



Press Statement from the Amhara Professionals Union (APU)

Urgent Condemnation of TPLF and Oromo Prosperity Party (OPP) for Invasion of Raya, Amhara Region in Ethiopia

April 19, 2024

The Amhara Professionals Union (APU) vehemently condemns the invasion of the Raya area of Amhara Region by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Oromo Prosperity Party (OPP) regime in Ethiopia since April 15th, 2024. This brazen act of aggression against the Amhara people is utterly unacceptable and demands swift and decisive action. We, the APU, call upon the international community and relevant authorities to join us in unequivocally condemning these flagrant violations of international human rights.

The unprecedented invasion which has intensified since April 15th has reportedly resulted in displacement of tens of thousands of Amhara residents from Raya Alamata, Raya Bala, Korem and Ofla (North Wollo and Wag Hemra Zones) to neighboring towns such as Kobo and Sekota. Emerging reports also indicate the TPLF and OPP are carrying out a pattern of extrajudicial killings, arrests and looting targeting civilians. The expanding occupation of the Raya area is a continuation of the decades long Amhara Genocide by the TPLF, OPP and their allies which demonstrates a callous disregard for the rights and security of the Amhara people. Such actions only escalate tensions and undermine efforts toward lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia and the wider Horn of Africa region.

The indigenous Amhara people of Raya have also been subject to decades of genocide and subjugation under Tigrayan apartheid-style rule ever since the area was forcibly annexed by the TPLF in the early 1990s against the will of the residents. Further, the area was devastated during the deadly Northern Ethiopia War (November 2020 – November 2022) in which the TPLF carried out a pattern of atrocities with hallmarks of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The horrific atrocities and violent occupation against the Amhara people of Raya also parallel those against the Amhara people of Welkait, Tegede, Setit Humera and Telemt. The war was followed by the internationally brokered cessation of hostilities (COHA) agreement in Pretoria, South Africa signed in November 2022 which excluded the Amhara people from the peace process and thereby fostered a “war pact” between the TPLF and OPP regime. APU believes the COHA failed to address structural causes of violence, deliver justice and accountability to victims and resolve territorial disputes. As evidence of this, the OPP regime has continued its genocidal war in Amhara Region, genocidal campaign in



Oromia Region and is now coordinating with the TPLF to attack Amhara residents in areas bordering the Tigray Region.

We, the APU, implore the international community to swiftly address this alarming development and take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of the affected Amhara population in Raya. A steadfast commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of civilians are imperative for achieving lasting peace. We also urge all parties involved to uphold the rule of law and prioritize the well-being of civilians. Any departure from these principles only prolongs the suffering of innocent people and undermines the prospects for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. The indigenous Amhara residents of the Raya area deserve nothing less than peace, security, and the chance to rebuild their lives free from risk of violence and massacre by armed groups. Therefore, APU stands in solidarity with the Amhara people of Raya and reaffirms our steadfast support for efforts to achieve peace in the Amhara Region and elsewhere in Ethiopia.