



# South Omo violence leaves 12 dead

By Dawit Endeshaw December 9, 2017



Eleven individuals have been taken into custody in connection with the killing of 12 civilians and injuries sustained by many in a clash that occurred in the South Omo Zone of the Southern Regional State. Sources in the area noted that the total number of victims might increase.

The incident occurred on Monday around 4pm when a member of the pastoralist Bodi ethnic group started to randomly attack vehicles and drivers who happened to be in the area.

The attack was allegedly in revenge to one Bodi killed in a car accident the same day.

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Most of the people who were killed in the attack had been working as truck drivers for construction companies, specifically in the Haiel Weha locality of South Omo Zone.

The area is also close to Omo Kuraz Sugar project.

Those who sustained injuries are now receiving medical attention at the Sodo Christian and Jinka Hospitals, according to sources in the area.

The victims were attacked with guns as well as less sophisticated weapons such as spears.

"We have heard about the incident and we are still following the matter," Sisay Bekelle, communications and media director with the Southern Regional State Communications Bureau, told The Reporter. He also said that things have now calmed down.

According to him, officials in the region, along with their zonal and woreda counterparts, are working to stabilize the situation.

So far, around 11 individuals have been arrested and the police in the area are also working to take others who are responsible for the attack into custody. In addition, a unit of the national army force from the nearby sugar project has been deployed to the area.

The deceased include Tesfa Dagneu, a driver from Addis Ababa. His funeral was scheduled to take place at the St. George Church in Tulu Dimtu.

So far, we have been provided with no clear information regarding how the incident happened, Solomon Mulugeta, Tesfa's brother-in-law told The Reporter.

No official has also contacted the family so far.

Tesfa, in his late 40s, is survived by his wife and two children.

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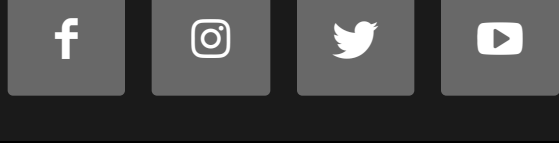
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