



## OROMO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

### JAARMAYAA HAWAASA OROMOO

6212 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW; Washington, D.C 20011

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From: Oromo community and civic groups in United States

Contact: Jenet Adem, [jadem@gmail.com](mailto:jadem@gmail.com) – 571-309-7642

December 8, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned, are Oromo community and civic groups organized in the United States. We are US constituents with strong intimate connections with the majority language and nationality population in Ethiopia, the Oromo people. The Oromo constitute over 40% of that country's 115 million population, i.e., amount over 46 million people, approximately the size of the population of Ukraine.

*We are writing to register our distress and strong objection to the invitation of the Ethiopian Prime Minister and his representatives to participate in the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, December 13-15, 2022.*

There is clear evidence mounting in Oromia that Abiy Ahmed is a war monger, and his government is uninterested and incapable of fostering peace in Ethiopia. The consequences are firebombs started raining down on innocent civilians in the west center and south as soon as talk of a “peace process” began in South Africa. Ahmed had set his sights on the south. With a narrowly drawn “Peace Process” closely focused solely on halting the war on the northern Tigray front, the guns that Abiy Ahmed publicly agreed to silence in the North are now turned toward Oromia and the South killing hundreds and maiming hundreds more uncounted. Access to the regions is not granted even to the US, a long-standing ally.

We decry your invitation and proffered welcome to the very personalities who are directing the massacre of civilians in Ethiopia. They do not deserve to receive the hospitality of the US. This decision legitimizes the regime's horrific acts against its own citizens. Each handshake, each photo opportunity, and each greeting emboldens it, sending a message that impunity will prevail and undermines any efforts to foster democratic governance and respect for the rule of law in the country and in the Greater Horn of Africa. On the other hand, disinviting Abiy and his entourage sends a clear message that the US does not welcome nor host such leaders.

Undoubtedly, the violent and indiscriminate aggression against civilians investigated in Oromia and

elsewhere in the country will constitute what is already determined by the U.N. Experts in the Tigray region. It would be far more impactful to publicly condemn these acts and the chief leader behind them.

Mr. President, while the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) brokered by your government in Tigray is being worked out, this major war in Oromia rages on without any appropriate international attention. Three types of full-scale assault have been launched in central and western Ethiopia, In fact, they are escalating. The government claims that they are in battle with the Oromo Liberation Army, yet the attacks are entirely targeted against civilians. They must be stopped.

1. **Drones:** Drone bombs fall from the sky in towns, marketplaces, and churches targeting gatherings of innocent civilians and children. In the past week on December 1, airstrikes killed over 80 people in Wara Jarso district, North Shewa, Oromia, and an unidentified number of civilians in Kombolcha town in Horro Guduru, Oromia. On November 2, 2022, while ‘peace talks’ were convened, over 80 civilians were massacred in Billa town of West Wollega, Oromia in an aerial attack that targeted civilian areas. Dozens of students were among the victims as the attack occurred while students were returning home from school. A week later on November 9, 2022, yet another airstrike by the Ethiopian security forces killed dozens of civilians in the town of Mendi, in Mana Sibru district of West Wollega, Oromia, killing more than hundred people.
2. **Fanno paramilitary operations:** Against the alarming backdrop of the drone and other aerial bombings, massacres and massive displacements are taking place in several parts of Oromia. Amhara Fanno militias are openly and often on camera or using selfies, slaughtering innocent Oromos in their homes, churches, streets, and farms throughout Oromia. In the past week alone, at least 350 people were killed and over 400,000 displaced in KIRAMU (East Walaga), Kombolcha & Gabate (Horo Guduru), and Kuyu & Wara Jarso Salale/ North Shawa). Oromos are not safe even in the place of worship. According to the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, on November 6, 2022, armed Amhara Militia stormed Muleta Gela Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (Begalo Kebele, Sasiga District, East Wollega) and mercilessly murdered 15 Oromo worshippers attending church service.
3. **Military artillery bombardment:** Heavy large-scale ENDF mounted artillery weaponry has been employed to target schools killing students in the classroom and striking town structures that served the community.

*These acts need to be documented by neutral parties. The US should provide the capacity for these kinds of atrocities to be investigated as part of ensuring that the “peace deals” are enforced. **We call upon the US to establish and fund an Ethiopia justice and accountability capacity which investigates incidents of atrocity and crime carried out throughout the entirety of Ethiopia.** Otherwise, what is happening in Oromia and other parts of Ethiopia becomes a hidden sustained, and unchecked unleashing of violence against innocent civilians whose desire is to live peacefully and productively.*

Although we live in a safe country here in North America, we are under constant fear for our loved ones back home as they may at any time be killed either by government drone attacks, massacred by the Fanno paramilitary group from the Amhara region, or struck by heavy artillery shelling by the Ethiopian military.

Mr. President, while we recognize that the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit is an important occasion to foster U.S. relationship with the African continent, hosting representatives from the Ethiopian government at this event sends a message of approval or neutrality bolstering the Prime Minister on his path to becoming a vicious autocrat, a smiling telegenic confident tyrant. The bottom line is that no accountability will prompt further brutality and increased long-term harm against precious innocent victims.

Therefore, we – members of the Oromo community and civic groups in North America – appeal to you to send a strong message using this occasion by disinviting the Ethiopian Government to the upcoming U.S.-Africa Summit on December 13-15, 2022. This will warn them that the US will not tolerate citizen abuses and signal that the US will start to require access to all regions of Ethiopia as a condition of future assistance, support, and partnership.

With regards,

Oromo Community Organization - DMV  
Oromo Community of Minnesota  
Oromo community of Georgia  
The Oromo Community Organization of Pennsylvania  
Northern California Oromo Community  
Oromo Youth Association of the Bay Area  
Los Angeles Oromo Community  
International Oromo Women's Organization  
MachaTulama Association USA (MT USA)  
Oromo Legacy Leadership & Advocacy Association  
Oromo Alliance of Civic & Community Organizations  
Oromia Global Forum  
Global Oromo Inter-Faith Council  
Qubee Minnesota  
Jabdu: Oromo-American Women's Council  
Finfinne News Network  
Horn of Africa Genocide Watch  
Oromo Community Association in Chicago  
Oromo Scholars and Professionals Group  
Global Oromo Communities Association  
Gurmuu Baha Oromiyaa  
Gurmuu Kura Galaan  
Oromo Community of Memphis, TN  
Portland Oromo Community Association  
Oromo Community of Arizona  
Oromo Community of Las Vegas  
Oromo Community of DFW  
Oromo Community of Colorado  
Florida Oromo Community Association  
Oromo Community Association of Ohio  
Oromo Community Association of Greater Houston Area  
Oromo Community of Seattle