

Database: the Ethiopian public universities during the Tigray war

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Abstract

In this database, we attempt to document the widespread involvement of Ethiopian public universities in the war in Tigray. In general, Ethiopian universities have provided financial and material support to the Ethiopian army and allied forces, practiced discrimination of their students and staff members of Tigrayan origin, including harassment and limitation of academic freedom. Infringements against human rights by the Ethiopian Ministry of Science and Higher Education are also included.

Keywords: Ethiopia; Public universities; Human rights; Tigray war; Academic freedom; University diplomacy; University development cooperation

Context

This dataset aims at holding a comprehensive overview of infringements against human rights and academic freedom at Ethiopian public universities during the Tigray war (2020-ongoing).

At the beginning of November 2020, an armed conflict emerged in Tigray, Ethiopia's northernmost region, in the aftermath of a destructive locust plague and in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In the conflict, the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) and its allies – formal and informal military factions of the adjacent Amhara region, the Eritrean Defence Force – oppose the troops of the Tigray Regional Government. In an official communiqué on 29 November 2020, the Government of Ethiopia stated that the military operation in Tigray was completed, and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed appointed an “Interim Government of Tigray”. However, as from that moment, the armed conflict has continued at large scale for more than a year now, with the TDF capturing Mekelle on 28 June 2021 and setting up a counter-offensive.

Reports systematically document massacres (Vanden Bempt et al., 2021), widespread sexual violence, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, mass looting, or imprisonment of people of Tigrayan origin in concentration camps (Conley et al., 2021; Tewelde, 2021).

The Ethiopian Government is denying access to humanitarian actors, worsening the man-made famine conditions (Gesese et al., 2021; Weldemichel, 2021; Nyssen et al., 2021), the current situation is considered a siege by many. As a result of the conflict, many Tigrayans are in dire need of humanitarian aid, food as well as medical supplies and health care services. Starting from July 2021, the blockade of the entire Tigray Region and other areas controlled by the Tigray forces is nearly total, leading to the worst famine since a decade, worldwide. Full details are provided in “Tigray: Atlas of the Humanitarian Situation” (Annys et al. 2021).

We have been alarmed by numerous informal reports of Ethiopian universities actively involving in warfare support, worse, carrying out human rights infringements by themselves, such as contribution to imprisonment of their own staff of Tigrayan origin in concentration camps, organisation of hate campaigns, active/passive contribution to/participation in mob lynching of professors, cancelling of diplomas, termination of salaries etc. The issue has been touched upon by media in major university cooperation countries like Norway (Zachrisen, 2021) or Belgium (Dessein, 2021), yet no fully fledged inventory of human rights infringements by Ethiopian universities during the Tigray war exists.

The aim in this work is to document and map as much information as possible about infringements against human rights and academic freedom at Ethiopian universities during the Tigray war. It may serve as baseline documentation for qualitative analysis by human rights researchers, university diplomacy, and decision makers on international university cooperation.

Limitations

Killing of university staff in warfare, and damage to campuses by shelling are not included in this database, which focuses strictly on the involvement of academic authorities, and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MOSHE)

The human rights abuses are widespread at Ethiopian Universities, and academic freedom is also restricted, according to (relatives of) Tigrayan staff in various Ethiopian institutions. Obviously, in absence of formal communication about this by university authorities, Tables 1 and 2 are very incomplete.

This is work in progress; new versions of the database will be published when further evidence becomes available. Thank you for signalling further human rights abuses, when they become uncovered.

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Table 1. List of Ethiopian public universities, with acronyms and region¹, as well as known major infringements against academic freedom and cover-up of human rights abuses

Region	University ²	Acr.	Fact	Date	Source
OR	Adama Science & Technology University	ASTU			
AA	Addis Ababa Science and Technology University	AASTU			
AA	Addis Ababa University	AAU	Threatened to revoke academic degrees based on political opinion; the university is also a safe place for genocidal hate preachers Taye Bogale and Dagnachew Assefa		Media ³ ; see also Table 4
TI	Adigrat University*	ADU			
TI	Aksum University*	AKU			
OR	Ambo University	AU	The university is a safe place for genocidal hate preacher Seyoum Teshome		See Table 4
SN	Arba Minch University	AMU			
OR	Arsi University	ARSIUN			
BG	Assosa University	ASU			

¹ Regions: AA Addis Ababa; AF Afar; AM Amhara; BG Benishangul Gumuz; DD Dire Dawa; GA Gambela; OR Oromiya; SO Somali; SN Southern Nations; TI Tigray

² The physical location of some universities is not controlled by the Ethiopian and allied armed forces, according to the 15 December 2021 conflict map (<https://twitter.com/dhadelli/status/1471456001169756163/photo/1>). These universities are indicated with *.

³ Addis Standard, 26 November 2021: Addis Abeba university warns to take measures against graduate academics supporting tplf; measures may include revocation of academic degrees. <https://addisstandard.com/news-addis-abeba-university-warns-to-take-measures-against-graduate-academics-supporting-tplf-measures-may-include-revocation-of-academic-degrees/>. See also in Addis Ababa University's official Facebook page <https://archive.md/Bf5Xd>

Region	University ²	Acr.	Fact	Date	Source
AM	Bahir Dar University	BDU	Harassment of international collaborators who ask for an end to the Tigray war; University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ⁴	8 Oct 2021	Internal document ⁵ ; Media ⁶
OR	Bule Hora University*	BHU			
SN	Bonga University	Bonga U			
AM	Debre Berhan University	DBU	University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ⁷	8 Oct 2021	Media ⁸
AM	Debank University	DKU	University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ⁹	8 Oct 2021	Media ¹⁰
AM	Debre Markos University	DMU	University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ¹¹	8 Oct 2021; 17/11/2021	Media ¹² ; University's Facebook page

⁴ This visit occurred in the same period when alarm was sounded in international media about the human rights situation in Western Tigray, particularly Humera which the officials visited as can be seen on the photos in the article. In Humera there are concentration camps, and people killed and thrown in the Tekeze river. The report of the visit did not mention or allude that the officials used the opportunity to investigate the human rights situation in Humera.

