

existing dynamics for all crises occurred. This is because of the fact that there is real ground fact to say that the attack was happened for reason such as religion or ethnicity or political motive or even act of a mob movement for looting. The researcher on his part believe that personnel's from minority religious group are the one who suffer of substantial damage. Whatever the motive behind, members of religious minority group particularly Orthodox's loss their life, property, body, are being displaced and other human right violations. The first ground that need to be considered is existence of indications that, the attack has corresponded religion and ethnicity i.e. that is orthodox and Amhara on the one hand. In relation to vulnerability of Amhara, the hypothesis is that, "Amhara" as a category always has had a distinct religious dimension of Orthodox Christianity¹⁰⁸. As said earlier Amhara or Tigray, who are each well over 90 percent Orthodox and as a result the ethnic Amhara and Orthox is overlapped. The second ground is that non-Amhara individuals but member of minority groups is targeted. This is because individuals from Gurage, Welayta, Gamo even from Oromo's are the one who suffered because of their religion. Therefore, the researcher is saying that, from the beginning, religious minority group are vulnerable¹⁰⁹ and the incidence magnifies clearly how the usual life minority groups in west Arsi zone.

In relation to some other muslim victims, it is necessary to take in to two things. First, nature of the incidence, in which un-organized and thousands of youth from the rural areas surrounding towns come in to city, then they roamed around in the streets in small groups independently. Obviously, there was no common discipline or coordination among the groups especially the second day. It opens a door to the rebel group to loot, to destruct and even to kill and commit any other types of crime they want. Even, they got a chance to revenge thir personal enemies. Second, absence of active offensive measure from the government side, give opportunity to the rebel group (protestor in general and thus some individuals). As a result of this shops, hotels, domestic goods and furniture's from individual houses are looted and transported and since the violence was carried out hastily. Therefore, initially the violence was pre-dominantly ant-Amhara (Neftegna) and Religious minority group, then the dimension has shifted to a multi type violence. However, it is un-doubtfully clear that the Amhara and Orthodox were targeted. The broadcasting from OMN and interview videos really shows this fact.

¹⁰⁸ Terje Otsebo et'al pp. 28

¹⁰⁹ All information's gathered from all interviewee imply the same conclusion, that is, they were suffering, they are suffering and had no hope for future.

4.6. *Local Government Authorities following Turmoil Due to Death of Hachalu Hundesa and Measures taken toward the protection of religious minority group*

During the turmoil in Oromia region generally and particularly in West Arsi zone, the Federal and local government officials turned a blind eye¹¹⁰. As to the reports of Addis standard, the feedback toward the crises from both federal and regional government were suspicious. They were not willing to deploy security forces in time to protect people who at risk. Instead, reports indicate that when victims tried to defend themselves, but, Oromia region Special Forces attacked them¹¹¹. As a matter of fact, divisions from the federal army and Oromia regional special forces were situated a few kilometers from Shashemene, they don't take any direct measure despite they were witness of the attacks. The justification for silence was *absence of order to intervene from government*. It was really heartbreaking for peoples under attack. This is why, government institutions have proven to be totally passive to stop violent attacks and prevent deaths of innocent civilians and some even claim that they facilitated attacks¹¹².

Furthermore, event what happened and feedback from authorities' manner of handling the violence create lacks transparency//suspicious over government by minorities who suffer a lot in particular and Ethiopians in general. This clearly shows how recklessness the federal and Oromia government toward the protection of those vulnerable group. This has made informants generally distrustful about the future, envisioning a further increase of hatred and violence¹¹³. There were also complaints that the perpetrators had returned to the rural areas without being held accountable.

However, the government on its side reported as over 9,000 people were arrested massively,¹¹⁴ Ararssa Merdassa¹¹⁵ particular told government media as 44 government officials and 20 members of the regional law enforcement apparatus were detained including Temam Hussien, (the mayor of Shashemene)¹¹⁶. In this regard, the researcher has tried to come up with filtered data about number of perpetrator being accused, convicted and other measures taken. Therefore,

¹¹⁰ Etenesh and Bilen, Addis Standard *supra note 97*

¹¹¹ *ibid*

¹¹² Terje Otsebo et'al pp 32

¹¹³ FGD 1 and FGD 2

¹¹⁴ Elias Meseret. "Ethiopia's Week of Unrest Sees 239 Dead, 3,500 Arrested." Washington Post, 2020. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ethiopias-week-of-unrest-sees-239-dead-3500-arrested/2020/07/08/8eb30952-c100-11ea-8908-68a2b9eae9e0_story.html (July 10, 2021);

