



CARD

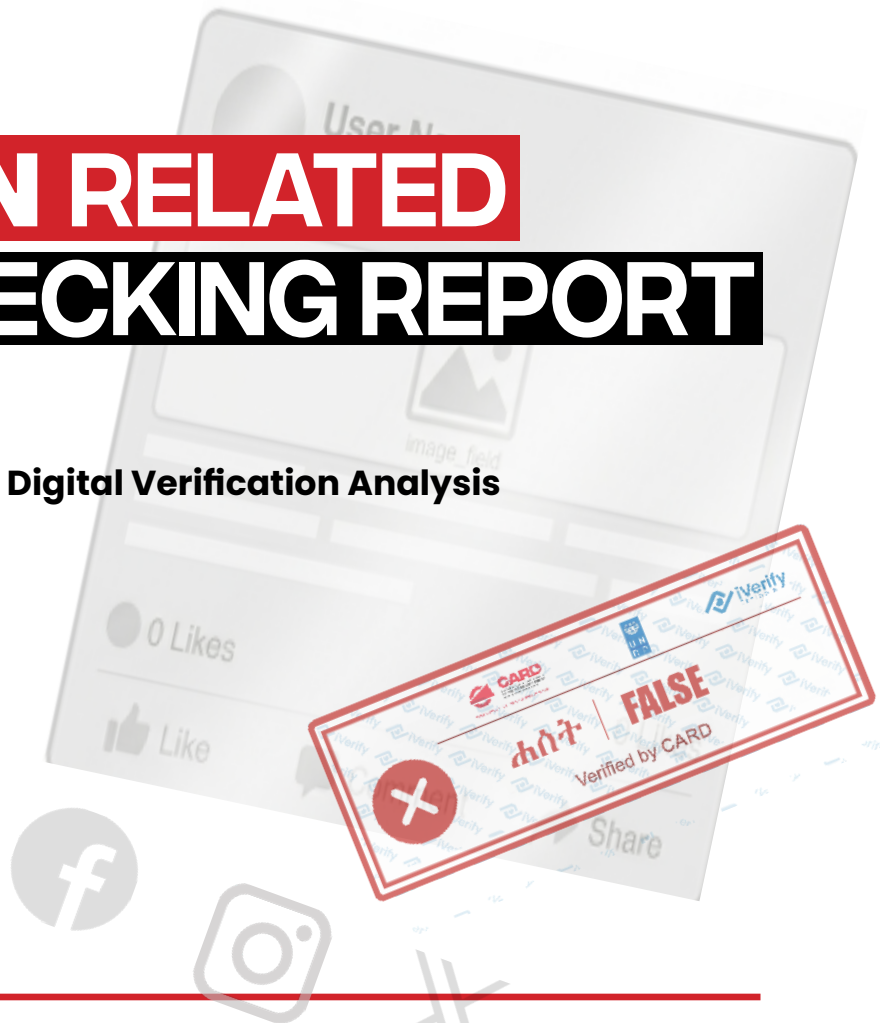
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CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

MAKE DEMOCRACY THE ONLY RULE OF THE GAME!



ELECTION RELATED FACT-CHECKING REPORT

Week 1 Fact Checking and Digital Verification Analysis



Prepared by

CARD Fact
Checking Team



Date

June-2026

NOTE

This report contains verified findings from the investigation of misleading or false information circulated on social media platforms.

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1

FALSE CLAIM

Election Cards Were Stolen and Fraudulent Ballots Registered in Bombe Woreda

The claim circulated on Facebook in connection with election-related activities in BombeWoreda ahead of the elections expected to take place next month. The post alleged that election cards had been stolen and that ballots were registered using the names of unidentified voters. The allegation combines two related claims: that election cards were stolen and that ballots were allegedly registered under the names of unknown voters. The Facebook post shared by **Tigabu Dejene Baza**, which has over 15K followers and was posted in Amharic on May 16, claims that election cards were stolen in Bombe Woreda and registered under the names of unknown individuals.

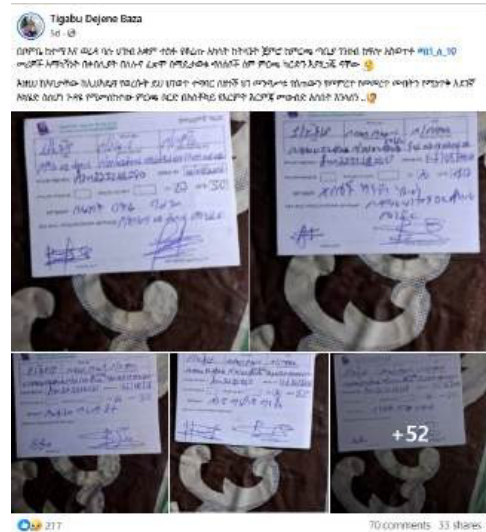


Figure: A screenshot of a Facebook post shared by Tigabu Dejene Baza on May 16, 2026.

