



CARD

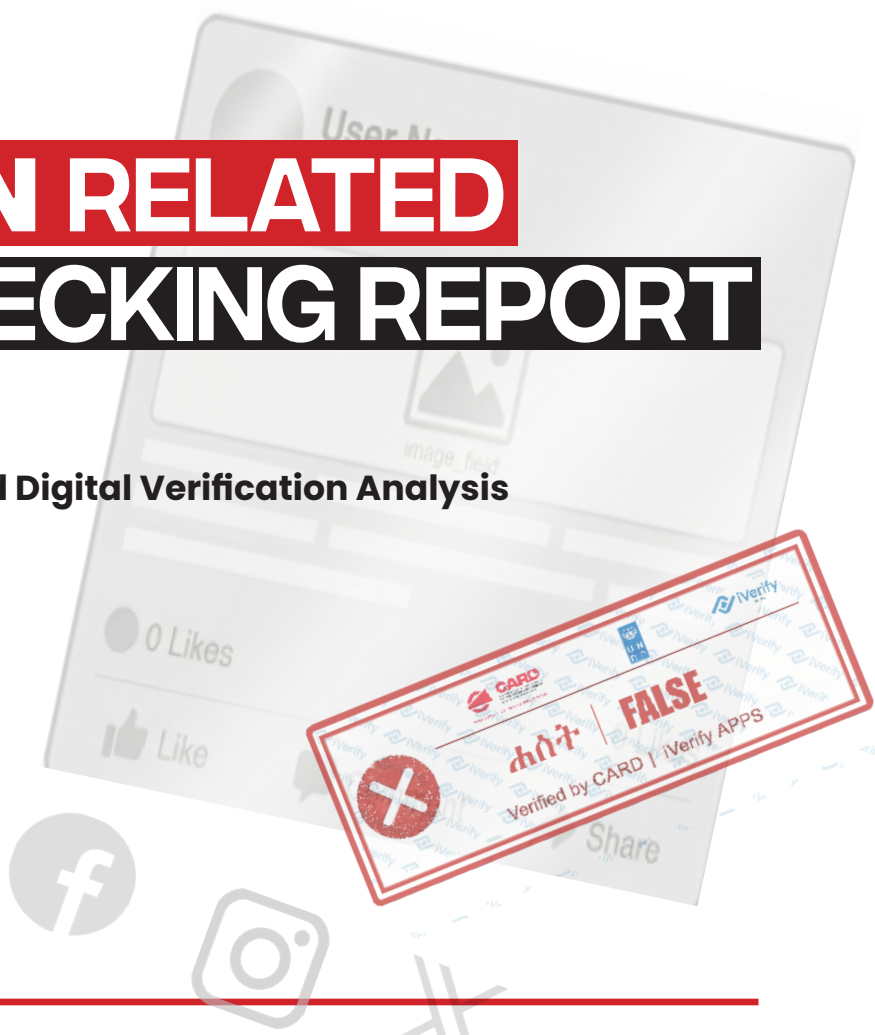
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CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

MAKE DEMOCRACY THE ONLY RULE OF THE GAME!



ELECTION RELATED FACT-CHECKING REPORT

Week 4 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

False Assault Claim Supported by AI-Generated Imagery

As Ethiopia conducted its 7th general election this week, various election-related claims and allegations have been circulating among the public and opposition parties.

One of the claims has emerged from Gorka Woreda in the Kore Zone, South Ethiopia Region, shared on Facebook by the name “የማይቻለው የለም,” claiming that “**Mr. Bujure** was hit with a box by a political cadre and required medical treatment after refusing to sign a document during a door-to-door campaign in which residents were allegedly being asked to sign a statement supporting the Prosperity Party.”



The post attached two photographs, and the publisher presented them as authentic evidence of the incident as shown below.



Screenshot: of a post by [የማይቻለው የለም](#) on May 31, 2026

The **CARD** Fact-Checking Team verified the claim that the post used visual analysis and Alimage detection tools to examine the photo attached to the Facebook post. The team found several signs that the image was likely created using AI, including people in the background wearing similar clothes and showing identical facial expressions, unusual facial features, blurry body parts, and other visual errors. These findings suggest that the image is not an authentic photograph of a real event.

