



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
15 March 2024

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 February 2024]

---

\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## Racial and Ethnic-based Violence and Discrimination against Ethiopia's Amhara

Racial and Ethnic-based violence and discrimination have been longstanding issues in Ethiopia, with different ethnic groups experiencing marginalization and conflict at different times.

February 9, The United States of America is calling for an investigation into an alleged massacre of civilians in Ethiopia's Amhara region, where a local rights group says more than 80 people were killed last week following clashes between soldiers and armed groups.

About 100 drone strikes occurred across different parts of Ethiopia's Amhara region following the government's declaration of a state of emergency there in August 2023. Ethiopian Defence Chief FM Berhahu Jula confirmed the drone attacks in the Amhara region during an interview at the Ethiopian Air Force Premise in Debre Zeit. Not only did he publicly admit to the use of drone attacks by his forces, but he also vowed to continue doing so, asserting that the Fano movement had been significantly impacted. "Whenever we identify quality targets, we will strike... We acquired the drones to use them, not for display," he emphasized. Reports covering drone strikes in the region have indicated civilian casualties, including during religious ceremonies. Observers claim that "The government refuses to distinguish between Amhara fighters and civilians as it prefers to demonise Amhara society as a whole. It is a political ploy to weaponise nationalism against a group it characterises as an enemy."

Ethiopia's drone program is sponsored by the United Arab Emirates with drones originating from Türkiye, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and China. The control stations are found in Debre Zeit, Bahir Dar, Semera, and Asosa.

1. August 7, 2023 a drone attack on Debre Birhan, led to civilian casualties and significant damage to properties.
2. August 14, 2023, in Finote Selam, at least 30 people had died in a suspected air strike by federal forces. In total 4 people died at the hospital, in addition 22 either died at the scene or on their way to hospital. Also 55 people were treated for injuries sustained in the explosion, 40 were gravely injured.
3. Drone attacks on Monday, September 4, 2023 killed more than 11 innocent citizens on Moseba Shime Abo Kebele Hall, Bibune District, East Gojam Zone.
4. Drone attacks on Monday, September 4, 2023 killed more than 9 innocent civilians in Arafa Madhanemalem Kebele, Dega Damot District, West Gojam Zone.
5. On Sunday September 17 2023 a drone attack was carried in Quarit, in Amhara Region. Civilians walking together were targeted in one of the attacks, and at least 30 of them were killed.
6. On September 17, 2023, at least 18 civilians were also killed in another drone strike in Dembecha town of Western Gojam, as they were returning from church service. The attack took place near Michael's church.
7. On October 16 2023 morning targeting the police station of the woreda, which is located in Metebila town on Berehet woreda, situated in the North Shewa Zone, Amhara region, resulted in approximately 35 deaths and injuries to an additional 2
8. On October 16 2023 noon, targeting the center of four kebeles of the woreda, hitting a vehicle carrying civilians fleeing the town and children who were near. Among the dead, the there were 7 civilians under the age of 19, as well as a 40-year-old mother with her two-year-old child.
9. On October 16 2023 drone attack in Minjar, North Shoa. At least 12 people are said to have killed in the attack.
10. October 16 2023, a 19-month-old child was among the several civilian victims of a drone strike in the Metihteh Bila town of Berehet Woreda, North Shewa Zone. The attack left at least 35 Amhara civilians dead and an additional 27 injured.

11. October 19, 2023 a drone strike killed 8 civilians in Debre Markos town.
12. On 6 November 2023, a drone launched by government forces struck a primary school in the Wadera district in North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region, killing 7 people, including 3 teachers.
13. Another drone attack hit a bus station in Waber town in East and West Gojjam zones on November 9 2023, killing 13 people who were waiting to board a bus. The attack killed at least 30 civilians. The targeted areas included a school and a bus station.
14. On November 9, 2023 a drone attack in Amahara Region, East Gojam Zone, Bibugn wereda killed at least 16 people.
15. On November 27, 2023 evening, a drone attack in Amahara Region, East Gojam Zone, Bibugn wereda carried out on Tarekegn Restaurant killed at least 20 people. They were buried in a mass grave.
16. On November 27, 2023 Waber area in East Gojjam, in Ethiopia's Amhara region, resulting in the tragic loss of over 30 lives, including several civilians. Residents confirmed that the drone, which was reportedly engaged in combat air patrol, launched the fatal attack.
17. On November 29, 2023 there were two drone attacks in North Wello, Bugena Wereda, Daria Yesus Kebele. The attacks claimed the life of at least 65 people including civilians as well as many injured as the attacks were perpetrated during the market day.
18. A deadly drone attack on November 30 2023 evening at approximately 5:00 p.m killed 30 people out of which 5 were civilians in the town of Wegel Tena, located in the Delanta district of the South Wollo zone, in Ethiopia's Amhara region. An ambulance carrying crucial medical supplies from Desse town to Delanta Primary Hospital was targeted by a drone upon its arrival in the town. Eye witness described how "bodies were burned so badly they had turned to dust. I saw the finger bones of one of the victims still shaped as though it was still clutching a mobile phone". The drone fired on an ambulance as it approached the Delanta Primary Hospital in Wegel Tena and obliterated it. Hospital staff, including a doctor and the ambulance driver, as well as employees from a nearby construction site died instantly.
19. On November 30, 2023 there were two drone attacks in Delanta Woreda which left 5 civilians killed including a medical doctor, & other civilians injured. The target was an ambulance that was transporting medication and staff from Dessie.
20. On November 30, 2023 the second drone strike hit Goshiamba Kebele – not far from the scene of the first incident. But no casualties are reported from this one, according to the source.
21. On December 5, 2023 a drone attack allegedly targeting militants in an area between Menz and Merhabete areas of North Shewa Zone killed 10 people with no involvement in the fighting. Among the victims, 6 were described as children who were looking after cattle as shepherds, the remaining victims were women.
22. On December 5, 2023, a second drone strike occurred near Wegel Tena town in South Wollo zone, again resulting in 10 fatalities, including civilians.
23. On December 5, 2023, a drone attack in Lasta kills 73 people killed in the Ayena and Bugna districts of Lasta, North Wollo Zone in the Amhara region of Ethiopia.
24. December 10, 2023 drone attacks in Amhara Sayint Wereda, South Wollo Zone, in Amhara Region killed 30 to 40 people.
25. December 10, 2023, at around 6 pm, ENDF forces carried out 3 air strikes including 2 drone attacks killing at least 57 civilians in Mehal Sayint Woreda.
26. December 22, 2023, two successive drone attacks in Kork town of Baso Liben Woreda, in East Gojam, Amhara Region killing at least 8 civilians and wounding others.
27. January 3, 2024, regime forces killed at least 9 civilians through the use of drone strikes and gunshots in Beto and Derega Kebeles of Kelela Woreda in Amhara Region.

28. January 12 2024, ENDF conducted a drone strike on a recreation center near a high school school in Alem town, Merabete Wereda, North Shewa, causing 2 reported fatalities and several civilian injuries.

It is alarming to see the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure by drones. StopAmharaGenocide Association has tracked at least 28 drone attacks from August 2023 to January 2024, resulting in hundreds of civilian injuries and deaths.

Despite Ethiopia's ratification of the Geneva Convention, the Hague Convention, and other international protocols and legislations that prioritize the protection of civilians during times of war, the government's actions contradict its commitments. These agreements explicitly prohibit attacks on civilian residences, schools, hospitals, marketplaces, heritage sites, religious areas, and any other civilian spaces.

---