¹¹⁵ Oromia regional state police commission commissioner

¹¹⁶ Terje Otsebo et'al pp 33

as to the report from public prosecutor offices of selected district, many officials who have been totally fired from their position. There are also police officers who are being detained at a time including commander of federal camp around shashemene and (commander of the zone police, he has then dismissed), disciplinary measure on higher officials of prosperity party in districts and most of them are being replaced by others. It includes mayors in towns like shashemene and Dodola. As to the interview almost twelve district party administrators have been replaced. The administrator of West Arsi zone is the one who fired out.

In relation to measures taken by protestors, there is no clear cut data on number of suspects who are arrested. The human right watch under its report said that there was mass arrest without any filtration and families from the suspect side was saying the same thing. But, the number individuals who accused and convicted are very small in all districts around Arsi zone. The following table shows the number of accused and convicted as follows¹¹⁷

NO	Name of the district	No Accused person	No. of convicted person
1.	Dodola	20	3
1.	Shashemene	19	15
3	Arsi Negele	21	4
4	West Arsi High court	60	20
5	Oromia region supreme court	Not given	Pending

Look, the number person arrested as to the government reports is far a way to the accused and convicted respectively. Only in shashemene there was 2000 personals reported as who are arrested but 19 of them are accused and 15 are convicted. The same is true in other districts. The most surprising news is that, for most case, the public prosecutor establish charge on crime of theft albeit the fact on the ground is torture, death, displacement and crime against humanity as Ethiopian Human Right Commission has stated. As to the interview with a judge in Adaba district, stated that “all peoples who arrested in mass are released after four months. The stay in detention center for four months was without any proceeding and most of persons accused are released free. The justification given by court is due to the absence of witness. The public prosecutor affirms the absence of witness testifying against suspects who assumed “*Qerro*’ (youth group those who actively engaged in the incidence)¹¹⁸. Absence of witness against the

¹¹⁷ Note here, it is based on the material and territorial jurisdiction of courts according to relevant laws in Ethiopias.

¹¹⁸ Phone interview with a judge in Adaba first instance court.

accused may be basically related to reason that fear for their future since, most witness are the victim themselves and some of them are being displaced. In addition to that the presumption is that, all ill crises are happened due to the evil acts of such youth group, so the one who stand against as a witness will face unwelcomed things. So, the solution is just being remain silent. It creates conducive environment to courts at the expense of minority groups who sacrificed their life, family and things what they have. In general, the crises what happened, the extent of what victims suffered and the number and extent of measure taken against perpetrator is totally different. This show one, how the government is reckless on the very existence of minority group and two, their vulnerability even in future.

Conclusion

The issues of minority protection in general and religious minority particularly in Ethiopia is contemporary problem that need a quick answer. Minorities (especially ethnic and religious minorities) all over the country are anguish in their day to day life. In all incidences that they pay a lot for things they are not liable. The influence of unlimited social media usage makes things worse than expected, in which conflict entrepreneurs fabricate antagonist ideas and raise complex issues with a non-questioning generation. The infant politics of the country plus absence responsible and committed gov't in all structure however is the most horrible thing. Thus, the life of minority will be on the hands majority and they will have no their own future. Despite, culture of religious tolerance is deeply rooted in the Ethiopian socio-cultural life in which peoples live as a brotherhood regardless of religious differences, currently conflicts are widespread. All tension may not be religion based rather religion might be used as an instrument of producing conflict in certain circumstances for reasons other than religion itself.

In the same manner, religious minority group as a group are vulnerable to attack and their freedom religion is in fact questionable. The status of minority religious group in west Arsi zone is not exception to this effect. In addition to violation of freedom of religion, members of minority religious group are even killed, tortured, looted, evicted, their property have been destructed incidental to crises happened whenever. They are subjected to discrimination in social life. The absence of due protection from government side and recklessness of local officials another terrible phenomenon. Officials are left as a blind eye and members of the minority groups have no trust at all. The absence of trust on official additionally, related to ensuring justice, in which perpetrators are not held fully liable and victims are not compensated. Even, the role of *EIRC* in this aspect is remarkable with its emphasis on securing mutuality among all

religions but it is a body like “barking and toothless dog” without a power to go further. Therefore, religious minority groups are suffering substantially, especially, the protestant and EOTC church are most targeted.

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