Verdict: Misleading / AI-generated

The post shows a picture and claims it proves an assault happened. However, verification found the image is not real and was AI-generated. Therefore, the claim is misleading because it uses fake visual evidence as if it were real.

2

MISLEADING IMAGE
Election Postponement Rumor Debunked

During national elections, it is common to share information about election dates, places, and rules on social media. The goal of this information can be to confuse voters or to tell the truth.

A Facebook account called "[Temesgen Dawit](#)" which has about 137K followers, shared a post in Amharic Caption claiming that the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) had postponed the June 1, 2026 election to July 31, 2026. Before the post was deleted, it received about 2.2K likes, 58 shares, and 385 comments.





According to the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), the election was scheduled to take place on Monday, June 1. Since the post was shared on the eve of the election, the claim was false and misleading. The post was later deleted after it spread widely, but the CARD Fact-Checking Team had already saved a copy before it was removed.

Screenshot: of Temesgen Dawit Facebook's post on May 31, 2026



The election day image on Monday, June 1, 2026

Summary: The claim that the national election would be held in July is false. The election already took place and ended on Monday. Although the post was later deleted, it had already caused confusion. We encourage the public to get election information from trusted and reliable sources.

3

MISLEADING IMAGE

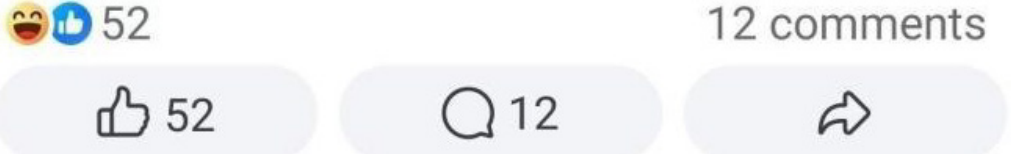
Fabricated Ethiopian Reporter Front Page Used for Political Disinformation

During the ongoing 2026 Ethiopian elections, social media platforms have experienced a rise in politically related content. Among these, a Facebook page named Kaligrand Z Axum, which has approximately 20,000 followers, posted an image using the front page of The Ethiopian Reporter. The image includes an inflammatory headline asserting, “የምርጫ አሸናፊ የታወቀ ስለሆነ ወደ ሚቀጥለው የትግል ምዕራፍ መሻገር የሰለጠነ ፖለቲከኛ አካላድ ነው” (The winner of the election, having become known, is a politician who has been trained for the next election phase). Within two hours of being posted, the content had already gained over 50 reactions.





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Screenshot: of the fabricated image on 31 May, 2026

The **CARD** Fact checking Team found that the image is a digitally manipulated fabrication and not a genuine front page published by The Ethiopian Reporter. A side-by-side comparison reveals that the headline text was digitally superimposed onto an authentic newspaper layout. The manipulated text is designed to manufacture political outrage and exploit sensitive public sentiment during the election. The Ethiopian Reporter has not published this headline, and the image uses the newspaper's credible branding to lend false legitimacy to an unsubstantiated political claim.



The reporter newspaper that you expect every Sunday is still on the market with different current news, in-depth analysis, special reports and favorit... more
 ⚙ Rate this translation



the original image on 31May,2026

Verdict: False The image is a deliberate act of disinformation. It is not an authentic photograph of a news report, and the narrative accompanying it is not based on factual events. The claim is officially rated false.

4 MISLEADING IMAGE Out-of-Context Video Falsely Attributed to Dr. Dessalegn Chanie

After the 7th Ethiopian general election took place, many videos and photos about the election are being widely shared on social media. People are reusing videos to spread false information about political leaders.

A TikTok page called “@addisabababeteamhara” which has about 17,800 followers, shared a video of the former National Movement of Amhara (NAMA) chairman Dr. Desalegn Chane. The video’s thumbnail says, “If NAMA is not elected, it will start violence”. The post [Archived Link] has gained 2684 likes, 31 comments and 403 saved. The video has received more than 106k views.

