



**Amhara Association of America Welcomes New Congressional Resolution on Ethiopia
June 1, 2021**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Amhara Association of America (AAA) welcomes the introduction of House Resolution (H. Res) 445, a new bipartisan measure on Ethiopia introduced in the United States House of Representatives. H. Res 445 makes several explicit references to the unabated targeted [massacres of ethnic Amharas](#) occurring throughout Ethiopia.

The resolution is sponsored by Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA-37), Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights. The original cosponsors are the Subcommittee’s Ranking Member Chris Smith (R-NJ-4); Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY-5), Chairman of the full House Foreign Affairs Committee; and Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX-10), the full Committee’s Ranking Member.

In addition to condemning ethnically targeted violence occurring in multiple regions across Ethiopia, H. Res 445 highlights the massacre of [at least 600 Amhara civilians](#) in the town of Mai Kadra on November 9, 2020, allegedly at the hands of forces loyal to the Tigray People’s Liberation Front. The resolution also mentions that in February, the governing party of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region acknowledged that dozens of its mid- and senior-level officials [have been complicit](#) in targeted ethnic violence against Amharas and other minority groups there.

“Ethiopia is facing numerous humanitarian, human rights, and political crises right now, including the continued targeted massacres of civilian Amharas across the country,” said Tewodrose Tirfe, Chairman of AAA. “We estimate that in the past 11 months, at least [2,041 Amharas were killed](#) and 800,000 were internally displaced due to these atrocities.

“The language in H. Res 445 shows the success of AAA’s tireless advocacy efforts, as Congress starts to become comfortable with explicitly calling out these massacres” added Tirfe. “AAA is grateful to Chairwoman Bass, Chairman Meeks, Ranking Member Smith, and Ranking Member McCaul for hearing the concerns of the Amhara diaspora community and reflecting them in the resolution.”

Going forward, AAA will work to get more bipartisan cosponsors for H. Res 445. AAA will also push for additional language via the amendment process to explicitly call out the [targeting of Amharas in Oromia Region](#), which has been documented by [the media](#), human rights organizations, and AAA through [ground investigations](#). AAA will also continue to advocate for expanding the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and United Nations [joint investigation](#) to Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and other regions where Amharas are of targeted attacks. This priority has already been supported by Chairman Meeks and Ranking Member McCaul in their May 10, 2021 [press statement](#).

The full text of H. Res 445 can be read [here](#). The language about Mai Kadra and Benishangul-Gumuz is on page 6.

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About AAA: The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a nonprofit organization that represents the Ethiopian Amhara diaspora in the United States. Visit www.amharaamerica.org for more information.