



Program:

- A. Rally start time
 - a. 9 am protesters will become meet at in Washington D.C. on December 13th and 14th
 - b. Protesters will receive handouts from OLLAA/Oromo Community of DC members

- B. Actions Community Can take
 - a. In DC
 - i. Make phone calls to your local elected official's office to express your concerns (Use our Templates below)
 - ii. Deliver letter to Members of Congress who you meet with in-person
 - iii. Participate in Rally
 - b. For those outside of DC
 - i. Use OLLAA Advocacy Templates at ollaa.org/advocacy-templates
 - ii. If you have any questions, feel free to join us at the following zoom [link](#), from 11am-12pm, both days.
 - iii. General how to set up meeting request [Training on Scheduling Meetings With Congress - OROMO LEGACY LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION \(ollaa.org\)](#)

- C. If you have comments or want to share your experience with us, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us at media@ollaa.org or info@ollaa.org



Do's and Don'ts for Meeting with Legislators:

DOs

- Use a Fact Sheet
 - OLLAA has a one-page document that provides a general introduction to the Oromo and information about the current human rights and humanitarian challenges they are facing. Feel free to edit it and give this to a staffer so they can refer to the information at a later date. Send your fact sheet in advance of the meeting. This will allow you to refer to the document in your introduction and leave time to make a more personal connection.
- Tell your legislator specifically what you would like them to do in one of your first two sentences (**Our Ask**: For the US government to publicly condemn the human rights violations that have been committed against Oromo civilians, and for Congress to add language from H.R.6600 & S.3199 to pending legislation.). Support your request with three or four sentences of relevant facts.
- Be prepared to discuss possible means that the legislator and their staff can work to achieve the Oromo community's ask.
 - For example: Issuing a public statement about the situation for the Oromo, Tweeting about the drone strikes in Oromia, Writing to the Secretary of State about the issues.
- Share the number of people in their district who are Oromo and will be affected by the proposal/resolution under consideration with your legislator.
- Tell your legislator of your expertise on the issue (years of experience advocating on behalf of oromos or any leadership position you might hold in the community).
- Use a polite tone and avoid making statements that can come across as negative or threatening. Politely request a commitment for their support. Share any relevant materials, such as one-pagers about the Oromo or the issue area you are writing about with them in person.
- Send a follow-up message to the individual you met within **24 hours** of your meeting. In this message, thank them for taking the time to speak with you, reiterate the Oromo community's ask, and provide them with the answers to any questions raised during the meeting that you did not have the answer for at that time. Share your contact information in this follow up, and let them know you remain open to answering any remaining questions they may have.

DON'Ts

- Do not be afraid to say you do not know the answer to a question.
 - It's a perfect response if there is a question to which you don't know the answer and it can be used as an excuse to follow up. You are not expected to be an expert.
- Don't carelessly use highly charged terms such as "genocide," or "Fascist," – or emotional reports that rely on unpublished sources – does not inspire confidence.
- Do not become visibly upset if the legislator challenges the facts and brings up false information that has been spread by opposing parties. Remain calm and explain why it is false.
- Do not waste their time. If you do not have a specific action to request from them, then don't request a meeting. Just send an email.



Understanding the Human Rights and Humanitarian Situation For The Oromo

Background:

The Oromo people are an ethnic group concentrated in Oromia, Ethiopia, although their population extends throughout much of Ethiopia and into Kenya. While the Oromo comprise the majority of the Ethiopian population, they have faced significant human rights abuses at the hands of successive Ethiopian governments. For example, under Ethiopia's former Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, tens of thousands of [protesters](#) (many of whom were Oromo) were killed and detained under Ethiopia's anti-terrorism law. When he came into office, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed condemned these detentions and claimed that Ethiopia had committed "[terrorist acts](#)" against its citizens.

