

## 17. Glossary

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### A

*aadaa* custom, tradition, culture (Oromo)

*aadaa seeraa* Borana normative system

*Aariaf* (also: Aaraf) language of the Aari

*abaarsa* curse (Borana)

*abbaa bokkuu* lit.: 'father of the sceptre', senior position in Oromo lineage system and in *gadaa*, responsible for decision-making

*abbaa gadaa* lit.: 'father of *gadaa*', leader of the *gadaa* governance system (Oromo)

*abbaa seeraa* legal expert (Oromo)

*abegar* conflict resolution mechanism practised by elders who claim to have hereditary divine power (Amhara of Wollo)

*abunzi* mediation system in Rwanda

*ad'a* culture (Siltie)

*adulaa* council composed of elders from each moiety holding executive power (Borana), senior councilor within the *gadaa*-system (Oromo)

*afaan Oromo* Oromo language

*afi* evil eye (Aari)

*aish* person with the evil eye (Aari)

*akonatari* lit.: transferor of land in traditional land transactions (Sidama)

*alem* world (Amharic), self-designation of non-Protestants in Aari, where it could be translated as 'traditionalist'

*anje* blessings (Aari)

*ansewa* Siltie highlanders

*anzamo-nas* lit.: girlhood child, refers to children conceived before marriage (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

*araara* reconciliation (Borana)

*araqé* local liquor

*argaa dhageetii* oral historian/oral history/anecdote (Borana)

*atbia dagnia* local judge (Amharic), established by the government

*awliyā* saint, guardian (pl.) (Arabic)

*awneya* marginalized craft workers (blacksmiths, tanners, and potters) among Siltie people

*awraja* third administrative tier below the province/region during the Imperial (1931–1974) and the Socialist Derg regime (1974–1991)

*awraja qadis* judges assigned to a specific area (see *awraja*)

*'Ay berimka'* 'Do not judge!' (Aari expression)

*Ayidama* customary mechanism to resolve conflicts between different Gamo communities

*ayle* slave descendants (Gamo)

*ayo* spokesman and intermediary between the local communities and the government (Bashada, Hamar, Banna, see also: *likamamber*)

*aysafte woni* heathen work (Aari)

## B

*babi* hereditary ritual king (Aari)

*bajje* marginalized subgroup with ritual responsibilities (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

*balabat* landlord during the Imperial regime (1931–1974)

*baliqe* elder (Siltie)

*bannewak* cattle exchanged among bondfriends in Hamar

*barjo* good fortune (Bashada, Hamar)

*bashi* displaying fear (Aari)

*berche* notions of the right to justice in Siltie, see also *tur* and *fero*

*bida'a* unwanted innovation (Siltie)

*birr* Ethiopian currency

*bitta* lit.: 'the first' (Hamar), refers also to 'the first' in authority and transcendental and ritual power, title for ritual leader among Hamar

*bul* lit.: untied, also: absolved (Aari)

*buts* to acknowledge/confess wrong-doing (Aari)

## C

*caffee* places of law-proclamations, law-giving assembly (Oromo)

*caffee taa'icha* lit.: '[he] who was at [the place of] the law gathering', (also: *jaarsa caffee*), expert in customary law (Oromo)

*chako* oath (Gamo)

*charangi* ritually pure (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

## D

*d'abbi* wrongdoer (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

*dakerka* imprison (imperative, Aari)

- dakri* lit.: tying, term is used for imprisonment in the *kebele* prison, and for banning a wrongdoer from active religious participation for a specified number of months (Aari)
- dannawa* form of land tenure in Sidama, (communal land)
- danya* judge (Amharic)
- daraara* tobacco used ritual purposes (Borana)
- dax'ilsi* offence (Aari)
- dem adreq shimgilinna* conciliation aimed at stopping a lengthy conflict between families that involved a cycle of retaliatory killings (Amhara)
- deme keleb* lit.: 'impure blood' (Amharic)
- demutha* religious experts (Gamo)
- dere* (plural: *dereta*), self-administered community in Gamo
- dere cima* council of elders in Gamo
- dere dulata* public assembly in Gamo
- detsmi* lit.: heaviness, also greatness of a person (Aari)
- digela* (also *tsoma* or *manna*), craftworkers (Gamo)
- dofen norti girank* lit.: truly from the stomach, full heartedly (Aari)
- dosi potsh* opening a dossier (Aari)
- dubusha* public assembly place in Gamo

