



RAYA
FOUNDATION

203 Lexington Avenue
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Massacre in Raya Kobo: The Horror of TPLF Occupation

The Tigriyan People Liberation Front (TPLF) summarily executed ethnic-Amaharas in Raya. We the members of the Raya Foundation are gravely concerned about the devastating situation of the Raya community, Ethiopia. Since the beginning of July 2021, the entire Raya has been occupied by TPLF forces. As a result, hundreds of thousands of civilians have been forcibly displaced; the situation is even direr for those who were unable to leave the occupied areas.

According to a media outlet (Walta TV, aired on 15 Sept. 2021), during the dark days of 8 and 9 September 2021, the armed forces of TPLF had murdered over 600 civilians in the Kobo area. Survivors of the attack corroborated that, on the 9th of September 2021 (5 Pagume 2013 EC), TPLF killed and buried 60 civilians near St. George church of Kobo. The victims included prominent members of the community, young males, adults, children and women (please see some of the pictures of the victims on page 2 of this document).

As per the eyewitness testimonies, the group performed a mass burial at night outside the town. On other occasions, TPLF displayed corpses of their victims in public (e.g. Mr Sisay Wodajo's body), traumatizing children and denying families proper burial services. The assault is multidimensional.

The mass killing followed months of looting, rape, destruction of schools, hospitals, and other infrastructures. As the Internet connection is cut and people's movement has been halted, we were not able to learn the full extent of the suffering of the people.

At one level, this barbaric action of TPLF in Raya fits the pattern of mass killings at Agamsa and Galicoma (North Wollo) and Chena (North Gonder). However, on a closer inspection, one would see that the harrowing stories of death, humiliation, destruction, and famine in Raya amount to ethnic cleansing. We believe that the Tigriyan invading force has two grounds for this barbarity. First, it is well known that TPLF has had a territorial claim over the region. The mass murder can be seen as an operation to wipe out the Amharas from their ancestral land. The survivor accounts about the house-to-house execution that targeted non-Tigriyan inhabitants of the area suggest that the group is determined to incorporate the region with Tigray. Second, for the tribal lords of TPLF, the very existence of Raya is ideologically discomfoting. Raya is a miniature Ethiopia where people of diverse ethnic backgrounds live in harmony. For this reason alone, this vile force of darkness seeks to destroy Raya as a beacon of harmony in diversity. Bearing this in mind, we fear that the atrocities committed by TPLF can be much worse than what we hear from the survivors.

We unequivocally condemn the evil act of TPLF and call upon the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Government of the Amhara Regional State to take the necessary steps to prevent another round of mass murder in the region. RF is committed to supporting the community in any way it can. In addition to the individual efforts of the members, the Raya Foundation has decided to donate 300,000 ETB to the victims of the massacre.

We also call on the international community—the governments of the US, the UK and Ireland in particular—to denounce this grisly crime and revisit their destructive approach to the ongoing crisis in Ethiopia. We wish to stress that TPLF would have not gone this far to perpetrate such a gruesome massacre of civilians had it not been for the unconditional support of those governments.

Raya Foundation Executive Committee



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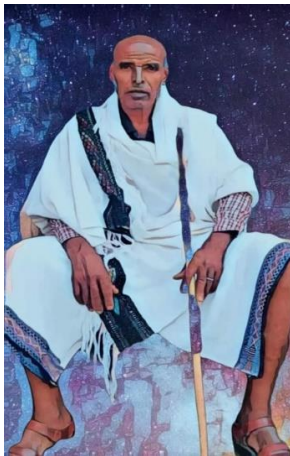
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