

Kazanchis: Cultural Erasure & Crimes Against Humanity in Addis Ababa

I. Introduction

This complaint is brought before relevant international judicial and human rights bodies, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the International Criminal Court (ICC), by Ras Nahom Aynealem (Complainant) on behalf of the displaced residents of Kazanchis and wider Addis Ababa. The case concerns systemic, state-orchestrated acts amounting to crimes against humanity, cultural erasure, and genocide, perpetrated under the so-called 'Corridor Development' and other urban restructuring policies.

II. Jurisdiction

This Court/Commission has jurisdiction under Articles 4, 5, and 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Rome Statute of the ICC, and other applicable instruments, given that the alleged acts constitute widespread and systematic attacks against a civilian population in violation of international law.

III. Defendants

1. Abiy Ahmed Ali – Prime Minister of Ethiopia 2. Adanech Abebe – Mayor of Addis Ababa 3. Senior officials of the Addis Ababa City Administration 4. Commanders of Addis Ababa Police and Federal Police involved in the operations 5. Any other individuals identified through subsequent investigations as bearing criminal responsibility.

IV. Statement of Facts

On and around September 28 (Meskerem 21), Kazanchis residents were forcibly evicted from their homes without adequate notice, compensation, or relocation provisions. The demolitions, carried out at night and under heavy police presence, targeted longstanding neighborhoods rich in historical and cultural heritage. Victims were rendered homeless, deprived of possessions, and in some cases subjected to physical violence and arbitrary detention. Evidence collected includes audio recordings, televised interviews, eyewitness testimonies, satellite imagery, and archival material demonstrating the historical significance of Kazanchis and the systematic nature of its destruction.

V. Legal Grounds

The acts described herein constitute violations of: • Article 7(1)(d) of the Rome Statute: Deportation or forcible transfer of population. • Article 7(1)(h) of the Rome Statute: Persecution against any identifiable group. • Article 8 of the African Charter: Right to freely practice religion and preserve cultural heritage. • Article 14 of the African Charter: Right to property. • Customary International Law prohibiting genocide and crimes against humanity.

VI. Remedies Sought

1. Prosecution: Immediate initiation of criminal proceedings against the named defendants, including the issuance of arrest warrants to prevent flight or interference with witnesses. 2. Restitution: Return of land and properties to displaced residents or full and fair compensation for losses suffered. 3. Injunctions: Immediate halt to ongoing demolitions, forced evictions, and other acts of cultural destruction in Addis Ababa.

VII. Evidence Annex (Summary)

Annex A – Satellite images of Kazanchis pre- and post-destruction. Annex B – Audio recordings from night of forced eviction. Annex C – Testimonies of displaced residents and witnesses. Annex D – Archival photographs and videos documenting cultural heritage. Annex E – Media coverage from Ahadu TV and other sources.