



The Continued Demolition of Homes, Arbitrary Detention, and Bodily Injury of Amharas in the Newly Established Sheger City by the Oromia Regional State

Findings

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) has conducted new investigations into the ongoing targeted demolitions of homes belonging to ethnic Amharas on the outskirts of Addis Ababa city which were incorporated by the Oromia Regional State under the newly established Sheger city administration. The demolitions were carried out by a task force from the Sheger city administration (Oromia Regional State) in collaboration with *Oromia Special Forces* (OSF), Oromia police, and local *Qeerro* (ultranationalist Oromo youth). The Oromia Region security forces were also implicated in various abuses against residents including arbitrary arrests and bodily injuries. In the forced demolitions between January 9 and 31, 2023:

- **Over 5,885 houses belonging to non-Oromo owners (mostly ethnic Amharas) were demolished.** The number of homes being demolished are expected to increase.
- While dozens of Amhara civilians were injured by the acts of the Oromia Region security forces, an unknown number of individuals were arbitrarily arrested.

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- The demolition of homes were concentrated in the areas of Lencho Sefer, Lideta, Jemo Terara Medhanialem, Fanuel Church Legetafo, and Ertu-Teklehaymanot on the outskirts of Addis Ababa city (under the new Sheger city administration).
 - Following the demolition of homes in the Jemo Terara Medhanialem, Fanuel Church, and Lencho Sefer areas only, over 7,800 Amharas are living without a home on the fields in dire condition. Overall, the number of displaced residents are expected to reach the tens of thousands of Amharas following the demolitions.

Overview

AAA previously reported on demolition of homes belonging to non-Oromo residents (predominantly ethnic Amharas) between January 1st and 10th, 2023 on the outskirts of Addis Ababa (under the newly established Sheger city administration). The perpetrators initiated a second-round of demolitions following a two day lull during the Ethiopian Christmas holiday on the outskirts of Addis Ababa city. In their second-round demolition of homes, they covered large areas under the newly established Sheger city administration including clustered areas named Sebeta, Burayu Legetafo, Lededadi, Gelan and Sululta sub-cities. Formerly, most kebeles of these sub-cities were part of Addis Ababa city before they were incorporated into the Oromia Region in August 2022 by the decision of Addis Ababa and Oromia Regional Government administrations without proper consultation or consent from residents in these areas.

Following the annexation of areas on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, the Oromia Regional State in collaboration with the Addis Ababa city administration established a new city administration named Sheger city. In these areas, the majority of residents are ethnic Amharas residing who resided in the area for decades owning homes. But after the Oromo expansionists within the government demarcated the area to the Oromia Regional State, they started demolishing houses belonging to non-Oromos, displacing Amharas and

looting properties for the purpose of cleansing Amharas from these mentioned areas. The ongoing acts of demolishing homes, arbitrary detentions, and beating of innocent Amharas are an extension of the Oromization of Addis Ababa city.

Starting from January 11, 2023, the Oromia Region forces demolished at least 1,300 homes in Lencho Sefer area of Addis Ababa city

According to AAA’s sources, Lencho Sefer was previously administered by under Woreda 03 of Kolfe-Keranio sub-city of Addis Ababa city. However, without the consent of the local residents, the Oromo expansionist government unilaterally decided to incorporate the newly established Sheger city under the Oromia Regional State. Under the new administration, the area is under the Geda-Ficha Woreda of the Furi sub-city in Sheger city. Taking advantage of this annexation, the newly established Sheger city established a task force for the demolition of homes belonging to non-Oromo residents and especially ethnic Amharas. On January 11th, 2023, the task force started demolition of homes in the early morning. In the following days, the task force with the help of the OSF, the Oromia police and local Qeerro demolished at least 1,300 homes most of them belonging to ethnic Amharas and Silte residents. Following this, at least 3,000 innocent civilians have become homeless and displaced from their home. This forced them to live under dire situation without even fulfilling their basic needs hence they are forced to live in the field.



Figure 1: This post shows land taken from Amhara owner to the city administration in the house demolition campaign.



(a)



(b)

Figure 2: Photographed are Amhara homes after their roofs were detached in Lencho Sefer.

Between January 9 and 31, 2023 at least 2,900 homes were demolished in Jemo Terara Medhanialem and Fanuel Church (Alem Bank) and Lideta areas of Addis Ababa city

Similarly, the task force has demolished at least 900 homes belonging to Amhara owners in areas named Fanual Church and additional 665 homes in Jemo Terara Medhanialem areas. Jemo Terara Medhanialem, and Fanual Church areas were formerly parts of the Woreda 3 of the Kolfe Keranio Sub-city of the Addis Ababa city but are now named as Geda-Fiche Woreda under the Sebeta sub-city of the newly established Sheger city. In these areas, the Oromia expansionists started demolishing houses belonging to non-Oromo owners (most of them Amhara) without giving any prior notification. AAA

further confirmed from sources that following the demolition of their houses at least 4,800 Amharas have been displaced from their home.