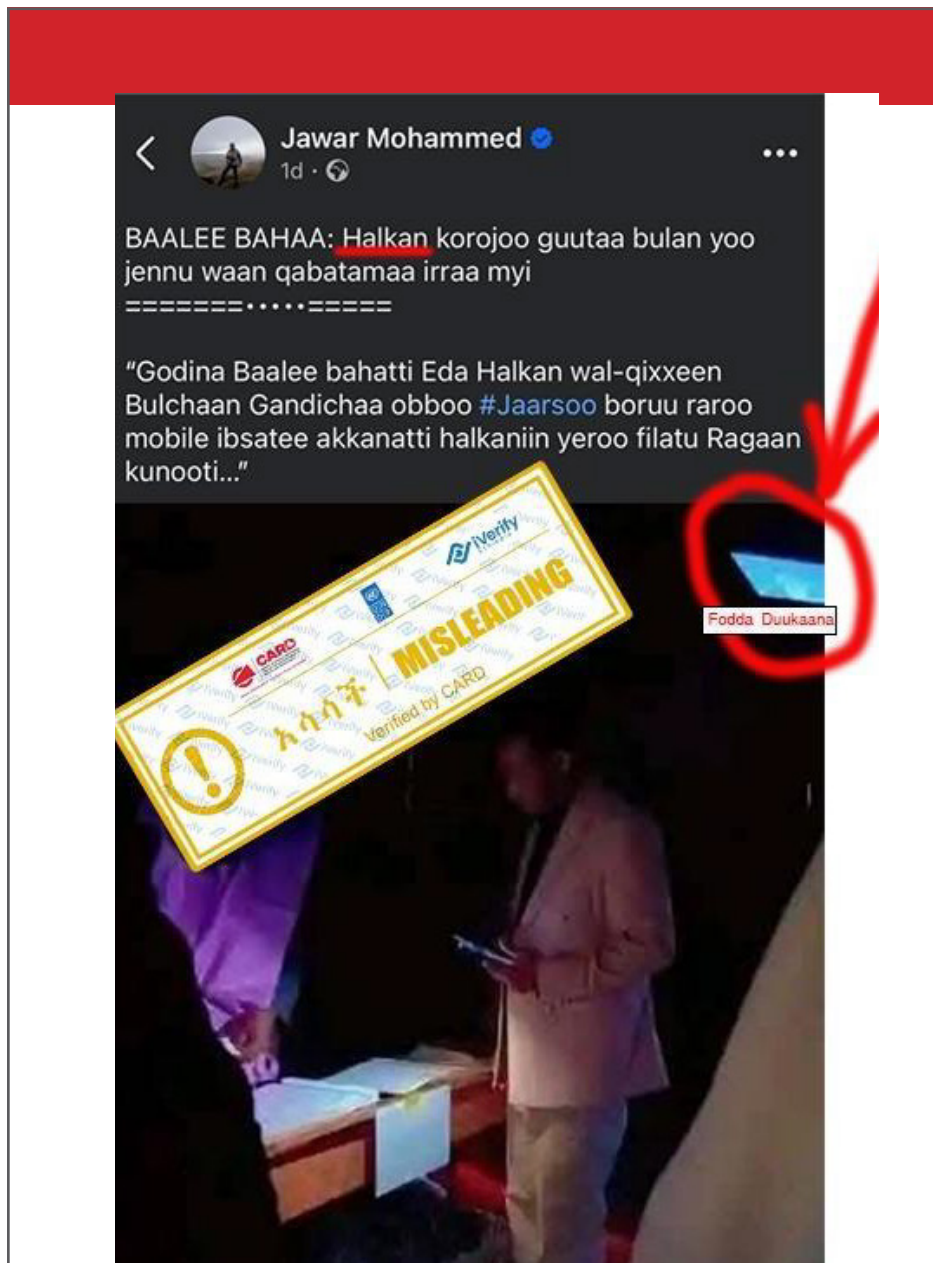


5

MISLEADING IMAGE

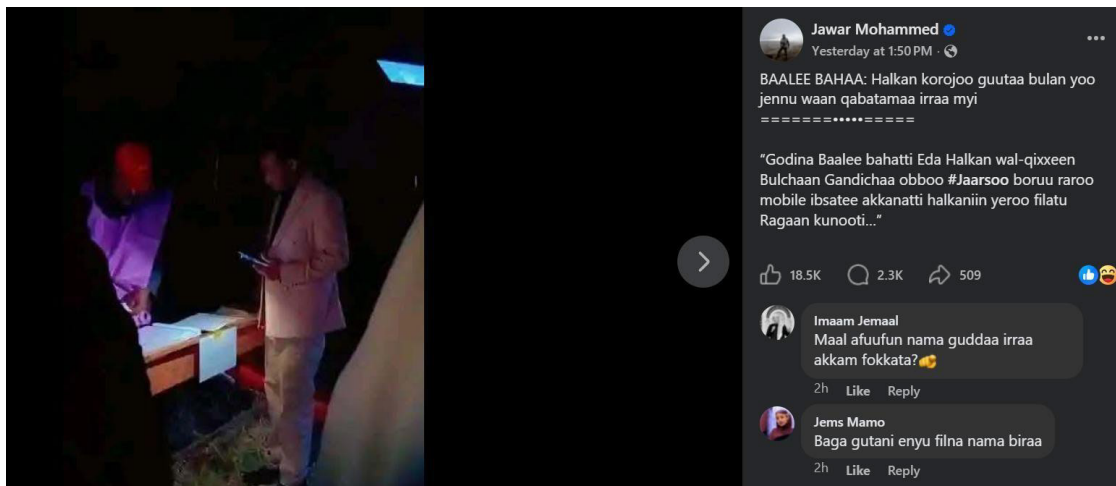
Misleading Ballot-Box Stuffing Allegation in East Bale

On June 1, 2026, Ethiopia’s 7th National Election took place amid political debate and public attention across the country. At the same time, many false and misleading claims circulated on Facebook related to election activities, politicians, and security issues, highlighting the spread of misinformation during the election period.



Screenshot: from Jawar Mohammed Facebook post on June 1,2026

Jawar Mohammed, which has 456K X followers and 3.3 million fb followers, shared a photo of the Chief Administrator of East Bale Zone, Ato Jarso Boru, along with a caption claiming that he was “stuffing ballot boxes”. The post has got 18.5K reactions, more than 2.3K comments, and 509 shares on Facebook.



Screenshot: from Jawar Mohammed Facebook post on June 1,2026

The **CARD** Fact-Checking Team verified a claim shared by Jawar Mohammed on June 1, 2026. The team contacted the Bale Zone Administration head, Mr. Jarso Boru, to verify the claim. He said he was at the voting station in Ginnir City around 12:00 PM local time and waited in line with other voters. According to him, when he entered the voting area, the polling station tent was a bit dark, so he used his phone flashlight to help the election admin to find his name in the record. At that moment, someone took a photo of him, which he later saw shared on social media. He also sent the CARD team a video that he personally recorded on his phone, showing himself standing in line with other voters before casting his vote. The **CARD** team carefully reviewed the video and observed that the voting area appeared dark, with a phone flashlight visible inside the station.



Jarso Boru shared video of a screenshot

The **CARD** Fact-Checking Team also spoke with another person who was present at the polling station, journalist Musa Aman from the OBN East Bale Zone branch. The team also found that the second photo was shared by the East Bale Prosperity Party on its social media page



Photo published by OBN Amharic on June 1, 2026.

According to Musa Aman, the voting process was conducted smoothly. OBN also [wrote news](#) about the polling station.

Election observer Muaz Abdulkadir said visibility was low and there was no electricity when voting began at the Urgee Lamaffaa polling station in Ginnir Town. He stated that the East Bale Zone Administrator arrived around 12:17 a.m. to vote and used his phone's flashlight to find and sign next to his name. According to Muaz, observers were present,

the process was transparent, and he witnessed no irregularities. Electricity was restored shortly after the administrator left.

The team also verified that the photo does not support the claim that it was taken at midnight. A visual review shows light coming through the top of the tent, indicating outside daylight. The lighting inside the tent is consistent with early dawn rather than midnight.

Verdict: Misleading

Therefore, the team confirmed that the claim that Ato Jarso Boru was filling ballot boxes is misleading