The image attached to the Facebook post was reviewed and showed 57 voter registration cards. The post also alleged that election cards were stolen and that ballots were registered under the names of unknown voters. The **CARD** Fact checking Team also contacted the person who shared the post to seek clarification, but it did not provide evidence of theft or any clear link to Bombe Town or Bombe Woreda. We also spoke with woreda election officers, polling station administrators, and community members to check whether there was any recorded evidence related to the allegation. However, they said there was no evidence supporting the claim, they had no information about stolen cards, and they had not heard any reports related to the allegation shared in Tigabu's Facebook post.

Amharic Version of the post “በጋምቤ ከተማ እና ወረዳ ባሉ ህዝብ አቋም ተስፋ የቆረቡ አካላት ከትላንት ጀምሮ ከምርጫ ጣቢያ ገንዘብ ክፍሎ አስወጥቶ 1 ለ 10 መሪዎች አማካኝነት በቀበሌያት በሌላ ፈጽሞ በማይታወቁ ግለሰቦች ስም ምርጫ ካርድን እያዘጋጁ ናቸው እነዚህ ከአባታቸው ከኢህአዴግ የወረሱት ይህ ህገወጥ ተግባር ለዘጎች ህገ መንግሥቱ የሰጠውን የመምረጥ የመመረጥ መብትን የሚነጥቅ አደገኛ አካሄድ ስለሆነ ጉዳዩ የሚመለከተው ምርጫ ቦርድ በአስቸኳይ የእርምት እርምጃ መውሰድ አለበት እንላለን

NEBE also said “Based on the voter ID cards shared, we confirmed that the indicated addresses are in the South Ethiopia Region, Wolayita Zone, specifically under the Boloso Sore 1 constituency, that no legally grounded grievance or formal complaint has been received at either polling station or constituency level regarding the matter, that some of the posted voter ID card photos appear to be duplicated, and that cross-checking with the voter roll confirms the voter cards were originally issued by NEBE”.

Short Summary: The claim was verified through reports from Bombe Town sources, statements from the woreda election authority, local polling station communications, public witness checks, and NEBE as well as other credible media channels, but no supporting information or reports were found. The post presents an unverified allegation, as the image does not show evidence of theft and no official or independent sources confirm that election cards were stolen. The claim is therefore unsubstantiated and not supported by available evidence.

Verdict: FALSE / MISLEADING: The fact-checking team found that, based on findings from National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) and independent bodies, the claim is false and misleading, with no supporting evidence of election card theft or related irregularities in the area.

2

MISLEADING IMAGE

Viral Voter Card Distribution Photo Is Unrelated to the 7th National Election

As the 7th Ethiopian general election approaches, various claims and images regarding the electoral process are circulating on social media platforms. Recently, an image allegedly showing a sack full of voter cards has gained traction online.

A Facebook page named “[ETHIO YOUTH MOVEMENT የጠገቶች ንቅናቄ](#)” which has 25,000 followers, posted an image showing a sack filled with documents resembling voter registration cards. The caption reads, “ምርጫ ካርድ ደርዘን በሚሰጥበት ሁኔታ ድንቁም ምርጫ” it uses an Amharic satirical expression to mock an election process in which voter cards are distributed carelessly or fraudulently “by the dozen,” implying that the election lacks credibility or fairness: “What an astonishing election, held under conditions where voter cards are handed out by the dozen.”

The post [\[Archived Link\]](#) has received significant engagement, including numerous shares and comments.



Figure 1 : A screenshot of the Facebook post published by the “ETHIO YOUTH MOVEMENT” page



Figure 2: A screenshot of Jawar Mohammed’s Facebook post

CARD Fact Checking Team Investigation & Findings: The Team examined this image using Google Reverse Image Search and visual forensics. Our investigation revealed the following facts:

1. Chronological Discrepancy and Image Origin: The image does not represent a current event. Our reverse image search confirms that the photograph was first published five years ago, on April 20, 2021, by a Facebook page named ["Voss Tv"](#) (with 433K followers). The original post ([Archival link](#)) included a lengthy Somali caption starting with:

"CABASHADA DOORASHADA KASOO YEEDHAYSA! Sawirkan iyo kuwa kale ayaa baraha bulshada dhex wareegaya ilaa shalay, waxaana lagu sheegay kaarar cidgaara gacanta u galay, haddaba shaqadan sow komishinka doorashoyinka dalku iskama laha?..." The Translation: criticized the electoral commission and the ruling party by claiming that voter cards were being illegally distributed to unauthorized individuals during the 2021 election.