## E

- edi* human being (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)
- eela* deep well (Borana)
- ensete* false banana
- ercho* certain grass used to purify the wrongdoers and their relatives from *gome* (ritual pollution in Gamo)
- erq* conciliation between disputants whose relationship had already broken down in an earlier conflict (Amhara)

## F

- fenter* special feast in Sidama to mark the conclusion of a *kontract* (hybrid form of land law)
- fero* notions of the right to justice in Siltie, see also *tur* and *berche*
- ferezagegne* local cassation court judges (in Siltie)
- Fetha Nagast* 'law of the kings' (Amharic)
- foollee* one of the stages in the *gadaa* grade system (Tulama Oromo)

## G

- gaaddisa* shade where the elders sit, dwelling place of god (Borana)
- gabinti* economic growth (Aari)
- gacaca* Rwandan customary courts
- gadaa* (also: *gada*) age and generation system of Oromo people
- gadho* traditional palace in Gamo, residence of the *kawo*
- gal* enemy (Bashada, Hamar, Banna), term also used for highland Ethiopians
- galta* elders (Aari)
- gemet* assessment (Amharic)
- gasaa maga* (also: *ogade*), mediator between two or more communities (Gamo)
- gerad* clan leader (Siltie)
- geta* elders from related lineages serving as ritual helpers (Aari)
- gichit aswegaj* lit. 'conflict prevention/resolution' (Amharic), quasi-formal, state-initiated conflict resolution institution consisting of elders and representatives of government offices
- gika* beat (Aari)
- godmi* hereditary ritual specialists (Aari)
- gome* transgression of a social norm or sin that causes pollution of the wrongdoer and misfortune, disease and natural calamities for the whole society (Gamo)
- gosa* clan (Sidama, Oromo)
- gote* smallest state administrative level below *kebele*, consists of less than 500 people (in Siltie)
- gumaa* blood price/compensation to victims of crime (Tulama-Oromo, Borana)
- gumii gaayoo* pan-Borana assembly, taking place every eight years at the mid-point of an *abbaa gadaa* period, has supreme authority over law-making and enforcement
- gumma* blood money/compensation in case of homicide (Siltie)
- gurri afak* lit.: done just with the mouth, not full-heartedly (Aari)

## H

- halaqa* initiate in small sized *dere* in Gamo
- hadiya* gifts (Islamic law, Siltie)
- hayyuu* senior position in Oromo lineage system and in *gadaa*; lineage senior acting as judge (Oromo)
- hiba* gift (Sharia law)
- hisbint dassken* helping people up, refers to duty of offender to provide food and drink for all cell members who participated in conflict resolution (Aari)
- hoolaa buula* sheep slaughtered for recuperation of sick person (Borana)
- huduga* initiate in medium sized *dere* in Gamo

## I

- iddir* informal burial insurance and bereavement association common in many parts of Ethiopia
- ijibbaata* sheep for ritual slaughter (Borana)
- 'indapsi antam ay kashishka!*' lit.: 'Do not make your brother pay!' (Aari expression implying that being a Christian one should forgive)
- injera* fermented sourdough flatbread traditionally made from t'eff flour
- irki* mother's brother (Aari),
- isante* iron rings worn by girls and women around their necks (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)
- isgoota* pleading ceremony, during which a killer's side plead for reconciliation (Tulama-Oromo)

## J

- jaallaba* representative of clan assembly enforcing decisions of the *abbaa gadaa* (Borana)
- jaarsa* elder (Tulama-Oromo)
- 'jaarsaafjeedhi!*' lit.: 'For the sake of elders!' (part of blessing, Tulama-Oromo)
- jaarsa dheeda* administrative unit responsible for regulating seasonal access to grazing and water (Borana)
- jaarsa madda* administrative unit responsible for grazing and water management at the local level (Borana)
- jaarsa Waaqaa* lit.: 'elder of God', member of a court run by spirit mediums (Oromo)
- jaarsummaa* conflict resolution through elders (Oromo)
- jahil* ignorant of Islamic knowledge (Siltie)