⁵ Internal document at the hands of the authors.

⁶ Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የመንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። [government orders university management should go to war fronts to encourage security forces] <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>

⁷ For the context: see note regarding the same activity at BDU

⁸ Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የመንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>

⁹ For the context: see note regarding the same activity at BDU

¹⁰ Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የመንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>

¹¹ For the context: see note regarding the same activity at BDU

¹² Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የመንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>

Region	University ²	Acr.	Fact	Date	Source
AM	Debre Tabor University	DTU	University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ¹³	8 Oct 2021	Media ¹⁴
SN	Dilla University	DU			
DD	Dire Dawa University	DDU			
AA	Ethiopian Civil Service University	ECSU			
OR	Haramaya University	HRU			
GA	Gambela University	GMU			
SN	Hawassa University	HWU			
SO	Jigjiga University	JJU	The university is a safe place for genocidal hate preacher Muktarovich Ousmanova		See Table 4
OR	Jimma University	JU			
OR	Madawalabu University	MWU			
TI	Mekelle University*	MU			
AM	Mekdela Amba University	MAU			
OR	Mettu University	MeU			
SN	Mizan-Tepi University	MTU			
OR	Oromia State University	OSU			
TI	Raya University*	RAYU			
AF	Semera University	SU			

¹³ For the context: see note regarding the same activity at BDU

¹⁴ Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የሞንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>

Region	University ²	Acr.	Fact	Date	Source
AM	University of Gondar	UoG	Revocation of Eleni Gabremadhin's Honorary Doctorate because of involvement for peace in Ethiopia; University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ¹⁵	30 Nov 2021; 8 Oct 2021	Media ¹⁶ ; Media ¹⁷
			BBC reported that UoG experts supervised a campaign of disposal of evidence of massacres in Western Tigray ¹⁸ in April 2022. UoG denied, asked retraction of the article and sanctioning of the journalist. BBC maintained the article and published a summary of the UoG reaction ¹⁹ .	7 May 2022	BBC
SN	Wachemo University	WCU			
SN	Wolaita Sodo University	WSU			
SN	Werabe University	WRU			
AM	Woldia University*	WDU	University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ²⁰	8 Oct 2021	Media ²¹
SN	Wolkite University	WKU			
OR	Wollega University	WOU			
AM	Wollo University	WU	University officials went in a support visit to the security forces that occupy Western Tigray ²²	8 Oct 2021	Media ²³

¹⁵ For the context: see note regarding the same activity at BDU

¹⁶ Ethiopian Monitor, 1 December 2021: Gondar University Revokes Eleni Gabremahin's Honorary Doctorates - <https://ethiopianmonitor.com/2021/12/01/gondar-university-revokes-eleni-gabremahins-honorary-doctorates/>, archived at <https://archive.md/8M6yD>

¹⁷ Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የመንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>

¹⁸ BBC, 7 May 2022: Ethiopia war: Evidence of mass killing being burned – witnesses. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-61335530>

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²² For the context: see note regarding the same activity at BDU

²³ Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የመንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>

Table 2. Known human rights abuses based on ethnicity. * evidence that it occurred; ** university passively involved (absence of concern or whitewashing); *** university actively involved

Acr.	Staff killed	Students killed	Staff fired	In prison or concentration camp		Notes	Source(s)
				Staff	Student(s)		
ASTU							
AASTU							
AAU				**		At least 2 professors arrested	Media ^{24,25,26,27}
ADU							
AKU							
AU							
AMU				**		22 Tigrayan academics detained and sent to concentration camps	Internal document ²⁸
ARSIUN							
ASU							

²⁴ news24 hours 19 November 2021 Leading constitutional law professor detained in Ethiopia <https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/leading-constitutional-law-professor-detained-in-ethiopia-20211123>

²⁵ UNIVERSITÀ DI SIENA, 23 November 2021: [Original in Italian language] [The University is concerned about the arrest of academics of the Tigray ethnicity] <https://www.unisi.it/unisilife/notizie/lateneo-esprime-preoccupazione-larresto-di-accademici-di-etnia-tigrai>

²⁶ Global News Net, 19 November 2021: Addis Ababa University Senior Law Professors among latest victims of Tigrayan mass arrests <https://globenewsnet.com/news/addis-ababa-university-senior-law-professors-among-latest-victims-of-tigrayan-mass-arrests/>

²⁷ Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape 19 November 2021. Dullah Omar Institute concerned about arrest of Addis Ababa University's Prof Assefa Fiseha. <https://dullahomarinstitute.org.za/news/dullah-omar-institute-concerned-about-arrest-of-addis-ababa-universitys-prof-assefa-fiseha>

²⁸ The authors received a list of 22 Arba Minch University academic and administrative staff who have been detained at two concentration camps. Names list and specific locations of concentration camps are kept confidential for their safety.