A displaced individual from the Alem Bank area by the name Mikiyas (name changed) told AAA that:

“after my home was demolished by the Sheger city administration, I was forced to send my family to relatives who live in Amhara Region. He added there are thousands of Amharas who were forced to live without homes in dire humanitarian conditions in the Alem Bank area.”

Another source by the name Gebre (name changed) told AAA:

“Demolition of houses in the Alem Bank areaa is done in the form of a campaign. A committee is established and supported by security forces and local Oromos to effectively demolish our homes day in and day out in the month of January 2023. Even if most of the houses demolished were from the Amhara ethnic identity, there were also victims from other ethnic groups such as the Silte, Tigray, and Gurage. Those whose homes were demolished are getting back to their region with the help of their regional administration except the Amharas.”

In the Lideta area of Addis Ababa city, the established task force with the help of the Oromia security forces including the OSF removed at least 1,335 house roofs most of them belonging to Amhara owners. This area was made to be administered under the Geda-Fiche Woreda of the Furi sub-city of the newly established Sheger city though it was previously under the Kolfie Keranio sub-city of Addis Ababa.

Between January 21 and 31, 2023, Oromia Region security forces demolished 185 homes belong to Amhara owners in the Legetafo area of Sheger city

Starting from January 21st, 2023 the local Qeerro (ultranationalist Oromo youth) in collaboration with Oromia police have participated in the destruction of homes across different areas of Legetafo sub-city in the newly established Sheger city. In areas named Dira, Jewasa, Lemi and Woregenu at least 185 houses that belong to ethnic Amharas were demolished between January 21st and 30th, 2023. A witness by the name of Getachew (name changed), who was also severely beaten by the Oromo police without even knowing the reason, told AAA that there are organized groups that have between 15 and 20 members to persecute Amhara residents.

Among the members, there are a minimum of 2 Oromia police or OSF personnel who lead the group and the other members are local Qeerro (ultranationalist Oromo youth). The main task of the group is to demolish houses, beat Amhara civilians and loot their property. They targeted Amharas whom they think oppose their expansionist ideology in systematically cleansing Amharas from the newly established Sheger city. AAA further confirmed after they detached the roofs, doors and windows of Amhara homes, they transported looted property to unknown areas with the help of trucks. In these ethnically motivated demolitions of Amhara homes, 100 homes were demolished in Dire areas, 49 in the Jewasa area, 30 in the Lemi area, and 5 in the Woregenu area. To the dismay of everyone, most of the time the demolition of homes was conducted at night between 4 and 5 am.

Getachew added:

“The organized group came at night, they selected houses to be demolished mostly Amharas who have influence in the community. Then they beat the residents, detached the roofs, doors, and windows of the houses and

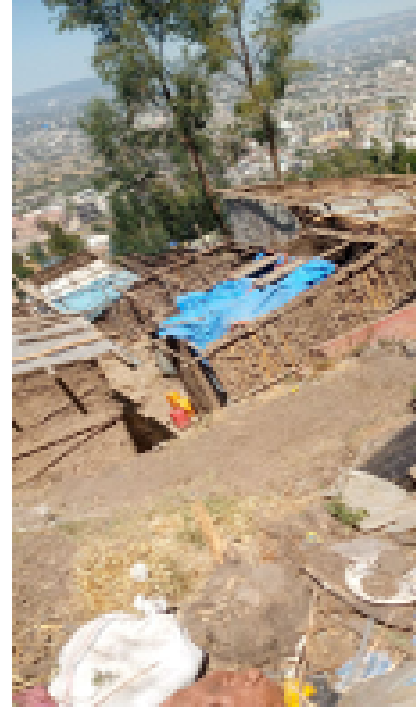
transported it somewhere to unknown places. They categorically made clear that the land belongs to ethnic Oromos so that Amharas are not allowed to live in the newly established Sheger city. In addition to the demolition of homes, more than 40 Amhara civilians were arrested and taken to an unknown place. The beating of Amharas by the security forces is also the new norm in the newly established Sheger city.”

Between January 9 and 30, 2023 at least 1,500 houses were demolished in the Ertu-Teklehaymanot area of Addis Ababa city

Ertu-Teklehaymanot area was formerly part of the Addis Ababa city under Woreda 01 of Lafto sub-city. However, this area is demarcated under the newly established city under the Oromia Region on August 2022. Following that the Oromia expansionists demolished homes of Amhara residents starting from January 9th to 30th, 2023. In the Ertu-Teklehaymanot area alone, they demolished more than 1,500 homes belonging to Amhara owners since January 9th, 2023. Following the forceful demolition of homes, thousands of civilians are living without homes under dire humanitarian conditions.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3: These are photographs of homes demolished in the Ertu-Teklehaymanot area of Addis Ababa city.



(a)



(b)

Figure 4: Photographed are victims' mothers collecting their property after their home was demolished in Ertu-Teklehaymanot areas of Addis Ababa city.

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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