPLF in these areas is doomed to failure.

As there are more than enough witnesses and incriminating documents to prove the worst human rights violations committed by the TPLF elites against the Amhara people of Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya, it is high time that the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) and the United Nations (UN) turn their attention to the victims of Amhara. Furthermore, it is known from the media that the West, especially the US and the UK, are demanding the return of the Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya areas to the TPLF. We would also like to draw their attention to the situation outlined in this press statement to reconsider their position.

"In Wolkait-Tegede, Telemt and Raya we only need your women and your land!"

Such barbaric and permanent humiliation of the Amharas in Wolkait-Tegede-Telemt-Raya by the TPLF elites in the past decades must not be repeated under any circumstances.

⁴ Annexation and Structural Genocide in Welkait-Tegede and Telemt: University of Gondar Research Team; Kindle Edition (Amharic); published Dec. 5, 2022, S. 125 Tabelle 5