

SITUATION REPORT

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November 2022 marks two years since the start of the genocidal war on Tigray, one of the most atrocious conflicts in the world today. It officially began when Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed declared war on the people and government of Tigray on November 4, 2020. In the years leading up to the war, Abiy and his advisors laid the groundwork for the devastation they would unleash on Tigray. They worked to degrade economic viability and food security in the region by blocking the main highway connecting Tigray to the rest of the country, withholding the annual budget, and obstructing efforts to combat the locust swarms that had attacked Tigray in 2020. Moreover, they led a mission of ethnic profiling that targeted prominent Tigrayan politicians, military commanders, and leaders.

Following the November 4 declaration of war, the full might of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), as well as regional forces and militias from neighboring Afar and Amhara regions, was mobilized against the seven million people of Tigray. Most alarmingly, Eritrean forces worked in conjunction with ENDF and regional Ethiopian forces to launch attacks against Ethiopian citizens in Tigray. The Eritrean government and its totalitarian leader Isaias Afewerki have been a part of the genocidal campaign against Tigray from the very start, helping Abiy plan his campaign of terror and devastation.

Over the last two years, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces have wrought unspeakable devastation on the people of Tigray. The most conservative estimates suggest that 600,000 people have died since the beginning of the war. Over 60,000 Tigrayans have sought refuge in neighboring Sudan, and there are over two million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) throughout Tigray. Eritrean and Amhara forces still control large swaths of Tigrayan territory in Western Tigray, where they have carried out a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing, which has entailed the imprisonment, torture, and forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans. The situation is even more dire for the Irob and Kunama peoples, who are minority groups within Tigray.

Tens of thousands of women, girls, men, and boys have been subjected to weaponized Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and are unable to access medical and psycho-social support. The war and deliberate campaign of destruction undertaken by the invading forces has created the worst man-made famine in the world. Currently, hundreds of thousands in Tigray are in famine, while millions more are on the brink.

Over 90% of the people in Tigray need immediate food assistance, and sustained flows of aid are required to avert the deaths of hundreds of thousands in the coming months. However, for more than a year, the Ethiopian government has enacted a deadly siege, blocking the flow of vital aid into the region.

While there had been a short respite in the fighting during some weeks in the summer, in late August 2022, Ethiopian and Eritrean forces redeployed their forces and began renewed attacks against Tigray. In September 2022, Ethiopian and Eritrean forces intensified their attacks against Tigrayan cities and territories. These forces are carrying out indiscriminate shelling and bombardment of Tigrayan cities and towns in Northern, Northwestern, and Central Tigray, leading to significant casualties and new waves of displacements across the region. With large swaths of Tigray falling under the control of the invading forces, there are renewed concerns about the atrocities that might be committed against civilians. Given the scale of the atrocities committed by Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces during the period they controlled Tigray, it is imperative for the international community to keep its eyes on the events unfolding in Tigray and facilitate an end to the genocidal war.

While the Ethiopian government claims to be ready to implement the newly signed peace agreement between parties, it continues to commit egregious war crimes and crimes against humanity in Tigray. Therefore, it is vital for mediators and the international community to ensure that Eritrean forces are immediately removed from Ethiopian territory and that the Ethiopian government's actions align with its rhetoric.

INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING AND BOMBARDMENT

Since the onset of the genocidal war on Tigray, Ethiopian and Eritrean forces have shelled and bombed cities and other civilian settlements indiscriminately. In the first weeks of the war, indiscriminate shelling and rocket attacks killed countless people in Tigray's urban centers and led to significant destruction of private and public infrastructure. Throughout the last two years, the Ethiopian government has been targeting civilians through aerial bombardment and drone attacks. The June 2021 attack on a crowded market in Togoga, the countless drone attacks in the capital Mekelle, and the ongoing shelling of towns in northern and northwestern Tigray are some of the most devastating examples of the blatant war crimes committed by the invading forces.



The impact of a rocket on Dejena hotel in Shire, northern Tigray in November 2020. As it is today in Eritrea and Ethiopia's renewed offensive on Tigray, bombing and shelling of public infrastructure and civilians has been a key tactic employed throughout the genocidal war.



Children in front of a hotel damaged by a direct fire weapon in Humera, Tigray, November 22, 2020. Aerial attacks and shelling took place across Tigray at the start of the war to terrorize the population into submission.



Source: AP News

One-year-old Eldana. One of the victims of the Ethiopian government's airstrike on the busy Togoga marketplace on June 22, 2021. Over 60 people were killed because of this airstrike, and invading forces blocked medical teams from traveling to the scene to help survivors.



Source: AP News

Tselat, Eldana's mother, waits while her daughter receives treatment after being hurt in the Ethiopian government's airstrike on the Togoga marketplace, otherwise known as the Togoga massacre. The bombing took place on a day to commemorate those lost in the Hawzien massacre when Ethiopia's previous military dictatorship bombed a market in Hawzien for a full day. To bomb Tigray yet again on such a day was intended to cause the most psychological and physical harm, all in hopes of instilling fear and defeat.



