



## Foundation of Ethiopian Human Rights Support (FEHRS)

### Submission to the 19th session of Universal Periodic Review

(April - May 2014)

#### Subject: Violation of Genocide Convention

Amsterdam, September 10/2013

Ethiopia has signed and ratified the Genocide Convention in 1948 and 1949. Unfortunately, reliable local sources have been informing us since 2009 that the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is imposing measures intended to prevent births within the Amhara ethnic group by resorting to mass sterilization and also deliberately infecting citizens with HIV, contravening article II of the Genocide Convention.

recommend

1. In July 2013 a recorded video was made public by the Amhara Youth Activist Group operating in the Amhara region. An extract of the video is here in order:

*“Amhara women in their twenties tell to have failed to conceive after they were vaccinated in order to prevent them against a ‘potential disease outbreak.’ The young women who are sheltering near a church drink ‘holy water’ with the hope of regaining fertility. All of them tell that they are unable to conceive ever since they have been vaccinated. They also indicated that schools are empty since there were no children born in their village.”<sup>1</sup>*

2. In 2009 a Dutch citizen of an Ethiopian origin went to visit his parents and shared the agony that the inhabitants of Machakil district were experiencing.<sup>2</sup> Here follows a short summary of their predicament:

*“The health officers of the government are vaccinating both male and female Amharas between 18-49 years of age monthly under the cover of trachoma and tetanus prevention. As a result the vaccinated people are complaining severe fever, gastrointestinal disturbances, abortion, hemorrhoids, impotency and death”.*<sup>3</sup>

3. In 2008 The Ethiopian Central Statistical Agency (CSA) released its national population census that was conducted between 2006/7. The CSA reported its findings to the parliament and indicated that the population in the federal state of Amhara had decreased by more than 2.4 million.

In its endeavor to recheck the modality and the accuracy of its data collection methods and analysis the CSA had also indicated to have hired an expert from Harvard University.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iRwEudb3NM>

<sup>2</sup> Machakil district is located in Amhara federal state

<sup>3</sup> Name withheld for security



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However, the latter couldn't find any problems. The Director of CSA reiterated the fact that as against other regions, the population count registered in all the districts of the Amhara region show a consistent decrease and it was beyond her to explain.

The GoE was quick to justify the decrease by mentioning the 'high HIV infection and child mortality' rates registered in the Amhara region. Since some members of parliament did not accept GoE's reasons a commission was set up to investigate the matter and a new inter-census survey was launched.

After five years of silence, when the news of sterilization in Amhara region started to circulate recently in the electronic media, the commission curiously came up with its report.

According to the commission the reason of the decrease of the Amhara population was attributed to a mistaken 1.72% percentage figure growth per annum calculated as against a 2.4% increase revealed by its latest findings-- disregarding the CSA and Harvard experts' investigations. MPs and also CSA didn't agree on the commission's report.

### **Recommendation:**

Now, that our information of the violation of article II, sub article(d) of the Genocide Convention is based on reliable local sources and also from the GoE's institutions such as the CSA that failed to this date to establish the whereabouts of 2.4 million Amharas in its population census carried out in 2006; We recommend to the GoE to unconditionally allow independent international investigative team to the Amhara region in order to investigate the reason behind the drop of the population count and the health status of the population.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. Bogale Kassaye

HRD & Chairman of AHRE