



Webinar

# Voices from Tigray

Brutalities against Religious Leaders,  
Holy Places and Heritage in Tigray

Testimony 6

Testimony by local residents

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EEPA

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## Testimony 04\_Heritage

### *Testimony by local residents*

*Evidence: Testimony and what all happened to the church is video recorded*

Name of the church: A, District/Woreda – Location: K (names known to publishers. Withheld for security reasons)

### Testimony

This church is A. It is located xxx. It is found near to the Al Negeash Mosque. The church was bombarded, looted and destroyed by the Eritrean troops and Ethiopian troops on 24 and 25, November 2020.

This church of A is mainly damage at its dome (ጉልላጎ). The dome of the church is completely destroyed and bombarded. All the rooms surrounding the main church are destroyed. So many artilleries are fired or bombarded to the church for so many times. The Tabot, the most scared treasure of the church, is displaced temporarily to other temporary room. But the rest parts of the church are destroyed and vandalized. The destroyed and vandalized treasures of the church such as umbrellas are seen scattered everywhere around the church.

Some of the church treasures that are looted from this church A are the following:

- Hand Cross=4
- Processional cross= 5
- Silver made cross=1
- Settings= 5
- Washing pitcher= 13
- Vestments= 15
- Crowns=150
- Incense burner =6
- Brass made cross=6
- Carpet= 40
- Icons= 700
- Stamp=1
- Sistrum= 500
- Church drums=4
- Throne chair= 4
- Prayer Sticks=270
- Holy books and parchments=106

Our church is not the only church that is attacked and looted. Many churches are attacked and looted. For instance, in Eastern zone of Tigray only, we heard the following churches are looted and attacked.

- 1- Mariam Tsaeda Naele
- 2- Meskele Kristos found in Erob, Asimba
- 3- Mariam Dongolat near Adigrat town
- 4- Abune Abraham Rock Hewn Church found in Kilege District, Debrezion Village
- 5- Abune Zerabruk Church found in Hawzen District, Frewoyi Village
- 6- Giorgis Awda Rock Hewn Church found in Kilege District, Lae'lay Adi Kсандid Village
- 7- Mariam Korkor Rock Hewn Church found in Hawzen District, Megab Village
- 8- Abune Yemata Rock Hewn Church – Hawzen District , Selam Village
- 9- Debre Damo Monsatry – Gulo District, Mezabir Damo Village
- 10- Abune Gebremikael Rock Hewn Church – Hawzwn District, Koraro Village
- 11- Mariam Saqara – Atsbi Wemberta District , Gebrekidan-Saqara village
- 12- Chrqos Azeba- Ganta Afeshum District, Azeba Village
- 13- Adi Gedia' St. Slassie- Ganta Afeshum District, Ganta Afeshum -Dibla Sie't Village
- 14- Dima Qdus George – Ganta Afeshum District, Kokob Tsibah Village
- 15- Enda Cherkos Adi Semaeti – Ganta Afeshum District, Dilba Sie't Village

Tigray is used to be branded as an open-air museum. It is a land of churches. God knows how many churches are bombarded, looted or vandalized by the Eritrean and Ethiopian troops throughout Tigray.

The damage and atrocities made is not yet fully studied and documented. A thorough and independent investigation is critically needed.