Acr.	Staff killed	Students killed	Staff fired	In prison or concentration camp		Notes	Source(s)
				Staff	Student(s)		
BDU	**		***	**		Several lecturers in concentration camp; Prof. Meareg killed, before the killing, a page affiliated with the university ²⁹ accused him of committing crimes and preparation to flee to the USA, university did not present condolences; staff fired and expelled from residence	Press ³⁰ , social media, private evidence ³¹ , blog ^{32,33}
BHU							
DBU							
DMU		***				Seare Abraha, a third year Economics student was stoned to death; university management took no measures against students participating in the mob.	Journalist Zecharias Zelalem on Twitter ³⁴
DTU				**		Seven academics currently detained in Gurara Youth Center (concentration camp)	Internal document ³⁵
DU							
DDU							
ECSU							

²⁹ BDU Staff Facebook page, 9 October 2021: <https://www.facebook.com/BDU.STAFFs/posts/1043647506468648> . Sources at BDU mention that the university management was contacted by journalists investigating Prof. Meareg's murder; subsequently the Facebook page was taken down on 24 March 2022 – the post concerning Prof Meareg has been archived at <https://archive.ph/A3ac6>

³⁰ De Standaard (Belgium), Thursday, 4 November 2021 - https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20211103_97890710

³¹ At hands of the authors

³² Jan Nyssen, 13 November 2021: BDU vice president timidly admits that Prof. Meareg Amare has been murdered - <https://emnetnegash.wordpress.com/2021/11/13/bdu-vice-president-timidly-admits-that-prof-meareg-amare-has-been-murdered/>

³³ Obituary Professor Meareg Amare (1959-2021) - <https://emnetnegash.wordpress.com/2021/11/09/obituary-professor-meareg-amare-1959-2021/>

³⁴ "Seare Abraha, a third year Economics student at the University of Debremarkos, was stoned to death yesterday by a mob who targeted him for his Tigrayan roots. The brutal murder has shocked the nation. No arrests have been made." by Zekarias Zelalem 28 May 2019. Zecharias Zelalem on Twitter: <https://t.co/2qVDfDwmQ0> / Twitter (archive.md)

³⁵ The authors received a list of some University academics who are currently detained or have been taken to unknown locations. We could not include the source document here for the safety of detainees and the sources.

Acr.	Staff killed	Students killed	Staff fired	In prison or concentration camp		Notes	Source(s)
				Staff	Student(s)		
HRU				*		4 lecturers and 3 support staff members were detained and have been released after several months. Overall, HRU is described as a relative safe place for staff and students of Tigrayan origin; Tigrayan lecturers taken into custody were set free after intervention of the management	Internal documents ³⁶
HWU							
JJU							
JU							
MWU							
MU							
MeU							
MTU							
OSU							
RAYU							
SU							
UoG							
WCU							
WSU							
WRU							
WDU							
WКУ				**		One academic detained and whereabouts unknown	Internal document ³⁷
WOU							

³⁶ The authors received a list of some University academics who were detained or had been taken to unknown locations, as well as detailed reporting on the internal functioning of HRU. We could not include the source documents here for the safety of the sources.

³⁷ The authors received a list of some University academics who are currently detained or have been taken to unknown locations. We could not include the source document here for the safety of detainees and the sources.

Acr.	Staff killed	Students killed	Staff fired	In prison or concentration camp		Notes	Source(s)
				Staff	Student(s)		
WU	***					2 WU professors were killed by <i>fano</i> mob on 22/10/2021, to which some WU staff participated. Earlier on, lists of WU staff of Tigrayan origin had been circulated.	Tghat ³⁸ , social media, blog ³⁹

Note: the ethnic group targeted are Tigrayans, in all cases known.

³⁸ Victims 2935 and 2936 on Tghat's victim list

³⁹ Jan Nyssen, Humanitarian situation in Tigray (31 August 2021) - <https://emnetnegash.wordpress.com/2021/08/31/humanitarian-situation-in-tigray-31-august-2021/>

Table 3. Direct support to warfare, as reported by media and the universities' PR services

Acr.	Financial support to army (ETB)	Organisation of military training	Material support to army or militias	Date	Source
ASTU	16,473,019.40			01 Tahsas 2014	Media ⁴⁰
AASTU	30,000,000; staff donated one month salary to the army				Media ⁴¹ , university's Facebook page ⁴²
AAU	60,000,000 (Fig. 2)		Sent 100 medical staff to the war fronts; donation of equipment	08.09.2021	Media ⁴³ ; university's Facebook page ⁴⁴
ADU					
AKU					
AU	Yes				Media ⁴⁵
AMU	10,000,000 + 13M (one month salary of all staff)			25/11/2021	University website ⁴⁶ and Facebook page ⁴⁷
ARSIUN	30,000,000 (from students budget and staff salaries)				Media ⁴⁸

⁴⁰ Ethiopian Press Agency, 14 December 2021. የተለያዩ ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችና የትግራይ ብልጽግና ጽ/ቤት ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ. <https://archive.md/uATkU>

⁴¹ Ethiopian Press Agency, 14 December 2021. የተለያዩ ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችና የትግራይ ብልጽግና ጽ/ቤት ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ. <https://archive.md/uATkU>

⁴² Facebook, AASTU, 12 August 2021. የአዲስ አበባ ሳይንስና ቴክኖሎጂ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሰራተኞች የአንድ ወር ደመወዛቸውን ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት በመስጠት አለጃታነታቸውን ገለጹ። <https://www.facebook.com/aastu.edu.et/posts/568990604462995>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/PaVKO>

⁴³ Amhara Media Corporation, 27 November 2021. አዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረገ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1688281174680203>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/QlkzG>

⁴⁴ Addis Ababa University 08 September 2021 የአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለመከላከያ ሰራዊት 60 ሚሊዮን ብር ድጋፍ አደረገ. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=4379954145422706&id=496255483792611, archived at: <https://archive.ph/skFKK>

