

Date: January 2025

To:

- The United Nations
- The African Union
- The European Union
- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- The United States of America, the State Department
- The United Kingdom
- The Russia Federation
- The People's Republic of China

Subject: Foundational Failure of the National Dialogue Commission in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has been facing multitudes of historical, political, social, economic, constitutional, and structural problems. Many believe that these problems should be resolved through honest national dialogue, consultation, negotiation, and reconciliation. To allegedly address the nation's complex issues that caused deep-rooted ethnic tensions and conflicts, the Ethiopian government has established the National Dialogue Commission under proclamation number 1265/2021.

However, the National dialogue commission is beset by critical problems from its very inception. Many stakeholders and the public at large have questioned the legitimacy of the nomination and selection process of the national dialogue commissioners. The current practice of the commission is not free from the influence and intervention of the Prosperity Party. As a result, a significant number of opposition political parties of the country rejected the credibility of the commission and refrained from participating in it. In addition, insurgents in Amhara and Oromia regions, which represent over 70 percent of the population, are not part of the National dialogue.

Although the National dialogue commission claims to have selected participants and gathered agendas for the national dialogue in 10 regions, the process systematically excluded over 25 million of Amharas residing in these regions. So far, participants were selected for agenda gathering and National dialogue along ethnic lines and Prosperity Party (PP) structure.

Therefore, in its current status the commission has failed to be all inclusive and demonstrated that its handling of the National dialogue could not lead to the aspired resolution of the fundamental and actual problems of the country.

In a gross injustice of history, the Amhara people were unrepresented during the 1991 Transitional process and the subsequent Transitional Government of Ethiopia as well as the process of drafting and approving the 1995 constitution of the country. As a result, the Amhara people have been subjected to political and statistical marginalization causing deprivation, dismissal from government structure, and systematic cleansing across the country. Besides, Amhara's historical territories were illegally annexed to Tigray,

Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. In addition, over 25 million Amharas who live in other regions have not political nor legal representation. Horrifyingly, millions of Amharas have been victims of social engineering, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in the past three decades.

Since 2017, atrocities against Amhara in Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regions has greatly intensified to genocide and causing unprecedented displacement of Amharas in the two regions.

The 2021-2022 war between Tigray region and the Federal government has inflicted huge human and material losses further deepening the economic and social crisis in the Amhara region. In the on-going war in Amhara region, the Federal government committed war crime, crime against humanity and genocide. It has been using sexual harassment and hunger as war instrument in the region.

On top of its blatant disregard to the above historical and structural injustices, the National dialogue commission reportedly intends to proceed with selection of participants for agenda setting under the following utterly chaotic and unfavourable situation in Amhara region.

- a) The Ethiopian government National Defense Force (ENDF) used air and ground forces (aircraft, drones, and heavy artillery) killing thousands of innocent Amhara civilians, including children, women, and the elderly;
- b) Thousands of Amhara scholars, politicians, journalists, social activists, human rights advocates, and youths are being arbitrarily detained in prisons, and military camps;
- c) More than 7 million Amhara children are out of school due to fear of the government drone, air, and heavy artillery attacks;
- d) Millions of Amhara Fanos and youths are fighting against the fascist and genocidal Abiy Ahmed regime;
- e) More than a million Amharas are internally displaced and over hundred thousands of homes in Addis Ababa and surrounding area were demolished targeting mainly ethnic Amharas.

Hence, under the above circumstances confirmed by local and international human rights organizations, conducting the National dialogue in the Amhara region is grossly irresponsible and unacceptable. It will nullify both the process and the outcome of the National dialogue. We, the Amhara political prisoners, strongly believe that there is no space for National dialogue, consultation, negotiation, and reconciliation in Ethiopia. Experience from other countries indicated that National dialogue will not succeed without legitimate, inclusive, and independent facilitating bodies as well as an enabling environment.

Therefore, we highly condemn the illegitimate and politically motivated National dialogue that disregards the constitutional, structural, and existential concerns victimizing the Amhara people.

To this end we call upon the international community, funders, international organizations, and countries addressed in this letter to recognize our concern, immediately intervene, and reconsider the financial and technical support to the National dialogue commission.

We want to assure you that the outcome of the National dialogue commission under the current conditions will fuel the existing ethnic-based conflicts, create unforeseen civil war, genocide, and lead Ethiopia to a total collapse as well as destabilize the horn of Africa.

Sincerely

Lists of Amhara Political Prisoners

1. Hon. Mr. Yohanes Boyalew
2. Hon. Mr. Christian Tadele
3. Hon. Dr. Kassa Teshager
4. Dr. Wondewosen Asefa
5. Dr. Tewodros H/mariam
6. Dr. Meseret Kelemework
7. Dr. Sisay Awgichew
8. Dr. Mearegu Biyabeyen
9. Dr. Chane Kebede
10. Dr. Zerihun Baheriw
11. Dr. Gibreab Alemu
12. Mr. Alelegn Mihretu
13. Mrs. Meskerem Abera (Journalist)
14. Mr. Gobeze Sisay (Journalist)
15. Mr. Dawit Begashaw (Journalist)
16. Miss. Genet Asemamaw (Journalist)
17. Mr. Abay Zewdu (Journalist)
18. Mr. Tesfay Mekuriaw
19. Mr. Tadesse Wodaynew
20. Artist. Yordanos Aleme