## K

- karta* tradition (Aari)
- kashi beday* 'There is not a lot of fines!' (Aari expression)
- kashka* fine (imperative, Aari)
- kawo* title for hereditary ruler in Gamo
- kebele* lowest administrative level
- kerri* ritual gateway (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)
- k'esh* customary mode of dispute resolution, reconciliation (Aari)
- kilil* region (Amharic)
- k'itat* punishment (Amharic)
- kisi* lawsuit (Amharic), term used in Dell/Aari for the process of dealing with disputes through state institutions
- kogo* ritual fire maker (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)
- kontract* new hybrid form of land law in Sidama

*koota* sharecropping arrangement used to match land with labour and/or other inputs in Sidama

*kora gosaa* clan assembly (Borana)

*kotsa* share-cropping arrangement (Aari)

## L

*lafa abba torbbaatama* lit.: 'land of seventy people'; referring to a specific piece of land over which 70 people are claiming ownership in Tulama-Oromo land

*lafa etege* land of Empress Menen, wife of Emperor Haile Selassie (Tulama-Oromo) 'Lafaafjedhi!' 'For the sake of earth!' (part of blessing, Tulama-Oromo)

*likamamber* (from Amharic: 'likamenber'), spokesman and intermediary between the local communities and the government (Bashada, Hamar, Banna, see also: *ayo*)

*liqa* form of dispute settlements based on local holy men (*waliye*) among the Siltie (see also *mawlid* and *warrie*)

*luba* generation class (or set) among the Borana

## M

*mad'a* customary courts of the Afar people

*maga* kind of mediator within the same *dere* (self-administered community in Gamo)

*mahberawi firdebet* Social Court for property and monetary claims in Dell/Aari (Amharic)

*makkala* messengers enforcing decisions of *abbaa gadaa* and council of elders (Borana)

*malla* farmers (Gamo)

*majlis* institution administering Muslim affairs

*mana* craft workers (Gamo, Aari)

*mashayik* religious figure, dead or alive, popularly recognized as honourable Islamic symbols by the majority of Muslims (see also *waliye*)

*mawlid* form of dispute settlements based on local holy men (*waliye*) among the Siltie (see also *liqa*, and *warrie*)

*mawlid-un-nabi* Prophet Mohammed's birthday celebration

*mawlid al-mashayik* local religious leader/figure's celebration day where by a dispute settlement is conducted (Siltie)

*mele'ata guba'e* assembly delegates; platform for reconciliations by Church elders (Amharic)

*mengist* government (Amharic)

*mengiste higi* law of the government (Amharic), expression used in Aari

*meret komitee* committee for legal issues at the *kebele* level dealing with land disputes in Dell/Aari (Amharic)  
*mesaki* family head (Siltie)  
*miks* begging (Aari)  
*militia* auxiliary policeman  
*mingi* ritually impure (Bashada, Hamar, Banna, Kara)  
*mikital woreda* lit.: 'subdistrict', administrative unit below the *woreda* (district) in the past  
*moara* diviner (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)  
*moro* head of sub clan (Siltie)  
*mulimidi* polluted (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)  
*mushro* disease affecting anyone breaking an oath (Amhara)

## N

*nagaa boorana* peace among all Borana groups  
*negane* forgiveness (Aari)  
*nisah teykate* to take confession (Aari expression referring to the Christian duty to confess wrongdoings).  
*norti* stomach, locus of feelings (Aari)  
*nikah* Islamic marriage contract (Siltie)

## O

*Odaa Nabee* tree serving as regional assembly place for the Tuulama-Oromo  
*ogade* (also: *gasaa maga*), mediator between two or more *dere* (self administered communities in Gamo)  
*ollaa* lit.: 'neighbour', also: village, neighbourhood (Borana)  
*oogliya* spirit (Oromo)  
*ooshsha* conflict (Gamo)

## P

*paala* decorative scars (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)  
*parko* ritual expert (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

## Q

*qaalluu* ritual leader, also spirit medium (Oromo)  
*qadi* judge in Sharia court  
*qalla* lowlanders (Siltie)  
*qakee* serious crime and sanction (Borana)

## R

*raga* local legal expert (Siltie)

*raaba gadda* administrative unit having customary jurisdiction over land, social and cultural issues, and conflict resolution (Borana)

