

## **The Sidama Massacre; Unforgettable Atrocity**

The TPLF/EPRDF government of Ethiopia led by Meles Zenawi is carrying out unprecedented atrocity against the Sidama people. Since it took power by the barrel of gun in 1991, the regime is engaged in systematic persecution, harassing, terrorising, imprisoning and massacring numerous innocent Sidamas. One of such inhumane acts is the massacre of more 100 lives and wounding another 100s of Sidamas, on 24 May 2002, at the village of Loqe near Hawassa town.

The massacre was pre-planned. The final go ahead was given when government officials met on 23 May 2002, at 6.30 local time. On the said morning carefully selected high ranking Officials from different departments of the Ethiopian government held a meeting in the Regional (SNNPR) Head Office in Hawassa, to decide on the fate of the Sidama people. In their meeting most of the attendees voted for the barbaric act to be taken on the innocent Sidama people. Girma Chulke and Wakayo Damassa opposed the resolution.

After the meeting, the Federal Defence Army and Rapid Action Troops 'fetno-derash' were called in immediately by Abadula Gemedra the minister of Defence at that time to implement the resolution. On the following day, the mentioned armed forces opened fire without reservation and killed peaceful demonstrators, yet no one among the demonstrators carried any weapons, except Ethiopian flag (showing unity as Ethiopians) and green leaves (symbolising peace). The following list discloses the names of the individuals present in the meeting and their official positions at that time.

### From central government

Abadula Gemedra	at that time-Defence Minister and chairman of OPDO
Girma Birru	Industry Minister and vice chairman of OPDO
Bereket Simon	Information Minister
Mulugeta Alemsegid	Politburo Member of TPLF and Protocol Adviser to Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia

### From Regions

Tadesse Kassa (Tinkshu)	Vice chairman for both Amhara region and ANDM
Hailemariam Dessalegn	President of the Southern Region
Melese Marimo	Vice President of the Southern Region

### From Sidama Zone

Girma Chulke	President of Sidama Zone
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Wakayo Damassa Head Officer of Capacity Building  
Petros Woldesenbet Head Officer for Education

Shifferaw Shigute Politburo Member and Finance Head

Galalcha Janje Police Commissioner

Adane Dingama Executive member of the council

And some others

Melese Marimo who gave the shoot and kill order now is Ethiopia's Ambassador to South Africa, while Shifferaw Shigute and Adane Dingama are now promoted to higher position as a rewards for their loyalty in the execution of the decision to massacre the Sidama people. Galalcha Janje guided the armed forces in accordance to the wish of the Ethiopian government.

SIDAMA LIBERATION FRONT

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