AMHARA ADVOCACY GROUP IN EUROPE

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Human rights advocacy · Paris · editors@amharaadvocacy.eu · amharaadvocacy.eu

Paris, 8 November 2026

Amnesty International, International Secretariat
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Secretariat
United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions
Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

SUBJECT **Urgent appeal: investigate the Arsi massacre and the drone strike on Jari IDP camp, Ethiopia**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding two recent attacks on civilians in Ethiopia, among many, and to urge you to investigate them independently and make your findings public.

ARSI MASSACRE

On 20 and 24 October 2026, Orthodox Christians in Arsi Zone (now South-East Oromia Zone), Oromia Region, were targeted in repeated attacks. According to the Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, at least 60 people were killed and more than 20 seriously injured. The EHRC has documented 48 deaths in Sirka woreda on 24 October alone, including 20 civilians and 28 members of local security forces and militia, as well as 247 households displaced and 21 houses destroyed.

These figures have been echoed by the World Council of Churches and by Church sources, and reported by Vatican News. ACLED, as reported by Africanews, assessed the 24 October attack as "believed to be religiously motivated and to have targeted Orthodox Christians". The killings followed an earlier wave of violence in the same area, beginning on 30 May 2026, in which, according to some reports, as many as 37 to 40 people were killed and hundreds displaced.

DRONE STRIKE ON JARI CAMP

On 29 October 2026, the Jari camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Wollo, Amhara Region, was hit by repeated drone strikes. Eyewitnesses told Addis Standard that the camp was hit at least five times, at fifteen-minute intervals, while residents were inside their shelters. Three sources told Reuters that there was no fighting in the area at the time. The camp sheltered more than 1,800 IDPs, many of whom had fled earlier violence in Wollega and had been living there for many years.

Reported death tolls vary: 18 according to the most recent Addis Standard report, 16 according to Anadolu Agency, at least 15 according to Reuters, and 14 to 16 according to witnesses quoted by AFP. Children and three pregnant women are reported to be among the dead. According to Addis Standard, many others were wounded and more than 20 shelters destroyed; the injured were taken to Hayiq Hospital and the most serious cases transferred to Dessie.

IDP sites are civilian objects that must never be the target of attack. Moreover, Ethiopia, which ratified the Kampala Convention in 2020, is bound to "respect and maintain the civilian and

humanitarian character of the places where internally displaced persons are sheltered" (Art. 9(2)(g)). This strike fits a pattern of reported drone strikes harming civilians in Amhara Region, noted by Human Rights Watch.

IMPUNITY

In its World Report 2026, Human Rights Watch found that "the transitional justice process stalled, while impunity for serious crimes and abuses remained the norm." The mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia, established by the Human Rights Council, expired in October 2023, when it was not renewed, despite its warnings of a risk of further atrocities.

Since March 2025, groups of more than 40 States have delivered joint statements at the Human Rights Council, most recently in September 2026, highlighting the lack of progress on transitional justice. Yet no international mechanism has replaced the Commission. Without independent investigation and accountability, there is no deterrent, and impunity persists.

We therefore call upon you, within your respective mandates, to:

1. **investigate** the Arsi massacre and the drone strikes on Jari camp, and identify those responsible;
2. **call for the immediate protection** of the displaced people at Jari and of the communities in Arsi, and for unhindered humanitarian and medical access;
3. **publish your findings** and share them with the relevant UN and regional bodies; and
4. **support the call for a special session** of the UN Human Rights Council on Ethiopia. As the civil society coalition that called for the session in October 2026 put it, the Council should send "a message of deterrence to all actors, and indicate that those responsible for perpetrating, ordering or facilitating violations should be held accountable". With the expert commission's mandate expired and no successor mechanism put in place, the Council is best placed to establish one.

Atrocities of this gravity demand an international response. The victims in Arsi were targeted, according to the Church and ACLED, because of their faith; those in Jari had already fled violence once, only to be attacked again where they had sought refuge. We respectfully ask that you act on this appeal as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,

Amhara Advocacy Group in Europe (AAGE)

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