⁴⁵ Ethiopian Press Agency, 14 December 2021. የተለያዩ ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችና የትግራይ ብልጽግና ጽ/ቤት ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ. <https://archive.md/uATkU>

⁴⁶ Arba Minch University website: አርባ ምንጭ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊትና ለተፈናቀሉ ወገኖች ድጋፍ አደረገ. <https://www.amu.edu.et/2144-amu-give-defence>, archived at <https://archive.ph/wu7CL>

⁴⁷ Facebook AMU, 25 November 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/ArbaMinchUniversityCCD/posts/4821170494594199>, archived at <https://archive.ph/icvjW>

⁴⁸ Addis Media Network, 3 December 2021: የአርሲና ሃዋሳ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለመከላከያ ድጋፍ አዲስ ሚዲያ ኔትወርክ ህዳር 24/2014 ዓ.ም. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mNUovHeoGs>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/srREg>

Acr.	Financial support to army (ETB)	Organisation of military training	Material support to army or militias	Date	Source
ASU	3,250,000				University website ⁴⁹ and Facebook page ⁵⁰
BDU	Staff 'donated' 30-100% of their salary to Amhara Special Forces and militia	Sport academy (stadium) converted into military training facility for staff (Fig. 1)	Preparation of food for armed forces; donation of food; donated Agri College's cattle to the army	9/12/2021	University's Facebook page ^{51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56}
BHU					
BongaU	15,000,000		Donation of 30 oxen to the army	8/11/2021	University Facebook page ⁵⁷

⁴⁹ Assosa University website: አሰሳ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለሀገር መከላከያ ሚኒስቴር የ3.25 ሚሊዮን ብር ድጋፍ አደረገ። <https://asu.edu.et/post.php?id=33>, archived at: <https://archive.md/rN8JE>

⁵⁰ Facebook ASU, 16 November 2021. https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=4632264880186410&id=234983083247967&__entstream_source=timeline, archived at <https://archive.md/RBlpJ>

⁵¹ Facebook page of Bahirdar University, 9 December 2021 የስንቅ ዝግጅት ስራ በባሕር ዳር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ተጠናክሮ ቀጥሏል. <https://archive.md/ke1eF>

⁵² Facebook page of Bahirdar University, 13 November 2021. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1049814705782058&id=194458761317661, archived at <https://archive.ph/A38G2>

⁵³ Facebook page of Bahirdar University, 13 November 2021. <https://ms-my.facebook.com/bduethiopia/posts/5269658849716245/> Original post was deleted - በባሕር ዳር ዩኒቨርሲቲ የ2ኛው ዙር የመሰረታዊ ውትድርና ሰልጣኞች ተመረቁ። Bahir Dar University has graduated its administrative and academic staffs who have been attending basic military training courses for the second time. The ceremony was opened by Dr. Firew, the president of the university. Cached version could be archived. <https://archive.ph/Es5kn#selection-121.26-125.0>

⁵⁴ Facebook page of Bahirdar University, 1 May 2021: በባሕር ዳር ዩኒቨርሲቲ የዘንዘል ግቢ ሰራተኞች ለአማራ ልዩ ሀይል እና ሚሊሻ አባላት ከደሞዞቸው በማዋጣት ድጋፍ አደረጉ. <https://www.facebook.com/737682042913971/posts/4651911548157648/> archived at <https://archive.ph/sWhgy>

⁵⁵ Facebook page of Bahirdar University, 20 September 2021: የወታደራዊ ሰልጣኞች ምረቃ <https://www.facebook.com/737682042913971/posts/5093662590649206>, archived at <https://archive.ph/L9ok1>

⁵⁶ Facebook page of Bahirdar University, 5 August 2021: የ40 ሰንጋ ርክክብ <https://www.facebook.com/737682042913971/posts/4943693295646137/>, archived at <https://archive.ph/Kcx7g>

⁵⁷ Facebook BongaU, 8 November 2021. ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊታችን. <https://www.facebook.com/bongauofficial/posts/1226192584530977>, archived at <https://archive.ph/zG1Wy>

Acr.	Financial support to army (ETB)	Organisation of military training	Material support to army or militias	Date	Source
DBU			Preparation of food for armed forces and fano	13/12/2021	Media ⁵⁸ ; university's Facebook page ⁵⁹
DKU	Staff 'donated' one month salary to Amhara Special Forces and militia		Donation and preparation of food for armed forces; donation of beds and mattresses	9/12/2021	University Facebook page ^{60,61}
DMU	Staff 'donated' one month salary to armed forces	Yes, for staff and students	Preparation of food for and shipping of shoes to the armed forces	13/11/2021 ⁶²	University's Facebook page ⁶³ , Social media, blog ⁶⁴ , media ⁶⁵
DTU		180 staff took military training and the	Provision of food to the armed forces		Media ⁶⁶ ; university's Facebook page ⁶⁷

⁵⁸ Fana BC, 18 November 2021: የደብረብርሃን ዩኒቨርሲቲ ማህበረሰብ አባላት ስንቅ እያዘጋጁ ነው <https://www.facebook.com/fanabroadcasting/posts/4627024320721604>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/66bGq>

⁵⁹ Facebook page of Debre Berhan University ደብረ ብርሃን ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለጥምር ጦር ሀይሎች ስንቅ ዝግጅት ድጋፍ እያደረገ ይገኛል 13 December 2021. <https://archive.md/oO6Gk>

⁶⁰ Facebook DKU, 9 December 2021. የደባርቅ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሰራተኞች ያዘጋጁትን የደረቅ ስንቅ ሰቆጣ ግንባር ለሚገኘው የሰራዊት አባላት አደረሱ።

