



Ethiopia

Press Release PE08/24
20.10.2024; Frankfurt

Ethiopia: The suffering of the Amharas and the West's unspeakable strategy

Summary

The current massacres of Amhara civilians by the Abiy army in the Amhara region are also the result of a neo-colonialist strategy, especially by the US and the EU. The Biden administration has lifted the 'Human Rights violation Designation on Ethiopia' (<https://bit.ly/4f7sQsa>), although the 'International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE)' strongly recommended in 2023 that the alleged crimes in Ethiopia should continue to be investigated in 2024.

Abiy's army is carrying out daily massacres of civilians in Amhara using drones, air strikes, tanks and other heavy weapons. Victims include children as young as two, women, the elderly and domestic animals. Civilian casualties are estimated to be in the hundreds and thousands every day. The army is burning homes, community centres and crops. These massacres are currently continuing in parallel and unabated in all 4 provinces (Shewa, Gojam, Welo/Bete Amahra, and Gonder). The massacre of the Amhara is tacitly accepted by the US and the EU because Abiy Ahmed and the TPLF are and will remain long-term partners of the US and the EU. As long as Abiy continues to accommodate the EU on migration, is militarily active against al-Shabab in Somalia and continues to privatise the Ethiopian economy, he can obviously trample on human rights in the Amhara region.

The West, the Amharas and the consequences

Internationally ignored, the number of Amhara victims continues to rise due to the crimes of the TPLF (approx. 30 years) and Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party (approx. 5 years) over the last 35 years. Estimated number of victims: seven million dead. (Source: Hibir Radio)

This figure refers to the whole of Ethiopia over a period from 1991 - 2024. Mass killings, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes were committed against the Amhara people.

These incidents have unfortunately been ignored by the international community so far.

October 2023: The missed opportunity to avert mass murder

According to the ICHREE report "The acute risk of further atrocity crimes in Ethiopia: an analysis" (<https://bit.ly/4ePwRlh>), the United Nations (UN) international human rights experts strongly recommend that the investigation in Ethiopia should continue in 2024.

The ICHREE report concludes that crimes against civilians are likely to be committed by state actors in the near future. The US, EU and some European countries have allowed the UN investigation to falter, with devastating consequences for the Amhara. If the UN had been able to continue the work of the appointed ICHREE until 2024, some things would have come to light in a timely and substantiated manner. Despite the experts' findings of serious and systematic human rights violations and war crimes in Ethiopia, the US and the EU favoured accepting the Abiy regime's plan, known as 'transitional justice'. It is reasonable to assume that the US and EU will only support the investigation of human rights violations if it does not conflict with their

geopolitical and economic interests. It is an illusion for the West to expect 'transitional justice' under the Abiy regime. (<https://bit.ly/48mtWOD>)

Review: A brief history of the suffering of the Amharas

The TPLF invaded and annexed Welkait-Tegede, Telemt and Raya in 1989 and declared them part of the Tigray region (renamed 'Western Tigray'). The Tigray regional constitution states that the rightful inhabitants of the Tigray region are the Tigre people. The Amharas were therefore already in a difficult situation, losing not only their property in their ancestral lands, but also their cultural identity. The Amharas in Raya (renamed South Tigray) were in a similar situation. The TPLF committed most of the crimes against the Amharas in Welkait-Tegede, Telemt and Raya between 1990 and 2020.

"We need the land and the women" was their motto, a statement often made by TPLF representatives to the Amharas in Welkait. Women were raped and impregnated by Tigrayan settlers in a perfidious manner. This illustrates the nature of the annexation. Resistance to forced **Tigrayanisation** and loss of Amhara identity was met with mass arrests and killings.

On 5 April 2022, scientists from the University of Gonder made public the discovery of twelve mass graves containing some 59,000 remains in the Wolkait region, the place known as 'Gehanem' (Amharic for hell). The belongings were confiscated and handed over to the Tigrean settlers. The GTZ (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) was instrumental in transporting the Tigrayan settlers to Welkait-Tegede-Telemt (*Quelle: World Bank Discussion paper WDP331 June 1996, The Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in Ethiopia, Namibia, and Uganda, The Humera resettlement scheme p.65 – 75*). All this is documented. Eyewitnesses are still alive.

The Abiy regime has committed countless mass killings of Amhara people in Welega, Eastern and Western Shewa, etc. since 2018 to date. Since April 2023, the Abiy regime has deployed almost the entire Ethiopian army in the Amhara region. This is when the Amhara self-defence forces, Fano, in Gonder, Gojam, Welo and Shewa started to organise resistance against the invading army of Abiy Ahmed. In just one and a half years, Fano has grown into a force that not only secures the right of the Amhara to exist, but has also become a force in Ethiopia.

The West insists on its narrow interests

The current crimes in the Amhara region and also in Addis Ababa show that the ethno-fascist Abiy regime is aiming at the annihilation of the Amhara people in order to pave the way for the establishment of its own state 'Oromia' and an independent state 'Greater Tigray Republic'.

The Association of Amhara in Germany (VAD) has repeatedly pointed out to the German government, human rights organisations and German media that the Abiy regime has been systematically causing casualties among the Amhara population in various parts of Ethiopia over the past five years. The West's attempt to ensure stability in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa in partnership with the ethno-fascist TPLF and Abiy's Prosperity Party to the exclusion of the Amhara people has not been as successful as the West had hoped. It would therefore be prudent to rethink and change the West's strategy to date.