Since its original publication, this image has been recycled and shared over 50 times across various websites, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter).

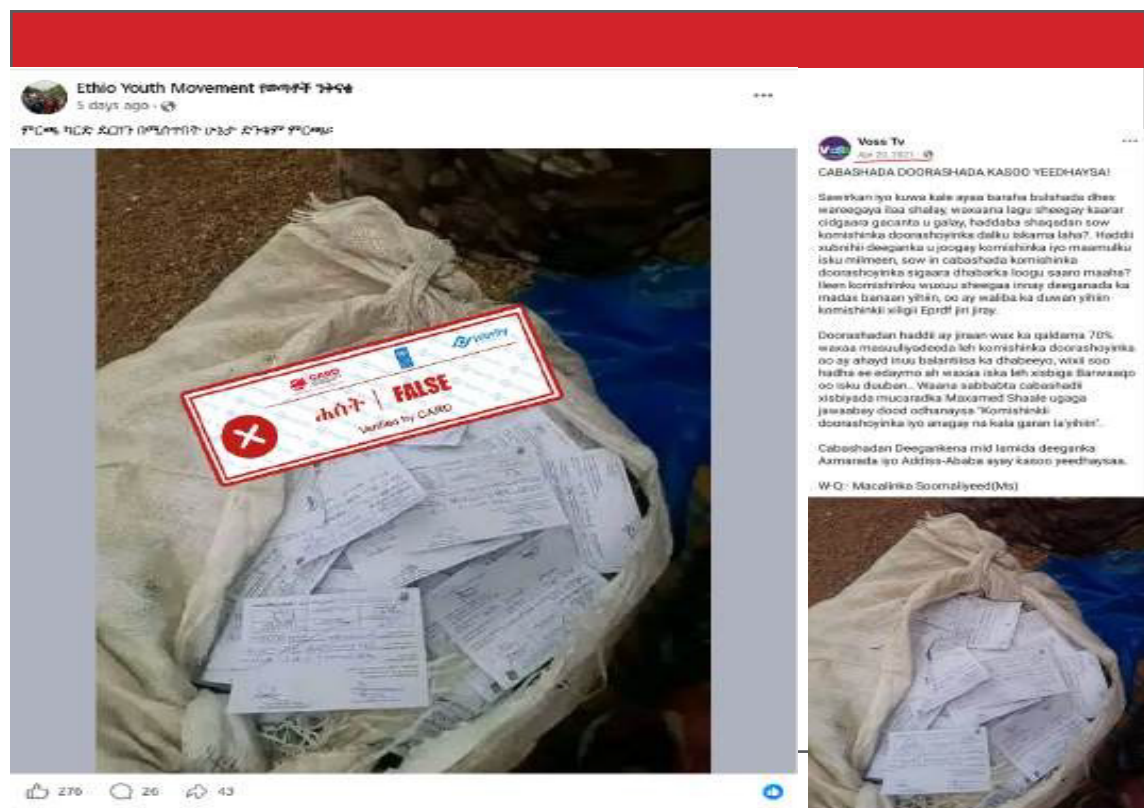


Figure 3 : A side-by-side comparison of the recent out of context post (left) and the original post published by "Voss Tv" (right). The highlighted timestamp confirms the original image dates back to April 20, 2021.

2. Visual Discrepancy of the Documents: Furthermore, we conducted a visual comparison between the documents shown in the sack and the official voter registration cards issued by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) for the current election. The documents in the 2021 image fundamentally differ in layout, color, and structural design from the current official voter cards.



Figure 4: A visual comparison between the current official NEBE voter registration card and the documents seen inside the sack from the 2021 image. The documents show distinct differences in layout and color design.

Verdict: Therefore, the image circulating on Facebook claiming to show the bulk distribution of voter cards is false; it is an old photo that has been presented out of context to mislead audiences about a current event.

Editor's Note: It is important to note that iVerify Ethiopia's investigation focuses solely on evaluating the specific visual evidence presented in this post, rather than making a definitive conclusion about the overall electoral process. However, based on our verification, we have confirmed that the image is an old photograph from April 2021, and the documents depicted do not match the current official voter registration cards.

