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# Continued Civilian Killings and Displacement Across Oromia

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Last year, the Macha Tulama Association (MTA) appealed to the international community to take urgent action in response to the grave and escalating humanitarian crisis in Oromia.

Since then, the crisis has persisted and further intensified across Oromia Regional State, particularly in East Wallaga and Horo Guduru Wallaga zones.

MTA issues this statement to once again draw attention to the gravity of the prolonged violence and its escalating toll on civilian populations in Western Oromia, and the widening conflict across Oromia region.

As MTA previously emphasized, the continuing violence constitutes a humanitarian tragedy for affected communities and a serious test of conscience at the local, national, and international levels. Despite mounting reports of human rights violations and growing humanitarian needs, responses from governments, international organizations, and human rights institutions have remained woefully inadequate.

## Humanitarian Conditions and Key Concerns

For the past six years, recurring violence in East Wallaga and Horo Guduru Wallaga has claimed countless lives, destroyed homes and livelihoods, and forced thousands of families from their homes. Recent reports of attacks in Arsi, Moyale, and Mi'esso have further compounded the humanitarian crisis, leaving additional communities in urgent need of protection and humanitarian assistance.

### 1. Prolonged Crisis and Mass Displacement in Western Oromia

Available reports indicate large-scale displacement across East Wallaga and Horo Guduru Wallaga. This week alone, thousands of people, including women and children, were reportedly attacked in Kiremu, East Wallaga, forcing survivors to flee their homes. In recent weeks, countless families have also been uprooted from Abe Dongoro in Horo Guduru.

Many displaced families are seeking refuge among already overburdened host communities or in temporary shelters, where access to food, clean water, safe shelter, sanitation, and medical care remains severely limited. Children, older adults, persons with disabilities, and those who are injured or ill face particularly acute risks.

Loss of Livelihoods: Persistent insecurity and transportation disruptions have severely affected farming, trade, commerce, and agricultural supply chains across large parts of Wallaga. These disruptions have deprived families of their sources of income and further restricted access to food and other essential goods.

**2. Other Conflict-Affected Communities Across Oromia**

The humanitarian crisis is not confined to Western Oromia. Recent violence in several other parts of the region has further compounded civilian suffering:

- **Arsi:** Repeated attacks perpetrated by paramilitary groups have reportedly claimed over 100 civilian lives and displaced thousands of people in Mirty, Shirka, and Robe districts within the last month and early this month.
- **Moyale, Borana:** The conflict that erupted on October 22, 2026, has taken a devastating toll on residents of Moyale and surrounding districts. More than 50,000 people have reportedly been displaced, with many crossing the border into Kenya. Numerous lives have been lost, and property destruction has been extensive. As the conflict continues to flare up, the humanitarian situation remains staggering.
- **Mi'esso, West Hararghe:** Communities in Mi'esso district have reportedly endured another attack by forces from the Somali Regional State, resulting in at least 10 deaths and the displacement of hundreds of people.

**Call to Action**

In light of the escalating violence and worsening humanitarian conditions across Oromia, MTA:

1. **Calls on the Government of Ethiopia** to fulfill its primary responsibility to protect civilians, their lives, and livelihoods. MTA also urges Oromo media outlets, nongovernmental organizations, religious leaders, and civil society groups to amplify the voices of affected communities and advocate for their rights, dignity, and protection. International human rights organizations are urged to intensify their monitoring, documentation, reporting, and humanitarian engagement.
2. **Calls on federal, regional, and local authorities, as well as all armed actors,** to respect civilian lives, refrain from attacks against noncombatants, and ensure the protection of civilian populations. All parties must facilitate safe, impartial, and sustained humanitarian access to affected communities.
3. **Appeals to local and international humanitarian organizations** to urgently mobilize and expand life-saving assistance for affected populations, particularly displaced families. Such efforts should address immediate humanitarian needs while supporting the recovery and reconstruction of homes and livelihoods to enable displaced people to return safely and rebuild their lives.

The continued killing and displacement of civilians across Oromia demand urgent attention and decisive action by the Federal Government of Ethiopia. The suffering of these communities must not be allowed to become normalized or forgotten. Protecting civilian lives, upholding human dignity, and addressing the humanitarian needs of affected populations are, first and foremost, the responsibility of the Ethiopian government and require its immediate and sustained commitment.

**Board of the Macha Tulama Association (USA)**