21. Mr. Menber Alemu
22. Mr. Sisay Melkamu
23. Mr. Biset Terefe
24. Mr. Dawit Ebabu
25. Mr. Masresha Eneyew
26. Mr. Tewodros Teshome
27. Mr. Andebet Teshager
28. Mr. Abreham Getnet
29. Mr. Molalegn Sisay
30. Mr. Habtamu Dagne
31. Mr. Chane Zeyede
32. Mr. Samuel Beze
33. Miss. Halima Mohamed
34. Mr. Ashagre Melese
35. Mr. Dagne Abebe
36. Mr. Tilaye Yitayew
37. Er. Firdu Tafere
38. Er. Tizazu Yitbarek
39. Saj. Gorefe Wotate
40. Mr. Belay Adamu
41. Mr. Mulugeta Agzew
42. Mr. Kefale Esubalew
43. Mr. Amare Melese
44. Mr. Tewodros Nibret
45. Mr. Tadele Asefa
46. Mr. Wotetu Desalegn
47. Mr. Desalegn Ejigu

48. Mr. Admasu Alemu
49. Mr. Shibeshi Mekonnen
50. Mr. Tewodros Tamiran
51. Mr. Birehanu Tewelegn
52. Mr. Tariku Tadesse
53. Mr. Desale Alemu
54. Mr. Habtamu Fekadu
55. Mr. Eyob Tamiru
56. Mr. Fetalew Ademasu
57. Mr. Mekonnen Desalegn
58. Mr. Getenet Amare
59. Mr. Dejen G/tsadik
60. Mr. Gizachew Tamiru
61. Mr. Fentahun Fikadu
62. Mr. Wondemu Berehe
63. Mr. Abdurehman Ahmedin
64. E/r. Yeshiwas Aletaseb
65. Saj. Altasb Dinku
66. Mr. Samson Mamo
67. Mr. Desalegn Wubu
68. Mr. Habtamu Teshager
69. Mr. Meleku Tesfe
70. Mr. Asemamaw Arega
71. Mr. Misganaw Abatneh
72. Mr. Hussien Seid
73. Mr. Micheal Melak (Human Right Defender &Journalist)
74. Mr. Brehanu Sileshi

75. Mr. Eskender Shiferaw
76. Miss. Hiwot Alemayehu
77. Mr. Aron Tirefe
78. Mr. Haile Tadesse
79. Mr. Bisrat Kassaye
80. Mr. Solomon Fikadu
81. Mr. Amanuel Yalew
82. Mr. Samuel Yalew
83. Mr. Brehanu Manaye
84. Mr. Habtamu Andarege
85. Mr. Bantayehu Ayalew
86. Mr. Tesfaye Birku
87. Mr. Ashenafi Yihune
88. Mr. G/mariam Setegn
89. Mr. Meseret Worku
90. Mr. Melake Misale
91. Mr. Aweke Sineshaw
92. Mr. Gete Amenu
93. E/r. Dawit Yifru
94. Mr. Alemhulutena H/micheal
95. Mr. Fekadu Mengiste
96. Mr. Manaye Ayele
97. Mr. Yilem Bezabih
98. Mr. Abreham Ayana
99. Mr. Zena Hailu
100. Mr. Andualem Ashagre
101. Mr. Wubet Akale

102. Mr. Ermiyas Mekuria
103. Mr. Zenebe Shita
104. Mr. Amanuel Haile
105. Mr. Hassen Mohamed
106. Mr. Abdulkader Mohammed
107. Mr. Wogene Sirak
108. Mr. Endashaw Mandefro
109. Mr. Muluneh Ayetenfesu
110. Mr. Melayekt Amare
111. Mr. Chernet Zemene
112. Mr. Yilake Gedamu
113. Mr. Tamirat Misganaw
114. Mr. Abebaw Fekadu
115. Mr. Chilot Yismaw
116. Mr. Lakew Mose
117. Mr. Habtamu Fentaw
118. Mr. Tseghan H/mariam
119. Dr. Daniel Teshe
120. Mr. Sintayehu Nigatu
121. Mr. Asamenew Tadese
122. Mr. Marew Sileshi
123. Mr. Fasil Getachew
124. Mr. Mesele Cheru
125. Mr. Shegaw Muhabaw
126. Mr. Tadese Melese
127. Mr. G/micheal Abaye
128. Mr. Mekuanent Tesfu

129. Mr. Amanuel Belete
130. Mr. Endale Gize
131. Mr. Henok Wale
132. Mr. Muluken Tesfa
133. Mr. Kenaw Tsegaye
134. Mr. Endesew Getu
135. Mr. Yenalem Mekonen
136. Mr. Temesgen Tachebele
137. Mr. Wondwosen Assefa
138. Mr. Dinknew Mekuanenet
139. Mr. Temesgen Zena
140. Mr. Melkamu Tinfe
141. Mr. Eyasu Gelagel
142. Mr. Daniel Gulema
143. Mr. T/brehan Zewdu
144. Mr. Abreham Abeje
145. Mr. Chane Demeke
146. Mr. Cherent Eshetu
147. Mr. Setegn Beyeno
148. Mr. Tesema Melese
149. Mr. Asemamaw Melak
150. Mr. Dachew Getu
151. Mr. Bekure Mulate
152. Mr. Desalegn Jenbere
153. Mr. Nigusu Tilahun
154. Mr. Adisu Derebew
155. Mr. Mola Bazezew

156. Mr. Belay Sisay

157. Mr. Yonatan Girma

158. Mr. Yimer Mohamed

159. Mr. Niguse Yilekal

160. Mr. Habtamu Dagnew

161. Mr. Tadele Melkamu

162. Mr. Samuel Mengistu

163. Mr. Destaw Mamo

164. Mr. Endasegnew Kibeb

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Kilinto Prison Center

January, 2025