<https://www.facebook.com/Debarkuniversityandcollegeofficial/posts/3039123023072365>, archived at <https://archive.md/gv06C>

⁶¹ Facebook DKU, 23 September 2021. ደባርቅ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በሀልውና ዘመቻው ከፍተኛ አስተዋፅኦ እያደረገ ይገኛል ።

<https://www.facebook.com/Debarkuniversityandcollegeofficial/posts/2980327632285238>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/aZR7W>

⁶² Official Facebook page of Debre Markos University, 17 November 2021. የደብረ ማርቆስ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በወሎ ግንባር እየተፋለመ ለሚገኘው ሰራዊት የስንቅ ድጋፍ አደረገ

<https://archive.md/01yCl>

⁶³ Facebook page of Debre Markos University, 6 December 2021: የአንድ ቀን ቁርሴን ለዘመቻ ጫማ በሚል ህልውና ዘመቻ ሁለ-ገብ ድጋፎች እንደቀጠሉ ናቸው

<https://www.facebook.com/dmu.edu/posts/2956597261260600>, archived at <https://archive.ph/rGuIQ>

⁶⁴ Jan Nyssen, Humanitarian situation in Tigray (31 August 2021) - <https://emnetnegash.wordpress.com/2021/08/31/humanitarian-situation-in-tigray-31-august-2021/>

⁶⁵ Addis Standard 16 August 2021. Ethiopia: Debre Markos University faculty and staff begin basic military training.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=4244647355583227&id=177352718979398 archived at <https://archive.ph/yUMOV>

⁶⁶ Amara Media Center, 10 October 2021. ደብረ ታቦር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ላለፉት ሶስት ወራት መሠረታዊ የውትድርና ስልጠና ሲወስዱ የቆዩ መምህራንና ሰራተኞችን በይፋ አስመረቀ።

<https://www.facebook.com/AmaraMediaCenter/posts/6164795236928378>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/lh5CH>

⁶⁷ Facebook page of Debre Tabor University, 25 November 2021: ደብረ ታቦር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት እና ለአማራ ህዝባዊ ኃይል በእብናት ግንባር በሚገኘው የስንቅ ድጋፍ

አደረገ። <https://www.facebook.com/www.dtu.edu.et/posts/1613593848987637>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/fzZZp>

Acrr.	Financial support to army (ETB)	Organisation of military training	Material support to army or militias	Date	Source
		president organised a graduation ceremony			
DU	30,000,000		Sent university medical staff to the war fronts	< 16/11/2021 29/11/2021	Media ⁶⁸ ; photo ⁶⁹ University Facebook page ⁷⁰
DDU	1,500,000		Provided items worth 650,000 to ENDF	6/12/2021	University's Facebook page ^{71 72}
ECSU					
HRU	15,000,0000			10/12/2021	Media ⁷³
HWU	45,000,000	Militarisation of academic spaces ⁷⁴			Media and photo ⁷⁵
JJU	1,000,000		150 goats to ENDF	19.11.2020	University's facebook page ⁷⁶

⁶⁸ Walta Info, 15 November: የዲላ እና የዋቻዎ የኒሽርሲቲ ለአገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ <https://www.facebook.com/waltainfo/posts/4846667768747299>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/2YNbc>

⁶⁹ Photo posted on Twitter: https://twitter.com/Axumite_1/status/1460620041267908614, archived at: <https://archive.md/1K5xb>

⁷⁰ Facebook page of Dilla University 29 November 2021 የሀገር ጥሪ በመቀበል የዲላ የኒሽርሲቲ የጤና ባለሙያዎች ወደ ግንባር ለመዝመት ሽኝት ተደረገላቸው። <https://www.facebook.com/DDUniv/posts/6586806414726888> archived at <https://archive.md/zAsi8>

⁷¹ Facebook page of Dire Dawa University, 6 December 2021: የድሬደዋ የኒሽርሲቲ መምህራንና የአስተዳደር ሠራተኞች ሃገር ያቀረበችውን ጥሪ ተቀብለው ወደ ግንባር መዝመትን ጨምሮ ደገፍ ለማድረግ ዝግጁ መሆናቸው ተገለፀ። <https://www.facebook.com/DDUniv/posts/6567019843372212>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/ACTpf>

⁷² Facebook page of Dire Dawa University 10 December 2021 የድሬደዋ የኒሽርሲቲ በጦርነቱ ጉዳት ለደረሰባቸው የሰራዊት አባላት የምግብና የፅዳት ቁሳቁሶች ድጋፍ አደረጉ። <https://www.facebook.com/DDUniv/posts/6586806414726888> archived at <https://archive.md/S1Aw>

⁷³ Ethiopian Press Agency, 14 December 2021. የተለያዩ የኒሽርሲቲዎችና የትግራይ ብልጽግና ጽ/ቤት ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ. <https://archive.md/uATkU>

⁷⁴ Hawassa University 7 September 2021 የሀገር የኒሽርሲቲ የቴክኖሎጂ ኢንሱቲትዩትተማሪዎች! <https://www.facebook.com/Hawassa.University/posts/4296155930481729> archived at <https://archive.md/2mq6s>

⁷⁵ Hawassa University donated ETB 45,000,000 to ENDF. #ሀገር_የኒሽርሲቲ_ዘመቻ_ለህብረ_ብሔራዊ_አንድነትን_በመደገፍ_የገንዘብ_የአልባሳትና_የምግብ_ድጋፍ_አደረገ Official Facebook page of HWU, 4 December 2021. <https://archive.md/Bf5Xd>

⁷⁶ Jigjiga University 19 November 2020 Jigjiga University's donation of 1 million ETB and 150 goats to the national defence force. <https://www.facebook.com/jigjigauniversity/posts/3856286317750077> archived at <https://archive.ph/kyIMX>

Acr.	Financial support to army (ETB)	Organisation of military training	Material support to army or militias	Date	Source
JU	35,000,000			4 Tahassas 2014	Media and photo ⁷⁷
MWU					
MU					No evidence ⁷⁸
MAU	Staff donated one month of salary to the army		Preparation of food for armed forces; donation of 10 oxen	13/9/2021	University Facebook page ⁷⁹
MeU	21,000,000 (11M from staff salaries; 10M from university budget)		Preparation of food for the army		University's Facebook page ^{80,81} ; Media ⁸²
MTU	20,000,000		Preparation of food for the army		Media ⁸³ ; university's Facebook page ⁸⁴
OSU					
RAYU					

⁷⁷ Fana BC, 13 December 2021: ጅማ እና አዲስ አበባ ሳይንስና ቴክኖሎጂ ዩኒቨርሲቲዎች ለመከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ [Jimma University and Addis Ababa University of Science and Technology support the Defense Forces] - <https://www.fanabc.com/ጅማ-ዩኒቨርሲቲ-35-ሚሊዮን-ብር-ለሀገር-መከላ>, archived at <https://archive.md/4jHHG>

⁷⁸ Despite social media claims (<https://twitter.com/MulukenAlem/status/1470594367669039108>, archived at <https://archive.md/i9oKd>), we could not find any evidence that Mekelle University has given financial support to the TPLF party.

⁷⁹ Facebook MAU, 13 September 2021. የመቅደላ አምባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ልዑካን ቡድን ወሎ ግንባር በመገኘት ለመከላከያ ሰራዊቱ ድጋፍ አደረገ። <https://www.facebook.com/Mekdela.Amba.University/posts/1822948241236961>, archived at <https://archive.ph/fOQzI>

⁸⁰ Facebook page of Mettu University, 3 December 2021: Yuunivarsiitiin Mattuu Gooticha RIB'tiif Qarshii Miliyoona 21 kennuuf murteesse. <https://www.facebook.com/mettuniversity/posts/1374360422984083> , archived at <https://archive.ph/btgav>

⁸¹ Facebook page of Mettu University, 17 December 2021: ህዝብና ውጭ ግንኙነት ዳይሬክቶሬት. <https://www.facebook.com/mettuniversity/posts/1383584918728300> , archived at <https://archive.ph/XrGGp>

⁸² Ethiopian Press Agency, 14 December 2021. የተለያዩ ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችና የትግራይ ብልጽግና ጽ/ቤት ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ. <https://archive.md/uATkU>

⁸³ Walta Info, 4 December 2021. የቱሪዝም ሚኒስቴር እና የሚዛን ቴፕ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለመከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ <https://www.facebook.com/waltainfo/posts/4908780052536070>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/JKb2h>

⁸⁴ Facebook page of Mizan Tepi University, 4 December 2021: ሚዛን-ቴፕ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለሀገር መከላከያ ሰራዊታችን የ20 ሚሊዮን ብር ድጋፍ አደረገ ።ህዳር 25/2017 ሚዛን-ቴፕ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ። https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1208380926320682&id=362390684253048 , archived at <https://archive.ph/mB2KG>

Acr.	Financial support to army (ETB)	Organisation of military training	Material support to army or militias	Date	Source
SU	3,000,000		Various goods, worth 0.3 M birr		University's Twitter account ⁸⁵
UoG	50,000,000	Basic military training given to university staff	Preparation of food for the armed forces; provided logistical support to armed forces in Mai Tsebri front	31/08/2021; 07/12/2021	University's Facebook page ^{86,87,88,89, 90}
WCU	30,000,000		Food and cattle sent to the army		Media ⁹¹ ; university's Facebook page ⁹²
WSU	39,000,000		Material support to the army worth 6.5M ETB		University's Facebook page ⁹³
WRU	1,000,000				Media ⁹⁴
WDU					

⁸⁵ Twitter account of Semera University, 25 August 2021: የሠመራ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለመከላከያ ሰራዊት፣ለክልል ልዩ ሃይል እና በክልል ለተፈናቀሉ ዜጎች ከ 3 ሚሊዮን ብር... <https://twitter.com/samarauniethio/status/1430580815918997504>, archived at:

⁸⁶Facebook page of University of Gondar የጎንደር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሰራተኞች "በሀልውና ዘመቻ" ጊዜ ለ"ሰብዓዊ ድጋፍ" የሚውል ከ50ሚሊዮን ብር በላይ ለማበርከት ቃል ገብተዋል <https://www.facebook.com/TheUniversityofGondar/posts/1561091827570987> archived at <https://archive.md/SUUhH8>

⁸⁷ Facebook page of University of Gondar 7 December 2021 የጎንደር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሰራተኞች ለሰራዊቱ ስንቅ በማዘጋጀት የማያቋርጥ ደጀንነታቸውን እያሳዩ ይገኛሉ <https://www.facebook.com/TheUniversityofGondar/posts/1630670210613148> archived at <https://archive.md/z6B2y>

⁸⁸ Facebook page of University of Gondar 6 December 2021 የጎንደር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሰራተኞች ለሰራዊቱ ስንቅ በማዘጋጀት የተለመደ ደጀንነታቸውን እያሳዩ ነው <https://www.facebook.com/TheUniversityofGondar/posts/1629553647391471> archived at <https://archive.md/ycXc8>

⁸⁹ Facebook page of University of Gondar 25 November 2021 ሙሰረታዊ ወታደራዊ ስልጠና የወሰዱ የጎንደር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሙምሀራንና የአካባቢው ወጣቶች ተመረቁ <https://www.facebook.com/TheUniversityofGondar/posts/1619586625054840> archived at <https://archive.md/v7hDT>

⁹⁰ Facebook page of University of Gondar 1 December 2021 ጎንደር ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለማይጠምሪ ግንባር የተለያዩ ግብአቶች ድጋፍ አደረገ. <https://www.facebook.com/TheUniversityofGondar/posts/1626340864379416> archived at <https://archive.md/CQ0mj>

⁹¹ Walta Info, 15 November: የዲላ እና የዋቻዎ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለአገር መከላከያ ሰራዊት ድጋፍ አደረጉ <https://www.facebook.com/waltainfo/posts/4846667768747299>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/2YNbc>

⁹² Facebook page of Wachemo University, 16 November 2021: የዋቻዎ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለጀግናው የሀገር መከላከያ ሠራዊት ከ30 ሚሊዮን ብር በላይ ድጋፍ አደረገ። <https://www.facebook.com/WachemoUniversity2008/posts/4584984911540414>, archived at <https://archive.ph/7jGu7>

⁹³ Facebook page of Wolaita Sodo University, 20 November 2021: Wolaita Sodo University donates over 45.5 million Birr in cash and kind to the F.D.R.E Defense Forces (November 20, 2021). https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=898506634197273&id=246568056057804, archived at <https://archive.ph/BWcda>

⁹⁴ Walta TV, 28 November: የወራሴ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለመከላከያ ድጋፍ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yUWKoT8zhE>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/2959K>

Acr.	Financial support to army (ETB)	Organisation of military training	Material support to army or militias	Date	Source
WKU					
WOU					
WU		Academic and admin staff of Wollo University, Kombolcha Institute of Technology, receive military training	Allocated one of its campuses to serve as an army medical service centre	09/09/2021 17/10/2021	University's Facebook page ⁹⁵ University's Facebook page ⁹⁶

⁹⁵ Wollo University በኮምፕዩተር አስተዳደር ጸጥታ ዘርፍ ጽ/ቤት እውቅና የኮምፕዩተር ቴክኖሎጂ ኢንስቲትዩት ሰራተኞች መሰረታዊ ውትድርና ስልጠና ወስደው ተመረቁ። 9 September 2021. [Wollo University – Posts | Facebook \(archive.md\)](#)

⁹⁶ Wollo University ወሎ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በጢጥ ያለውን ግቢ ለህክምና አገልግሎት እንድውል ፈቀደ። 17 October 2021. [Wollo University – Posts | Facebook \(archive.md\)](#)

Table 4. Infringements by the Ethiopian Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MOSHE) and widespread targeting of Tigrayans over numerous Ethiopian universities

- The bank accounts of the four universities in the Tigray Region (MU, RAYU, AKU, ADU) have been closed and their budget was not released. Staff salaries are not paid since June 2021, no more food for the students^{97,98}.
- Ministry of Science and Higher Education tolerates Ethiopian universities becoming safe places for genocidal hatespeechers such as Seyoum Teshome⁹⁹ (Ambo University), Muktarovich Ousmanova (Jigjiga University), Taye Bogale¹⁰⁰, Dagnachew Assefa¹⁰¹ (Addis Ababa University)
- Tigrayan students who graduated or finished academic year from various universities in the country had to leave their campuses despite the clear signals that they were going to face real danger after leaving, as they could not travel home to Tigray¹⁰². Many ended up being detained and presented as prisoners of war. Others tried to stay under the radar in Addis Ababa. Ms. Genet Berhanu, founder and head of ‘Tinsaé aid organisation’, who was

⁹⁷ Nyssen, J., Negash, E., Deckers, J., 2021. Status of the Tigray universities (Ethiopia) after nine months of war. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349750000>

⁹⁸ University World News, 15 August 2021. University students still trapped in Tigray crisis, parents continue protests.

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20210814090042185>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/llqp9>

⁹⁹ Among others, Seyoum Teshome, Ambo University professor, calls on the government and its allies to exterminate Tigrayan youth mercilessly.

<https://twitter.com/KisanetLalim/status/1410256897760968706> archived at <https://archive.md/mvTSA> or “this journalist should be shot on the head just like they did to Ambassador Siyum Mesfin et al.” (<https://twitter.com/henokgabisa/status/1411070181141581824>, archived at <https://archive.ph/GL4Zf>). Professor Seyoum Teshome was also preaching for 1.5 hour on Yeneta YouTube channel against the then Mekelle University president, Prof. Fetien and the international petition for ceasefire and humanitarian aid to Tigray. They are vehemently accused of treason. This video is no longer available because the YouTube account associated with this video has been terminated, in relation to hate speech commonly pronounced there. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a00KSOxMoAI&list=TLPQMDQxMjIwMjAlu9ZxywnABQ&index=2> An English summary of the broadcast is at the hands of the authors. The story is that the MU president wrote an email to Belgium about the plight of the Tigrayan people, and asked the Belgian colleagues to start a petition. And Belgium was chosen specifically to be the centre of the petition since the EU headquarters are located in Belgium. Names of initiators are then exposed (starting 1:18:00) and commented. The essence is that the petition is used to further blame the MU president. Facts: Prof. Fetien wrote an email after her university was bombed; by then the international appeal was already a week old.

¹⁰⁰ Facebook post of Taye Bogale Arega, 2 November 2021, አዲስ አበባ እና አዳማ ፀጉረ ልውጦችን ብቻ ሳይሆን፤ ፀጉረ ተመሳሳይ እስከቶችን ለማፅዳት የጀመሩችሁት ተግባር ያከራል። ያዝ ለቀቅ _ ወለም ዘለም የለም! Taye Bogale calls on everyone to cleanse the “others”, which in this context refers to ethnic Tigrayans who all allegedly support the enemy. <https://www.facebook.com/tayebogale.arega/posts/1751321315078054> archived at <https://archive.md/sNhRZ>

¹⁰¹ Aljazeera, 14 July 2021, Fear pervades as Tigrayans rounded up after battlefield reversals. “Dagnachew Assefa hinted at the registration and possible expulsion of Tigrayans, comparing it to events surrounding the 1998-2000 Ethiopia-Eritrea border war” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/14/fear-pervades-as-tigrayans-rounded-up-after-battlefield-reversals>

¹⁰² University World News, 15 August 2021. University students still trapped in Tigray crisis, parents continue protests. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20210814090042185>, archived at: <https://archive.ph/llqp9>

raising funds to support these fresh graduates after reaching Addis Ababa was detained in August 2021, jointly with some graduated students who were trying to obtain support¹⁰³.

- Staff members of the four universities in Tigray who travelled to Ababa Ababa looking for a safe place or others who remained there incidentally are facing detention in police stations, others in concentration camps and many others in hiding ¹⁰⁴. MOSHE remains complicit or at least never denounced human right abuses on those professors who are essentially targeted based on their ethnic origin.
- By mid 2022, staff of the Tigrayan universities were still without salaries, because MOSHE has not released the budgets. University professors were dependent on food aid like almost all citizens of Tigray; there was no telephone, internet, trade or transportation. Students of Tigrayan origin across Ethiopia had often been put in prison camps for lengthy months. Airstrikes on university campuses were anticipated¹⁰⁵.
- When Mekelle University's Ayder campus was hit by an airstrike on 13 September 2022, MOSHE remained silent¹⁰⁶.
- On 21 September 22, the Ethiopian Ministry of Education proudly announced¹⁰⁷ that the ministry, its sectors and Ethiopia's public universities had donated 211 million Birr "to the victorious Ethiopian Defense Forces." Economist Patrick Heinisch of Helaba Bank (Germany) : "A very sensitive topic. The European Union is not directly funding Ethiopian government budgets due to the war. The question is to what extent the EU is indirectly freeing up resources in Ethiopian ministries for military purposes. EU funds projects in health and education totalling €81.5 million"¹⁰⁸.

¹⁰³ Voice of America - Tigrinya, 17 August 2021. ላዕላዎይ ኣባል መሪሕነት ሳልሳይ ወያነ ብርክት ዝበሉ ክስታት ተመስሪቱዎ. <https://tigrigna.voanews.com/a/a-senior-members-of-opposition-party-of-salsay-weyane-hailu-kebede-is-accused-of-varous-charges-said-his-lawyer/6006088.html>

¹⁰⁴ The authors have names of professors/colleagues in concentration camps, police stations, and in hiding. Names are kept confidential for their safety.

¹⁰⁵ University World News, 1 September 2022. Anxiety in university city as conflict returns to Tigray. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20220831143524694>

¹⁰⁶ University World News, 16 September 2022. Amid peace push, rebels say university hit in an airstrike. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20220916145431273>

¹⁰⁷ <https://tweetstamp.org/1572554841440022528>

¹⁰⁸ <https://twitter.com/PatrickHeinisc1/status/1573209016880209922>

Illustrations



Fig. 1. BDU president opens the graduation ceremony of the second basic military training course for its administrative and academic staff. The original post on the university's Facebook page has been deleted, but the archive has been conserved¹⁰⁹.

¹⁰⁹ Facebook page of Bahirdar University, 13 November 2021. <https://ms-my.facebook.com/bduethiopia/posts/5269658849716245/> Original post was deleted - በባሕር ዳር ዩኒቨርሲቲ የጊዜው ዙሪያ የሚሰራው ውቅያኖስ ስልጠናዎች ተመረቁ። Bahir Dar University has graduated its administrative and academic staffs who have been attending basic military training courses for the second time. The ceremony was opened by Dr. Firew, the president of the university. Cached version could be archived. <https://archive.ph/Es5kn#selection-121.26-125.0>



Fig. 2. Addis Ababa University president Prof. Tassew Woldehanna hands over a check of 60 million ETB to the Ethiopian army¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰ Addis Ababa University 08 September 2021 የአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ለኮሎኔል ሰራዊት 60 ሚሊዮን ብር ድጋፍ አደረገ. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=4379954145422706&id=496255483792611, archived at: <https://archive.ph/skFKK>



Fig. 3. Officials of Gondar, Bahir Dar (BDU), Debre Markos, Debre Birhan, Debre Tabor, Wollo, Woldiya and Debarq Universities on the Tekeze bridge in Humera¹¹¹. They were on an organised visit to the armed forces in the occupied Western Tigray. The same officials have never visited their own university colleagues who are in concentration camps in Amhara Region. There is also no evidence that in Humera, they inquired about the dire human rights infringements in that town.

¹¹¹ Facebook page Amhara Media Corporation, 9 October 2021. የመንግሥት ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሥራ ኃላፊዎች በግንባር ተገኝተው የጸጥታ ኃይሉን አበረታቱ። <https://www.facebook.com/AmharaMediaCorporation/posts/1651446265030361>, archived at <https://archive.md/tbFzt>