

Who was responsible?

Primary responsibility for the genocide must rest with the Ethiopian defense forces that dominated the Ethiopian government and planned the systematic extermination and expulsion of the educated Anuak population. At the ground-level, however, the genocide was carried out by thousands Ethiopian troops, along with ordinary Ethiopian citizens (including highlanders tribes) who saw the persecution of the Anuak as an ideal opportunity for conquered Anuak land, plunder, rape, and kidnapping

It was well organized massacres conducted by sophisticated staff officers, who knew exactly what they were doing. Ethiopian soldiers, sent out to kill educated Anuak men and peasants, went about their work mechanically and efficiently, until killing defenseless Anuaks became a habit.

There is no doubt that the mass killing of Anuaks in Gambella was among the most carefully and centrally planned of modern genocides. Ethiopian government forces commanders orchestrated the events: Head of Federal security Mr. Almayeu Almeru, General Commander Mr. Tesegaye Beynene, Head of the Region police Mr. Tadese Haile Selassie, Minister of Foreigner affairs employ Dr. Gebrhab Barnabas, Gambella security chief Mr. Omot Olom; Zone Justice and head of Administration Didumo Omone and intelligence chief General in Gambella region.

The genocide and atrocities were also perpetrated by lower-ranking officers and ordinary soldiers. These willing executioners" were fuelled by an abiding racism, especially against the Anuak minority. The attacks have been ethnically based (let me repeat, the attacks have been ethnically based) with one group targeted being that is the Anuak tribe.

There are dramatic differences between the Anuak peoples of the Sudanese plains and imperial Ethiopia above in the highlands. The Anuak speak a Eastern Sudanic language of the Nilo-Saharan family; the Amharic and Oromo of the highlands speak Cushitic of the Afroasiatic language family. There are sharp racial distinctions; the Anuak being very black, the Amhara and Oromo lighter skinned.

The Anuak originally had a segmentary political system that was superceded hundreds years ago by a central authority who possessed the royal emblems; the long history of the Ethiopian highlands was feudal until the nineteenth century when under strong emperors Ethiopia became an aggressive imperial Africa state.

Historically, the highland Ethiopians have had contempt for those living below them, regarding them {meaning Anuaks} as a reservoir of Africans to plunder indiscriminately for slaves, ivory, and gold. More recently, Ethiopia is deeply interested in the prospect of oil development at Gambella from the proven reserves in the strata of the Sudanic plains.

The Educated Anuak men among the Ethiopian army were vermin that [should] best be exterminated. One Anuak survival quoted Ethiopian soldier as telling him, 'We can kill them all and no one will arrest us or find us accountable. None of the generals involved in the genocide has ever been arrested, and all remain at large in Gambella and other part of Ethiopia.

1. **Almayeu Almeru.** Security and democratization within the Ethiopian Minister of Foreigner affairs.
2. **Dr. Gebrhab Barnabas:** He is the architect of December 13, 2003 genocide. Mr Barnabas should bears personal responsibility and should draw the appropriate personal conclusions arising out of the defects revealed with regard to the manner in which he discharged the duties of his office. The one who said it sis between the Anuak And Nuers.
3. **Tsegaye Beynene:** He is the Ethiopian Defense forces Commander in the Gambella region. He was responsible for disarmed the Anuak polices and he was the one who give the order to Ethiopian forces and settlers to kill the Anuaks. According to the testimony of an Anuak who survived the genocidal attacks, Mr.**Beynene** was the one who told his troops to say, “Kill them. No one will find you accountable or arrest you.
4. **Tadese Haile Selassie:** He is the Head of Gambella Regional Police who disarmed the Anuak polices and arrested intellectuals Anuak a year early. He was the one who brought the mutilated bodies into Gambella city and took them directly to the provincial government head office. When he arrived at the head office he asked the security guards: where is governor Okello? We want him and the Anuaks to bring our dead people back to live” and when he failed to get the governor at his office, he and over 50 highlanders civilians took the dead bodies into the Polices station and then into front Gambella Hospital where he joined by Commanders Mr. Tesegaye Beynene, displaying mutilated bodies to other highlander civilians, inciting some of them, who then together conducted frenzied massacres of 424 unarmed Anuak civilians during the next three days. Hundreds were buried in a mass grave and this was witnessed by the government-appointed governor of Gambella.
5. **Abai Tsehaye:** He is the Minister of Federal Affairs who blamed the Anuak genocide on the Nuers and makes it as conflict between the Anuak and the Nures. He is the man who said that “no need to investigate the crimes”
6. **Omot Olom;** He is the security chief in Gambella, he help implicated in violence against Anuaks. Where can we get prove of the killers.
7. **Didumo Omone,** He is Zone Justice and head of Administration. He was the one who help drawn up the lists of educated Anuak who were later targeted and massacred.