Despite the Prime Minister's purported commitment to human rights, Ethiopian security forces have continued to arrest and detain peaceful protesters and leaders of the non-violent political opposition movement, including following the [assassination](#) of the Oromo singer and activist Hachalu Hundesa in 2020. There have also been credible [reports](#) of human rights abuses committed by Ethiopian security forces against civilians in the Oromia region. Oromia is also currently experiencing an extreme humanitarian disaster due to severe drought.

Recent Challenges:

- **Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis:** The southern regions of Ethiopia are currently experiencing a [severe drought](#), resulting in the driest conditions in over 40 years. [Recent reports](#) suggest that at least 17 million individuals throughout southern Ethiopia have been affected by the drought, and [3.5 million](#) livestock have died. During 2022, UN OCHA has [reported](#) that it was only able to provide aid to 59% of the population it had targeted in Oromia.
- **Culture of Impunity for Abuses:** In April 2022, the Ethiopian federal and Oromia regional governments [announced](#) the launch of a military operation inside Oromia designed to eliminate the OLA. Since that time, there have been numerous reports of Ethiopian security forces perpetrating violating the rights of Oromo civilians, [including](#) extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and the destruction of property. According to [Human Rights Watch](#), "there has been widespread impunity for ongoing rights abuses in Ethiopia's Oromia region."
- **Drone Strikes:** There have been increasing reports of drone strikes by the Ethiopian government throughout western and central Oromia since the peace agreement was signed between the TPLF and the Ethiopian government in November 2022. These drone attacks have been [reported](#) most [frequently](#) in the [West Wollega](#), [West Shewa](#), and [North Shewa zones](#), leading to the death of civilians. In one of these attacks, which took place on November 2, 2022, a witness told [AP News](#) that dozens of people had died and hundreds were injured in Bila, West Wollega zone
- **Inter-Communal Violence:** There have been multiple reports of [attacks](#) against Oromo civilians by non-state armed actors, particularly the Amhara militia group known as *Fano*. These attacks have increased in western and central Oromia since August 2022, and have led to the deaths of civilians and [mass displacement](#).

Our Ask: For the US government to publicly condemn the human rights violations that have been committed against Oromo civilians, and for Congress to add language from H.R.6600 & S.3199 to pending legislation.



The US Oromo Diaspora Community Supports H.R. 6600

H.R.6600 would make it the policy of the United States to support stabilization, peace, and democracy throughout Ethiopia.

- If adopted, this bill would state clearly that it is the policy of the United States to support efforts to end conflicts in Ethiopia, including gross violations of human rights. It would also call on the US to use all available tools to bring an end to conflicts throughout Ethiopia.
- H.R.6600 also makes it the policy of the US to support and promote an inclusive dialogue throughout Ethiopia - something that OLLAA has long advocated is necessary for lasting peace and regional stability.

H.R.6600 calls on the United States to apply targeted sanctions against individuals and entities.

- The bill would call on the President to impose sanctions on any person who has committed gross human rights violations and helped extend conflicts throughout Ethiopia, including for: 1) obstructing the provision of humanitarian aid to those who need it throughout the country; 2) attacking personnel from intergovernmental, humanitarian, or nongovernmental organizations; 3) providing weapons, such as drones, to any party to conflicts in the country

H.R.6600 calls on the US to support efforts to hold perpetrators accountable for human rights violations across the country.

- The bill instructs the Secretary of State to issue a determination on whether the Ethiopian government or other actors had committed genocide or crimes against humanity in the conflict in Tigray.
- It also authorizes the President to provide support for efforts and activities necessary to preserve evidence of atrocities in Ethiopia and to pursue accountability for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, as well as any violations of international humanitarian law, that have taken place in the course of the civil war and other conflicts in Ethiopia.

H.R.6600 would pressure the Ethiopian government to take concrete measures towards lasting and sustainable peace.

