



Amhara Association of Oregon
1924 SE 171ST Avenue,
Portland, Oregon 97233

December 25, 2023
Fillipo Grandi,
United National High Commissioner for Refugees,
Case Postale 2500
CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt
Suisse

Subject: Forced Relocation of Internally Displaced Ethnic Amharas

We, the Amhara Association of Oregon, write this letter with deep concern and an urgent call for action regarding the plight of the internally displaced ethnic Amharas from Wollega, Oromia, who have been victims of ethnic-based violence are now being subjected to forced relocation by the Ethiopian government back to the very localities they were compelled to flee.

The act of returning these internally displaced persons (IDPs) to places where they previously faced life-threatening conditions is not only inhumane but also a gross violation of international human rights laws and principles. It disregards the traumatic experiences these individuals have endured and fails to provide a sustainable solution to their plight.

The safety of these IDPs cannot be assured if they are returned to the environments that have been sources of their anguish and despair. Therefore, we appeal to you to take immediate action to prevent this forced relocation and call for the:

1. Immediate cessation of the forced relocation of ethnic Amharas in Wollega, Oromia.
2. Establishment of a safe and voluntary resettlement process, in consultation with the IDPs, to places where they can rebuild their lives with dignity.
3. Initiation of an independent investigation into the ethnic violence that led to the displacement, ensuring accountability and non-repetition.
4. Assurance of adequate protection measures for the IDPs in their current locations, including access to essential services and humanitarian aid.
5. Engagement in dialogue with all stakeholders, including the displaced communities, to find a lasting and peaceful resolution to the ethnic tensions.

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The Amhara Association of Oregon stands in solidarity with the displaced ethnic Amharas and will continue to advocate for their rights and well-being. We request your immediate attention to this matter and your commitment to protecting the human rights of all vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your prompt response to this urgent humanitarian issue.

Sincerely,

The Amhara Association of Oregon

CC:

- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch