

Amnesty International has lost Credibility: Donors and Concerned Ethiopians Should Demand Amnesty to Investigate the East African Reporters for Selective and Biased Reporting!

By Belayneh Abate

On May 29, 2020, Amnesty International (AI) reported that the security forces of the Ethiopian People's Democratic Front (EPRDF) committed rape, extrajudicial executions, homes set alight in security operations. [1]



It is not surprising to hear these kinds of gruesome reports for everyone who has been following the horrific human rights records of EPRDF for three decades. The surprising and shocking development is Amnesty International's selective, partial and biased reporting on human rights abuses in Ethiopia. It is painful to read this selective, and partial human rights report.

As an independent humanitarian organization, AI was expected to deliver unbiased and objective report on human rights abuse of all Ethiopians. However, AI reported crimes committed on certain groups of Ethiopians, and turned deaf ears and blind eyes to the despicable crimes committed on others. Just to mention a few, AI has miserably failed to report on the following crimes that include ethnic cleansing.

Amnesty Internal has ignored:

1. the abducted university students despite the cries of the Ethiopians, and the reports of the international media [2-4]
2. the 86 peoples killed in the region ruled by the ethnic party of Abiy Ahmed [5, 6]
3. the three million displaced people (majority Amaras and Gedios) from the regions where AI's biased report focuses around [7,8]
4. the inhumane treatment of Amaras, Gurages, Argobas, Somalis and other ethnic groups in Harara, Diredwa and other cities and localities in the Eastern, Southern and Central parts of Ethiopia [9]
5. the plight of the Wolayita, Amaras and other ethnic groups in Sidamo. [10]
6. the brutal displacement of citizens from the city of Addis Ababa and its outskirts [11]
7. the eviction of Amara students from the universities and colleges located in the West, South West, South and Eastern parts of the country [12-14]

As a result of its selective and biased investigation and reporting, AI has lost its credibility. Donors and concerned Ethiopians should demand Amnesty International to investigate the East African reporters for selective and biased reporting! Thank you.

Ende notes (all last accessed on 5/30/2020)

1. Ethiopia: Rape, extrajudicial executions, homes set alight in security operations in Amhara and Oromia <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/05/ethiopia-rape-extrajudicial-executions-homes-set-alight-in-security-operations-in-amhara-and-oromia/>
2. New York Times, January 30, 2020 [Abduction of Ethiopian Students Fuels Anger at the Government](https://www.nytimes.com/africa/ethiopia-students-kidnapped)
3. BBC [Ethiopia's missing students: Families' pain and the unsolved mystery](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-51411720#:~:text=On%20a%20December%20last%20year,Dolo%20University%20in%20western%20Ethiopia.&text=The%20students%20mostly%20ethnic%20Amharas,located%20in%20Oromia%20region) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-51411720#:~:text=On%20a%20December%20last%20year,Dolo%20University%20in%20western%20Ethiopia.&text=The%20students%20mostly%20ethnic%20Amharas,located%20in%20Oromia%20region>
4. Reuters: Kidnaping of Ethiopian Students: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-students/kidnapping-of-students-sparks-anti-government-protests-in-ethiopia-idUSKBN1ZV3O5>
5. Christianity today: Ethiopians Protest Church Burnings as Ethnic Tensions Rise <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2019/november/ethiopia-protests-abiy-nobel-peace-tewahedo-meskel-sidama.html>

6. Human Rights Watch: Ethiopia: Justice Needed for Deadly October Violence
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/01/ethiopia-justice-needed-deadly-october-violence#>
7. Los Angeles Times: Ethnic violence in Ethiopia has forced nearly 3 million people from their homes
<https://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-ethiopia-ethnic-violence-millions-displaced-20190530-story.html>
8. Human Rights Watch: Abiy's First Year as Prime Minister, Review of Conflict and Internally Displaced Persons
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/09/ethiopia-abiy-first-year-prime-minister-review-conflict-and-internally-displaced>
9. U tube video: Interview with Elsa Kebede: Nefitegnas are considered as Invaders
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-pzzg4B_Og&fbclid=IwAR1lLfN3LUnOPK1Dd66kAKEvJk3YcJEaNaBNypBXDzYu3sq4h7IXdAvD1sk
10. **Thenewhumanitarian.org: Non-Sidama not wanted?** <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2019/11/07/Ethiopia-ethnic-autonomy-Sidama-Abiy>
11. The Africa Report: Housing demolitions cause cracks in Abiy's regime <https://www.theafricareport.com/379/ethiopia-housing-demolitions-cause-cracks-in-abiy-s-regime/>
12. Garoweonline: Ethiopian University Suspends Learning
<https://www.garoweonline.com/en/news/world/africa/ethiopian-university-suspends-learning-after-death-of-another-student>
13. Africa News: Ethiopian forces fire at Students demanding peace <https://www.africanews.com/2020/01/10/ethiopia-forces-fire-at-students-demanding-peace-in-western-oromia//>
14. Ethio telecom.net: Bule Hora Amara students demonstrate in Bahir-Dar https://www.ethio-telecom.net/bule-hora-university-amhara-students-demonstration-in-bahir-dar_4fd106061.html

The Writer can be reached at abatebelai@yahoo.com