

Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

November 25, 2023

**Dear Secretary Blinken:**

We, the undersigned civic organizations of American Ethiopians, express, in the strongest terms, our outrage at the recent scandalous reference to the Ethiopian capital, in an official Tweet by the US Embassy in Addis Ababa, using the controversial Finfiné, which is a name promoted by Oromo extremist groups.

[https://x.com/usembassyaddis/status/1727274628362404286?s=48&t=Dy408-4-D\\_6mZw\\_tn4NBmg](https://x.com/usembassyaddis/status/1727274628362404286?s=48&t=Dy408-4-D_6mZw_tn4NBmg)

At a time when the people of Ethiopia are fighting for true democracy that is not tainted by ethnic animosity, atrocity crimes or suppression of individual freedoms, the outrageous statement by the American Embassy is not only an insult to the pride and honor of the people, but also a clear violation of all known diplomatic decorum.

As is widely known, ethnic division and hatred have reached unprecedented alarming levels in the country, including ethnically-targeted demolition of Amahra homes in the capital. Indeed, the worsening of the overall situation has warranted the issuance of an alert and a call to action by the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide. Therefore, the statement by the US Embassy on such a sensitive issue as the nomenclature of Addis Ababa can only encourage inter-communal violence of unimaginable consequences.

Regrettably, this outrageous and insensitive action by the Embassy will further erode the confidence of the people of Ethiopia in the neutrality of the United States government as an honest broker in the handling of contentious issues, with ramifications that are likely to have dire implications for the stability of the nation, the region and beyond.

We, therefore, demand that the Embassy immediately retract its statement, unambiguously express its apology to the people of Ethiopia, and demonstrably refrain from making such irresponsible statements again in the future.

Sincerely,  
**Signatory Organizations**

**Cc.**

Honorable Michael McCaul  
US House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Honorable Ben Cardin  
US Senate Foreign Affairs Committee

**SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS**

1. Abba Bahrey Forum
2. Adwa Great African Victory Association (AGAVA)
3. American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC)
4. Amhara Dimtse Serechit
5. Amhara Popular Front (APF) Worldwide Support Task Force in the Diaspora
6. Amhara Wellbeing and Development Association
7. Association of Concerned Ethio-Americans and Ethiopians in the Diaspora
8. Congress of Ethiopian Civic Organizations (CECO)
9. Ethiopian American Development Council (EADC)
10. etHub
11. Global Alliance for Justice - The Ethiopian Cause
12. Global Amhara Coalition (GAC)
13. Global Ethiopian Scholars Initiative (GESI)
14. Hope for Ethiopia (H4E) New York Tristate
15. Network of Ethiopian Scholars (NES)
16. Selassie Stand Up, Inc.
17. United Ethiopian Muslims Movement (UEMM)
18. Vision Ethiopia (VE)
19. Voice of the Victim's Organization (VVO, የወልቃይት ጠገዬ፣ ጠለምት የልሳነ ግፍፍን ድርጅት))
20. Worldwide Ethiopian Civic Associations Network (WE-CAN)