

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

May 2025 – May 2026

Amhara Association in the Netherlands (VAN) | Vereniging van Amharas in Nederland

Organization Overview

The Amhara Association in the Netherlands (VAN), formally registered as Vereniging van Amharas in Nederland, is a volunteer-driven civic association founded in 2023 and operating under Dutch law in Amsterdam. VAN unites members of the Amhara community living in the Netherlands, whether born here or immigrated from Ethiopia, around a shared commitment to preserving Amhara identity and culture, providing mutual support across lines of gender, faith, age, and political background, and speaking with a principled voice on behalf of a people facing an ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia.

Mission

To advance the humanitarian, cultural, and social interests of the Amhara people living in the Netherlands. VAN is committed to being a voice for the voiceless, amplifying victims' testimonies, engaging Dutch and European institutions with documented evidence of atrocities, supporting Amhara communities affected by war and man-made famine in Ethiopia, and fostering a strong, united, and effective civic home for the Amhara community in the Netherlands.

Vision

A democratic, peaceful, and just Ethiopia in which the Amhara people, and all other peoples of Ethiopia, live in safety, dignity, and equal citizenship, and an Amhara community in the Netherlands that is empowered, connected, and proud of its identity and heritage. VAN is a member of the International Amhara Associations Union (IAAU), enabling coordinated advocacy with diaspora organizations across Europe and North America.

Advocacy Context: May 2025 – May 2026

The Amhara people continue to face a severe humanitarian and human rights crisis. Reports and testimonies from affected communities describe widespread civilian deaths from drone attacks, sexual violence, mass displacement, and the disruption of education for countless children. VAN maintains that these abuses demand urgent international attention and accountability.

Between May 2025 and May 2026, VAN successfully organized five peaceful demonstrations, in Amsterdam, The Hague, and Brussels, and submitted multiple formal advocacy documents to Dutch and European institutions. The following table summarizes key activities carried out during this period.

Key Activities: May 2025 – May 2026

Period	Activity
May 2025	Candlelight memorial events at Dam Square, Amsterdam, in remembrance of Amhara victims of mass violence.
June 2025	Humanitarian fundraising and coordination in support of Amhara communities in Lasta Belbela Giorgis and other conflict-affected areas in Ethiopia.
Oct. 2025	2nd Annual Members' Meeting, Amsterdam: strategic planning, managerial committee elections, and community solidarity event.
Nov. 2025	Public protest at the Dutch Parliament, The Hague, demanding government action on the Amhara crisis, under the campaign slogan "Amhara Mother's Tears".
Nov. 2025	Public protest at the European Union, Brussels, Belgium, demanding government action on the Amhara crisis, under the campaign slogan "Amhara Mother's Tears".
Nov. 2025	Submission of formal letters and evidence documentation to the European Union External Affairs.
Mar. 2026	Major demonstration at The Hague, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, coordinated with simultaneous diaspora actions in Brussels and Berlin.
Apr. 2026	Submission of formal letters and evidence documentation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands.
May 2026	Demonstration rally at the European Union Main Office, Brussels, under the slogan "No Ballots while Bullets Fly".
May 2026	Advocacy & Reporting: The Amhara Association met with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, submitting a 22-page data-driven report and firsthand testimonies detailing persecution against the Amhara people.

Looking Forward

As VAN marks three years of intensive advocacy, the association remains steadfastly committed to being a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Our advocacy is not driven by political interests but by the conviction that the rights, dignity, and security of the Amhara people demand urgent and sustained international action.

We extend our sincere gratitude to every member, partner organization, and supporter who has stood in solidarity with the Amhara people. Your commitment has strengthened our collective efforts and renewed our determination to continue advocating for justice, accountability, and lasting peace.

Candlelight memorial events at Dam Square, Amsterdam in May 2025



Humanitarian Aid for conflict-affected areas for Amhara communities in Lasta Belbela Giorgis in June 2025



2nd Annual Members' Meeting, Amsterdam in October 2025



Public Protest against Amhara Genocide at the Dutch Parliament, The Hague November, 2025



Public Protest against Amhara Genocide at European Union Brussels, Belgium, November, 2025



Major demonstration at The Hague, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March, 2026



Demonstration rally at the European Union Main Office, Brussels, under the slogan "No Ballots while Bullets Fly" in May, 2026