3

MANIPULATED IMAGE

Viral Photo Allegedly Showing Fadila Biya Was Digitally Altered to Mislead Social Media Users

Fadila Biya is currently a prominent figure in Ethiopian politics, actively participating in different Prosperity Party movements and national debate forums ahead of Ethiopia's 7th National Election. A social media post placed her official photo next to an unclear private image to suggest alleged shameful behavior.

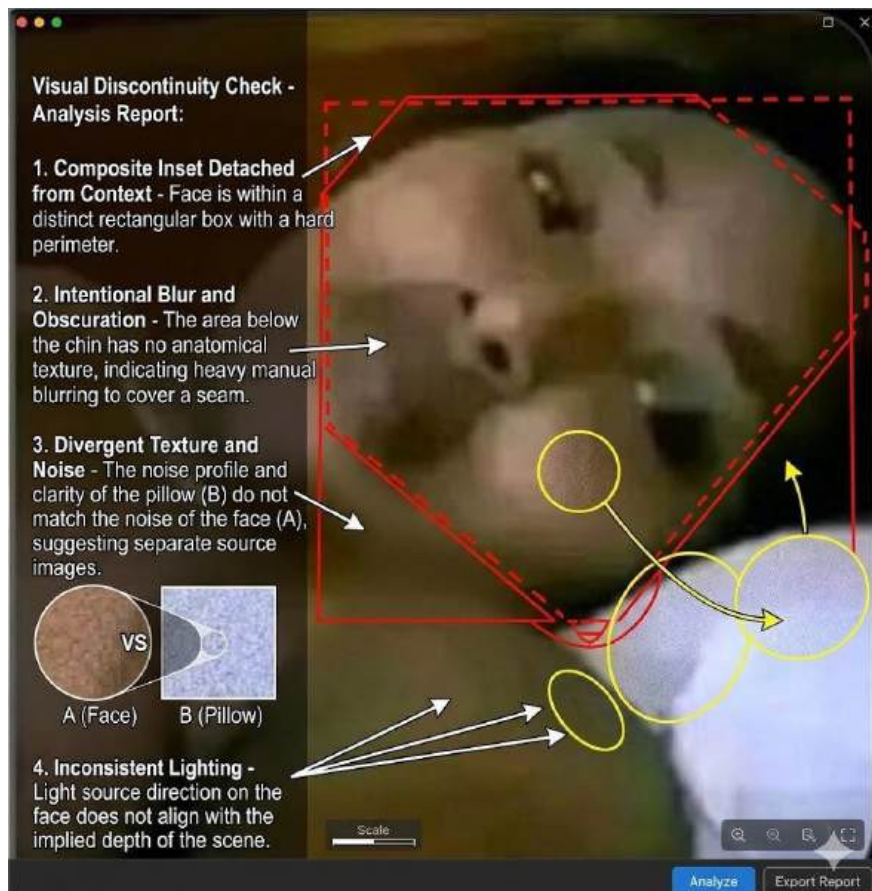
On May 18, 2026, an X (formerly Twitter) account named **Sami_Amhara-ሳሚ-አማራ**, with 7,071 followers, shared a post about Fadila Biya that received 10.4K views. The post paired an official photo of politician Fadila Biya with an unclear private image to falsely suggest inappropriate behavior.

However, after **CARD** Fact Checking Team investigated the matter using FotoForensics (ELA Analysis), Forensically, reverse image search, and facial recognition consistency checks, it found that the image on the right was low quality, intentionally cropped, and presented in a misleading way that did not reflect the actual facts. Therefore, the claim was determined to be out of context.



Forensic Analysis (Visual Evidence)

This image shows clear signs that it is a composite/manipulation. The individual cut a woman's face (likely taken from a video or a meme) and overlaid it onto another low-quality image showing a person lying on a bed. To hide the seam where the images meet, a heavy blur tool was used around the chin area.



Forensic analysis

Verdict: The post shared on social media was made to damage the reputation of Fadila Biya. The image is fake and misleading. It was created by placing her face onto another unrelated image, and it is being shared out of context.

4

FALSE CLAIM

Universities in Oromia Did Not Continue Voter Registration Beyond the Official Deadline

During Ethiopia's 7th General Election, voter registration for the general public officially ended on April 14, 2026, after an extension by the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE). However, special registration continued until May 2, 2026, for certain groups such as university students, internally displaced persons, and members of the National Defense Force.