## S

*'Sabi an negane!*' 'May God forgive you!' (Aari)

*sabite gami* divine punishment (Aari)

*sabite higi* God's law (Aari)

*sabite woni* service to God (Aari)

*seeraa* Oromo law

*Shafie* Islamic school of thought

*sharafic* upper class people tracing their origin to the Hashemite and the Prophet Mohammed's family among the Siltie people

*shimma* coolness, harmony (Aari),

*shimagillé* lit.: 'old' (Amharic); refers to elder assigned for conflict resolution (Amhara)

*shimgilinna* lit.: 'aging' (Amharic), conflict resolution through elders (Amhara)

*soba lie* (Borana)

*songo* highest clan council (Sidama)

*susaa qantso* compensation (Gamo)

## T

*talak* unilateral divorce or release of wife from marriage (Sharia law)

*tekonatari* transferee of land in traditional land transaction (Sidama)

*toidi* lineage head (Aari)

*toksi* belittling someone (Aari)

*tsha'x'a* testify under oath (Aari)

*tsoma* (also: *manna* or *digela*), craftworkers (Gamo)

*tur* notions of the right to justice in Siltie, see also *fero* and *berche*

## U

*utuwa* form of land tenure in Sidama (private land)

## W

*waliigaltee* agreement (Tulama-Oromo)

*waliye* religious figure, dead or alive, popularly recognized as honourable Islamic symbols by the majority of Muslims (see also *mashayik*)

*wakf* inalienable charitable endowment in Sharia law  
*Waaqa* higher spiritual being, sky, God (Oromo, Borana)  
 ‘*Waaqafjeedhi!*’ ‘For the sake of God!’, (part of blessing, Tulama-Oromo)  
*wana firdebet* Main Court (Amharic)  
*Waaqeffannaa* indigenous Oromo religion, (also neo-traditional)  
*warrie* form of dispute settlements based on local holy men (*waliye*) among the Siltie  
 (see also *mawlid* and *liqa*)  
*wesiya* last will (Islamic law, Siltie)  
*wofa legesse* spirit medium used by people seeking remedies to resolve conflict  
 (Amhara people of North Shewa)  
*woleba* dominant majority of farmers and traders (Siltie)  
*woreda* district (Amharic)  
*wule* contract (Amharic)  
*wuta* unclean conception or pregnancy (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

## Y

*yati sebani* female sheep that never gave birth, used for ritual slaughtering (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)  
*xuraa’a* impure (Borana)  
*ye-akkababi bahil* lit.: according to the local culture (Amharic), refers to customary law  
*ye-abatader hig* lit.: the laws of the fathers (Amharic), refers to long-established system of beliefs, values, and norms used for promoting peace and resolving conflicts (Amhara)  
*ye-afer seb* low class people believed to be native to the Siltie area  
*ye-bad baliqe*  
*shengo/chale* local chiefs’ assembly (in Siltie)  
*ye-bahil meberes* lit.: dilution of culture (Amharic), expression used by elders referring to loss of conflict resolution culture among the youth and general community (Amhara of Ankober)  
*ye-betezemed guba’e* lit.: family council (Amharic), settles disputes that arise between husbands and wives (Amhara)  
*ye-burda baliqe shengo* hamlet elders assembly (Siltie)  
*ye-giligil shimgilinna* conciliation between parties in an on-going disagreement (Amhara)  
*ye-hager shimgilinna* lit.: country level conciliation (Amharic), larger and complex conflicts resolved by influential elders selected from the wider community (Amhara)  
*ye-mewta baliqe* supra-village assembly (Siltie)  
*ye-sebeka guba’e*

*shimagillée* lit.: council of parish elders (Amharic), council of respected community and Church members operating between church members (Amhara of Ankober)

*ye-sefer shimgilinna* lit.: village conciliation (Amharic), small or relatively uncomplicated conflict in a neighbourhood or village handled by the village elders (Amhara)

*ye-siltie serra* local mode of governance among the Siltie people

## Z

*zarsi* community of adult men of a given residence area (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

*zarsi goiti* central path where many people pass (Bashada, Hamar, Banna)

*zera fine* (Amharic)

*zia* local representative of the ritual king (Aari)

*zau* iron rings worn by women around arms and legs (Bashada, Hamar)