
INTERNATIONAL AMHARA ALLIANCE

Press Release: Amhara Cities and Towns are Under Siege by Tigrayan Rebels

30th November 2021

The IAA is gravely concerned about the safety and health of Amhara people in Dessie, Kombolcha, Wag Hemra and other areas within the Northeastern Amhara region who are living under siege by Tigrayan rebels.

Several cities in the Amhara Region of Northern Ethiopia which are hosting internally displaced Amharas are currently under siege by Tigrayan rebels further worsening the humanitarian crisis. [Both locals and internally displaced peoples have been without electricity, water, and telecommunication access](#) since the siege, all basic human needs. According to the latest update, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) announced that the Amhara region [“has seen the largest jump in numbers with 3.7 million people now in urgent need of humanitarian aid.”](#)

The conflict between the Tigray People’s Liberation Front and Government of Ethiopia has escalated and engulfed both the Amhara and Afar regions, since Tigrayan rebels invaded their neighboring regions in July 2021. The dire humanitarian crisis is worsening as the conflict continues to spread and access to humanitarian aid is becoming more scarce.

“In Amhara, only three woredas, out of 18 in North Wollo zone, and only one out of the nine woredas in Wag Hamra Zone are currently accessible to humanitarian partners.”

After many months of warmongering by TPLF representatives, Tigrayan rebels started shelling the outskirts of Dessie on October 29th, 2021. The city has over 200,000

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residents, however due to TPLF aggression north of the city, Dessie is hosting hundreds of thousand internally displaced Amhara people from North Wollo. The invasion into the Amhara region serves no purpose to Tigrayan rebels besides inflicting violence, terror, and further displacement of the Amhara people.

“It is the Dessie and surrounding community that provides us shiro [chickpea stew] and berbere [commonly used spice].”, describes one IDP in Wollo.

The human cost of the invasion into the Wag Hemra zone of the Amhara region over the past 4 months has been catastrophic, the zone had reported high levels of food insecurity prior to the conflict. Since August Wag Hemra has effectively cut off from the world and starved in the dark.

The IAA calls on the Government of Ethiopia at all levels and international humanitarian organizations to condemn TPLF and their rebels’ invasion in the Amhara cities and towns. We demand there be access to basic human needs and an end to the siege of Amhara cities and secure the necessary funding and resources to address the unfolding hunger crisis in the Amhara region. Without these actions, we believe this humanitarian crisis will reach catastrophic levels resulting in hundreds of thousands of lives lost.

Sincerely,

Communications Team,
International Amhara Alliance

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