On May 1, 2026, **Jawar Mohammed** posted on Facebook questioning why university students were still being allowed to register after the voter registration deadline had officially ended. The post was written in both Amharic and Afan Oromo. He also claimed that unregistered students were not allowed to eat at university cafeterias. The post stated:

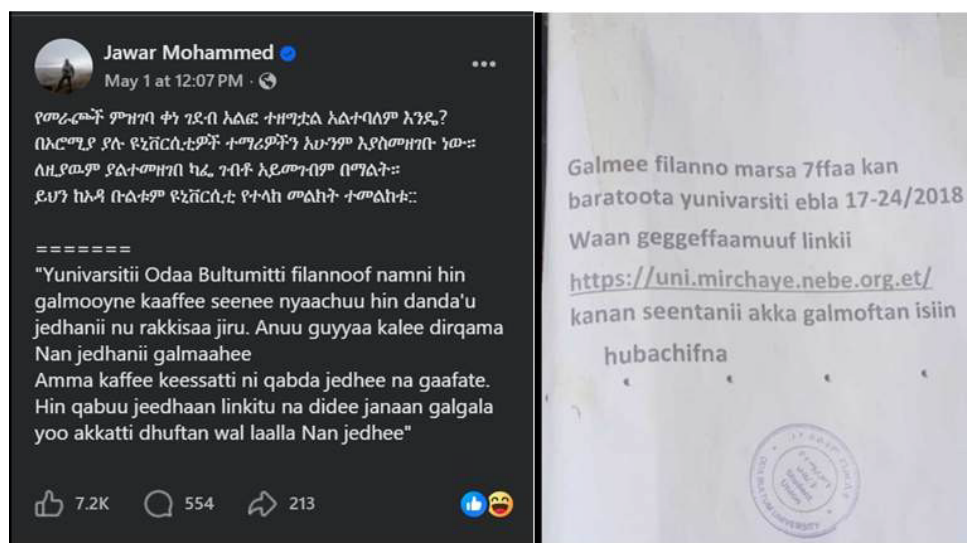
“የመራጮች ምዝገባ ቀን ገደብ አልፎ ተዘግቷል አልተባለም እንዴ? በኦሮሚያ ያሉ ዩኒቨርሲቲዎች ተማሪዎችን አሁንም እያስመዘገቡ ነው። ለዚያውም ያልተመዘገቡ ካፈ ገብቶ አይመገብም በማለት።” ይህን ከአዳ ቡልቱም ዩኒቨርሲቲ የተላከ መልክት ተመልከቱ።

“Yunivarsitii Odaa Bultumitti filannoof namni hin galmooyne kaaffee seenee nyaachuu hin danda’u jedhanii nu rakkisaa jiru. Anuu guyyaa kalee dirqama Nan jedhanii galmaahee Amma kaffee keessatti ni qabda jedhee na gaafate. Hin qabuu jeedhaan linkitu na didee janaan galgala yoo akkatti dhuftan wal laalla Nan jedhee”



The post by **Jawar Mohammed** received a lot of attention on Facebook. It got more than 7.2K reactions and 213 shares. His Facebook page has over 3.2 million followers, so the post spread widely and reached many users on the platform.

Beside the text alert, he attached an A4 PNG image written in Afaan Oromoo, which translates to: "We inform you that the 7th round selection/registration of university students will be conducted from Ebla (April) 17-24, 2018, so you should log in and register using the link <https://uni.mirchaye.nebe.org.et/>"



Screenshot shows Jawar Mohammed post on May 1, 2026

CARD Fact Checking Team investigation and findings show that the statement by the National Election Board of Ethiopia was published on April 26, 2026. The post announced an extension of special voter registration for certain groups. The post by Jawar Mohammed was made on May 1, 2026. This is about five days after the NEBE announcement on April 26, 2026. The evidence shows that NEBE's information was already public before Jawar Mohammed made his post.

We also spoke with **Ibsa Ahmed**, who said Jawar's post was false and denied claims that the university had stated unregistered students would not be allowed to eat in the cafeterias. Nafiri Ahmed, Oda Bultum Student President, also said that the student union had encouraged students to register to vote and issued an officially stamped letter to that effect. However, she firmly rejected claims that any student had been banned from receiving cafeteria food for failing to register to vote.

Verdict: False and Misleading Information

CARD's fact-checking investigation found that the post shared by **Jawar Mohammed** is misleading/false. While the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) did extend special voter registration periods and introduced special registration mechanisms for groups such as university students, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and defense force members in camps, the extension until May 2, 2026, was not limited only to those groups.

Note: We bring this claim because we were not deployed earlier when it was first posted, so we believe it may have misled voters before and after the election period.