- In order for the US to end any of the measures taken following the adoption of the bill, the US would need to find that the Ethiopian government had taken certain steps, which generally include having: 1) Ceased all offensive military operations related to the the civil war and other conflicts in Ethiopia; 2) Taken steps towards negotiations and a legitimate, inclusive political dialogue; 3) Continuously allowed unfettered humanitarian access; and 4) Cooperated with independent investigations of credible allegations of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, carried out in the course of the civil war and other conflicts in Ethiopia.



The US Oromo Diaspora Community Supports S.3199

S.3199 would make it the policy of the United States to support stabilization, peace, and democracy throughout Ethiopia.

- If adopted, this bill would state clearly that it is the policy of the United States to support efforts to end conflicts in Ethiopia, including gross violations of human rights. It would also call on the US to use all available tools to bring an end to conflicts throughout Ethiopia.
- S.3199 also makes it the policy of the US to support and promote an inclusive dialogue throughout Ethiopia - something that OLLAA has long advocated is necessary for lasting peace and regional stability.

S.3199 calls on the United States to apply targeted sanctions against individuals and entities.

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Advocacy Email Template

Dear **Representative/Senator [insert last name]**,

My name is **[insert]**, and I am one of your constituents. I am writing to you regarding the increasingly dire situation for Oromo civilians throughout the Oromia region of Ethiopia, particularly in light of recent drone attacks and attacks against civilians perpetrated by Amhara militias.

There have recently been reports of an escalation of violent attacks being carried out by the Amhara militia group known as *Fano* throughout Western Oromia, including in Hargar Gutin and Kiremu, in the [East Wollega](#) zone, the [East Shewa](#) zone, and in [Horo Guduru Wollega](#) zone, where a video showing several members of Fano speaking in front of the decapitated heads of individuals from Jardega Jarte began circulating online. On December 3, 2022, Jawar Mohammed, the central member of the Oromo Federalist Congress political party, [tweeted](#) that 350 people had died and 400,000 had been displaced in the past 48 hours due to this violence.

Over the past few weeks, there have also been multiple reports of drone attacks throughout western Oromia. These drone attacks have been [reported](#) most [frequently](#) in the [West Wollega](#), [West Shewa](#), and [North Shewa](#) zones, leading to the death of civilians. In one of these attacks, which took place on November 2, 2022, a witness told [AP News](#) that dozens of people had died and hundreds were injured in Bila, West Wollega zone. Most recently, I have heard reports of a drone attack in Wara Jarso, North Shewa zone on December 2nd, leading to the death of 80 civilians, and airstrikes in Sassiga, East Wollega zone on December 4th. Social media reports have also been circulating of airstrikes in the Begi, Gidami, and Togo districts of West Wollega and Kellem Wollega zones on December 5th.

I know that the US government has played a leading role in calling on the Ethiopian government to peacefully resolve conflicts in Ethiopia. In my opinion, failure by the US to condemn drone attacks and other attacks against Oromo civilians will only serve to heighten conflict and tensions throughout the country.

In light of the above, I respectfully urge you to publicly condemn attacks and other human rights violations against Oromo civilians, and to ensure that language from **[S.3199, the Ethiopia Peace and Stabilization Act of 2022/H.R.6600, the Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act]**, is added to pending legislation

This issue is very important to me, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



Advocacy Call Template

Hello, my name is [redacted]. I am a constituent of [Inset legislators name] calling about recent drone strikes and other attacks being carried out throughout the Oromia region of Ethiopia, leading to the death of civilians..

As you may be aware, over the past few weeks, there have been multiple reports of drone attacks throughout central and western Oromia, leading to the deaths of countless civilians. In addition, the Amhara militia group known as Fano has recently escalated its attacks against Oromo civilians throughout the region.

In light of the above, I respectfully urge you to publicly condemn attacks and other human rights violations against Oromo civilians, and to ensure that language from [S.3199, the Ethiopia Peace and Stabilization Act of 2022/H.R.6600, the Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act], is added to pending legislation

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