

## American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) Chairman condemns massacre in Wollega

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Chairperson of The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC), Mesfin Tegenu, on Monday condemned the [massacre of over 200 ethnic Amhara civilians](#) in the [Gimbi district](#), Wollega region of Ethiopia.

"Attacks like this risk a major escalation at a time when millions of Ethiopians are living in a desperate humanitarian situation," said Mr. Mesfin Tegenu. He called on the Federal government to neutralize the threat from what it called, as designated by the Ethiopian parliament, terrorist groups.

His statement in reaction to the massacre reads as follows :

"AEPAC Chairman Mesfin Tegenu:

AEPAC joins with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to condemn the shocking ethnic motivated attack on civilians, including mothers and children, of Amhara descent in the western region of Ethiopia.

The TPLF and their OLF-Shene allies have been responsible for numerous atrocities on unarmed civilians during the ongoing conflict. Sadly these terrorists are showing no sign of ending their aggression.

Left unchecked, TPLF and OLF-Shene will not only continue terrorising Ethiopia but will expand their offensive on neighbouring countries, making these groups a real threat to Western interest in the Horn of Africa.

Attacks like this risk a major escalation at a time when millions of Ethiopians are living in a desperate humanitarian situation.

The Government of Ethiopia needs to be resolute in neutralising the threat posed by the TPLF and OLF-Shene, the only two groups now blocking Ethiopia's path to peace. The international community should support those efforts and help the country rebuild."

## **Ethiopian Military Targets Rebels Accused of Killing Civilians**

Fasika Tadesse, Bloomberg News

(Bloomberg) -- The Ethiopian military has begun an offensive against rebels accused of killing civilians in the west of the country last week, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said.

About 40 civilians were killed in the Gambella region on June 14, while more than 200 died in the Gimbi area in western Oromia four days later, according to the government, which blames the Gambella Liberation Front and the Oromo Liberation Army for the violence. Ethnic Amharas were targeted in the latter attack.

The offensive against the rebels began this week, Abiy said during a tree-planting event in Addis Ababa, the capital, on Tuesday. Both groups have campaigned for greater regional autonomy and late last year aligned themselves to the Tigray People's Liberation Front, which fought a war against Abiy's administration from November 2020 until a truce was declared in March this year.

The OLA confirmed in a statement that it had staged an operation together with GLF on June 14 to try and capture armaments from depots in Gambella City and provide safe passage for members of the security forces who were planning to join their ranks. It accused federal police of killing ethnic Oromos and Nuers in the area. The OLA didn't respond to a text message seeking comment about the Oromia attack.

The US State Department said it was "gravely concerned by reported killings of civilians in the Amhara community" in Oromia and called on all Ethiopians to reject violence and pursue peaceful dialog to resolve their differences. "Continued reports such as these underscore the urgency of ending the ongoing armed conflict in Ethiopia," it said in a statement.

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