



# JOINT STATEMENT

April 30, 2024  
Miyazia 22, 2016 EC

## **Joint Statement From Amhara Civic Organizations on the Abiy Regime's Sham National Dialogue Process**

We, the undersigned Amhara civic organizations, urgently issue this statement, imploring the international community to refrain from legitimizing the sham National Dialogue process orchestrated by the ruling Abiy Ahmed-led Oromo Prosperity Party (OPP) regime in Ethiopia. The flawed process, overseen by the OPP-appointed National Dialogue Commission (NDC), persists amidst a genocidal war, ethnic cleansing, ethnic profiling, mass detentions, internet blackout, and man-made famine against Amhara people residing in Amhara Region, Oromia Region, Addis Ababa city and various other parts of Ethiopia. A credible and effective dialogue process cannot take place while Ethiopian citizens endure the authoritarian rule of the OPP regime and until all individuals can convene in peace and security, and with their freedom of expression safeguarded.

One of the main causes of the ongoing violence lies in the ethnic apartheid system imposed on the Ethiopian populace in the 1990s, which marginalized the Amhara people with significant support from Western powers. The scapegoating of Amharas traces back to periods preceding the rise of self-declared leftist revolutionaries in the 1960s and 1970s. However, the historic and ongoing genocide against Amharas in Oromia Region and in the territories of Welkait-Tegede, Setit Humera, Telemt, Raya, Dera, Metekel, and Addis Ababa where the indigenous Amhara inhabitants endured apartheid-like governance by non-Amhara regional authorities, represent some of the dire consequences of the exclusionary practices of the 1990s. The current international approach to the sham national dialogue exhibits many parallels to the processes of the 1990s, exhibited by overt endorsements by international powers for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's ongoing genocidal war in the Amhara Region, resulting in a humanitarian crisis.

The NDC, heavily influenced by the OPP, excluded public stakeholders and experts from the outset, and its commissioner selection process has been marred by secrecy and controversy. The regime's exploitation of the dialogue process for political gains became apparent early on as public discontent over the lack of inclusivity and transparency persisted. The absence of credible Amhara representation further perpetuates the longstanding trend of excluding the Amhara people from vital national processes, entrenching an Amharaphobic status quo. As the war against the Amhara people nears its first anniversary, it is evident that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) signed in November 2022 failed to silence the guns and secure lasting peace in Ethiopia.

The COHA, which excluded participation from independent Amhara representatives, failed to bring peace for the Amhara people, address the structural causes of ongoing violence and conflict, promote transitional justice, and ultimately halt the cycle of impunity in Ethiopia.

This is evidenced by the ongoing genocidal war in Amhara Region, the genocide in Oromia Region, ethnic cleansing in Raya, ethnic profiling, and mass arrests all which target Amhara people throughout the country. The NDC's proposal that the same government responsible for indiscriminate killings would guarantee the safety of Amhara Fano leaders if they engaged in the national dialogue process is a mockery and insults the intelligence of those with even basic awareness of the Abiy regime's past actions. It is also in direct contradiction with the mass incarceration of Amhara opposition figures (including parliamentarians), independent journalists, civil society leaders, and others. The truth remains that any dialogue process conducted while war rages in the Amhara Region and genuine Amhara leaders languish in jail or the wilderness fighting for their people's rights is a process designed to fail and one which Amharas can neither endorse nor participate in with good conscience. Therefore the NDC has no acceptance to the Amhara people and should be dissolved in its current state.

In response to the urgent situation in Ethiopia, marked by ongoing atrocities against the Amhara people and the flawed process of the NDC orchestrated by the OPP regime, we urge the international community to take immediate remedial measures. We emphasize the necessity of addressing the following demands to alleviate the suffering of the Amhara people and facilitate a genuine dialogue process for all Ethiopians.

- Immediate end to egregious human rights violations committed by OPP regime allied forces including drone strikes, summary executions, enforced displacement and ethnic cleansing (e.g. Raya and Awra Godana), sexual and gender-based violence and lifting of the state of emergency including telecommunications and internet blackout in Amhara Region.
- Immediate withdrawal of all non-Amhara or OPP regime allied forces from Amhara Region and the unconditional release of all Amhara prisoners of conscience including all those arrested for their Amhara identity and/or political beliefs.
- Facilitate a civilian-led transitional government and promote a democratic transition in Ethiopia recognizing the Amhara Fano as the legitimate defense force of the Amhara people who would be included in the transition process to facilitate a path towards peace, justice, equality and democracy.
- Delivery of unfettered humanitarian aid into the Amhara Region and support for rehabilitation efforts to be distributed independently of any parties affiliated to the OPP regime.
- Establishment of an independent UN-backed human rights body to investigate atrocities including genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity perpetrated against the Amhara people throughout Ethiopia since at least 1991.
- Sanctions against the OPP regime and TPLF officials and military leaders for gross human rights violations in the war in Amhara Region.
- Global financial institutions, including the IMF, should refrain from providing any support that could fund the OPP regime's war in the Amhara Region.
- The United States to withhold admission of Ethiopia into AGOA as long as the OPP regime remains in power.
- Support for an independent and inclusive national dialogue process, monitored by credible international institutions and led by a civilian-led transitional government.

## **List of Signatories:**

### *Federation of Amharas in North America (FANA)*

- Amhara Association of America (AAA)
- Amhara Association of Chicago
- Amhara Association of Colorado (AAC)
- Amhara Association of Los Angeles
- Amhara Association of Michigan
- Amhara Association of Nevada
- Amhara Association of Oregon
- Amhara Heritage Society in Minnesota (AHSM)
- Amhara People's Civic Organization (APCO) – Dallas, TX
- Amhara Professionals Union (APU)
- The Amhara Mahber of Arizona
- The Seattle Amhara Association (SAA)
- Washington Area Amhara Association (WAAA)
- Amhara Association of Bay Area
- Amhara Association of South Carolina
- Amhara Association in Ottawa
- Fidel Amhara Community Organization
- Amhara Women Association Against Genocide (Amhara WAAG)
- Gondar Province Welkait Tsegede/Telemet Amhara Identity Civic Association in North America
- Voice of the Victims
- Amhara Association in Sweden
- AMARA FÖRENING I SVERIGE
- Association for the Promotion of the Amhara People in Berlin (VFAB)
- Federation of Amhara Associations in Australia
- Amhara Unity Melbourne
- Amhara Association in Western Australia
- Amhara Youths Association in Western Australia
- Amhara Association in New South Wales
- Amhara Families Society of Wellington Incorporated, New Zealand
- Federation of Amhara Associations in New Zealand (FAANZ)
- Amhara Support, Relief and Rehabilitation Association (ASRRRA), New Zealand
- Amhara and Amharan Families Ethiopian Association in New Zealand

### *Canadian Amhara Societies Alliance (CASA)*

- Amhara Community of Toronto and GTA
- Amhara Society Social Forum (ASSF) London, ON
- Calgary Amhara Association
- Dejen for Amhara Survival – Canada
- Kingston Amhara Association