On December 13, 2003, in by far the largest single incident in the genocide of the Anuak, more than 424 Anuak were killed in three days by uniformed soldiers of the Ethiopian Defense Force, according to dozens of eyewitnesses. The precise number of victims of the massacre may never be exactly determined. The Gambella regional Police counted 424 on December 16 but by December 23, this count had risen to 601. On the following day 5 bodies were uncovered so that the total then ascertained had reached 607.

The governor of Gambella region Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla points out that to the number of bodies found after the genocide, one should add three categories of victims: (a) Those buried in mass graves whose number cannot be ascertained because the Ethiopian Defense forces forbade their opening; (b) Those who were either dumped into the Baro river or eaten by wild animals; and (c) Those who were taken alive to an unknown destination but never returned. Some of the bodies were found by the side of the roads leading to Abobo district on January 2, 2004.

Mr. Ochalla asserts that the number of victims on January 7, 2004 between 650 to 700, all of dead were belongs to ethnic Anuaks and ninety eight percents of whom were men, while the remainders were women

Description of the scene is given by one survivor Mr. Ojulu Cham: "The scene in Gambella streets, on Sunday morning at about 10.15 on December 14, 2003 was like a nightmare. From my hiding place I could see Ethiopian forces gunning down the Anuak men who were running.

Later on in the afternoon, I saw seven Anuak women wailed over the deaths of their husbands, sons, brothers and loved ones, as the bodies began to swell under the hot sun, and the streets around the Anuaks homes were littered with hundreds of spent cartridges. Most of the Anuak houses had been burned to the ground, many with the inhabitants still inside. Over thirty bodies lay before bullet-pocked walls where they appeared to have been executed. Others were strewn in alleys, apparently shot as they tried to escape.

Mr. Cham paused, until tears smarted in his eyes and said "I saw everything. I saw everything. I tried to forget that horror but still come to me, no matter what I do. He stops talking and cried until tears flowing down his cheeks. I do want to talk about it anymore. I wish they have killed me so I did have to tell it. I saw my people bodies everywhere." I saw them mutilated with axes and knives. I saw them machine-gunned. I saw them with their heads smashed, limbs severed. I saw their bodies eviscerated."

On January 8, Genocide Watch, the widely-respected international NGO, put the Anuak massacre on their emergency list of ongoing genocides in the world. "The situation reminds me of Rwanda in 1993, when all the early warning signs were evident but no one paid attention," Dr. Gregory Stanton, president of Genocide Watch, has written. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights and international community dare not fail to act. We must take strong action on the crime against humanity and human rights abuses in the Gambella.

UN dare not fail to act. It must hold accountable those responsible for the deplorable acts in the Gambella region. Under the United Nations Commission's rules of procedure, any member of the United Nations may request the Secretary General to convene a special session to deal with "urgent and acute human rights situations in the most expeditious way."

One survivor described what he saw in Gambella on December 13, 2003. "What I saw Gambella city at 2 o'clock pm on December 13, 2003, is something hard to forget. In the panic and hatred of battle, many Anuak men had been killed in this city. But all of these men had been shot down unarmed. This was a mass killing, an incident- that was also an atrocity.

Gilo Okuth was so overwhelmed by what he saw in Gambella city. He said: at first I was unable to register my own shock. I remember when I got out of my hiding place at about 5.20pm and all I could see round the road was mutilated bodies and lot of blood. I saw Anuak men lying on the ground and some of them were shot in the back after being lined up at an execution wall. All I saw Ethiopian soldier chasing Anuak men down street.

I saw cartridge cases across the main road. Down to my left, no more than 30 yards from my hidden place, there lay a pile of corpses. There were more than a dozen, all of them Anuak men whose lay on the around in the agony of death. Most of them had been shot point-blank range through the cheek, the bullet tearing away a line of flesh up to the ear and entering the brain. One had been castrated, his trousers torn open and a settlement of flies throbbing over his torn intestines. Most of the dead eyes were open. They were dressed in jeans and colored shirts. I recognized some of them. I know very well who they are.

On the other side of the road, I saw the bodies of three men. These men were middle-aged and their corpses lay draped over a pile of rubble. One lay on his back. His eyes were staring at me and there was a frown on his face. He was dead. Another man lay on the roadway, his white cloth stained with blood. He could have been no more than 20 years old. The back of his head had been blown away by a bullet fired into his brain. The bullet that had passed into his breast and his eyes were wide open, his dark face frozen in horror.”

Mr. Okoth went on to said “It is now months since I witnessed the horror but still I’m hearing Ethiopian forces shout in Amharic kill them. Kill them. No one will find you accountable.” Almost every night I’m seeing the Ethiopian defense forces and highlanders coming back. I’m hearing Anuak screaming but every time I remembered these things happening, I try run in fear of death, but realize that it is not happening.

I don’t know what to do. I didn’t how I have made it when I lost everything I was living for. Something keeps sending Ethiopian forces destruction into my life. Every minute of my life I felt like the Ethiopian are clearly watching me - closely observing me. I felt like they are still watching me through their field-sky.”