Tigrayan civilians faced clouds of black smoke from the aftermath of an airstrike in Mekelle, Tigray's capital, on October 20, 2021. This attack took place amid an intensification of aerial attacks in October 2021, as Tigray Defense Forces were making military gains. As has historically been the case in Ethiopia, oppressive governments have used high civilian casualties through bombardments as a strategy to win a war being lost on the ground.



A child after being bombed by the Ethiopian government while sheltering in a camp for internally displaced people (IDPs). The Abiy Ahmed government has bombed IDP camps on more than one occasion, constituting a war crime per international law. In this instance, on January 7, 2022, in Dedebit, Northwestern Tigray, 56 people were killed.



Source: Al Jazeera

Damage from an Ethiopian government airstrike which hit a kindergarten in Mekelle, Tigray, and resulted in the death of several children on August 26, 2022. This aerial attack came as the Ethiopian government broke a 5-month-long cessation of hostilities on August 24, 2022. Soon after, they declared their intentions to continue their aerial campaign in Tigray. Bombings have continued since.

DISPLACEMENT

The genocidal war on Tigray has unleashed one of the largest displacement crises in the world. Since the onset of the war, more than 60,000 Tigrayans have fled across the border to Sudan, and over 2 million are internally displaced within Tigray. Refugees in Sudan and IDPs in Tigray, who have left their homes under threat of or after experiencing violence, face difficult living conditions. Refugees in Sudan have suffered due to a shortage of food supplies and loss of shelter due to extreme weather conditions. Meanwhile, because cities in Tigray are not equipped to host the millions of people fleeing to them seeking safety, IDPs often have to take shelter in abandoned buildings or schools. They also do not have regular and reliable access to food aid and medical care. Moreover, the Ethiopian government has carried out numerous aerial and drone attacks against IDP shelters, further jeopardizing thousands of lives.



Source: LA Times

A woman puts her arm around the shoulders of a young girl as they stand underneath the shade of a pink umbrella and watch Tigrayans cross the Tekeze River. The Tekeze River is a critical site of transit for those escaping the deadly violence and ethnic cleansing occurring in Western Tigray, as the body of water demarcates the Ethiopian and Sudanese border. Upon crossing the river, Tigrayans have officially crossed international borders and are processed as refugees at a UNHCR site in Hamdayet, Eastern Sudan.



Source: The New York Times

Spreading woven mats across the floor of a makeshift tent in Hamdayet, Tigrayans who have escaped a genocidal war find refuge in a temporary shelter in Sudan. When Ethiopian and allied forces first invaded Tigray from all sides, tens of thousands of people flooded into Sudan within two weeks. Refugee camps were not set up and equipped to shelter and care for traumatized and wounded Tigrayans coming across the border. Many of their basic needs remain unmet today.



Source: UNHCR

Tigrayan refugee women sit around a fire while drinking a warm beverage near the UNHCR reception center in Hamdayet, Eastern Sudan. Though many Tigrayans seeking refuge in Sudan have been registered with UNHCR, there are whole communities of refugees that are invisible and struggling to survive.



Source: The New York Times

Tigrayan refugees burn small fires as they make food in a temporary camp in Hamdayet - the first stop in their resettlement journey. Many refugees go on to have lengthy journeys to other countries during which their safety and security are at high risk.



Source: AP Images Blog

Dr. Tewodros Tefera, a Tigrayan surgeon who fled the brutal violence of armed forces in Western Tigray, serves a patient in a dimly lit health center located in Hamadayet refugee camp. Many health professionals displaced by the genocidal war on Tigray continue to serve their communities in refugee camps with the limited resources available. Many Tigrayans in Sudan require medical care due to physical attacks, including weaponized sexual violence.



Source: AP Images Blog

Abraha Kinfe Gebremariam buys food at a small market in Hamdayet. Abraha, formerly a resident of Mai Kadra in Western Tigray, fled to Sudan after losing his wife to birth-related health complications. Abraha made the harrowing journey to Sudan with five children, two of whom were newborn twin girls.



Source: AP Images Blog

Forcibly displaced Tigrayan men sit outside at night attempting to secure network connection on their cell phones. Tigrayan families have been separated by borders and the ongoing telecommunications blackout within Tigray, preventing those in Sudan from connecting with loved ones to confirm their safety and security.



Source: Relief Web

As a result of the genocidal war on Tigray and campaigns of ethnic cleansing, millions of Tigrayans have been internally displaced. Hundreds of internally displaced Tigrayans live in an unfinished building at Shire University in Northwestern Tigray, 2021. There were at least 130,000 IDPs in Shire as of July 2022—many of whom had been displaced more than once. In its reinvasion of liberated areas of Tigray, the joint Ethio-Eritrean forces carpet-bombed Shire before entering the town, causing renewed waves of displacement.



Source: IOM

IDPs in a secondary school in Tigray's capital, Mekelle, go about their daily lives under siege. At the time this picture was taken, the school hosted 8,000 IDPs. Mekelle, a city of 400,000, became the home of at least 100,000 IDPs. IDPs in Tigray depend on their host communities to meet their basic needs; however, as Tigray has been suffocated under a brutal siege and a humanitarian blockade since July 2021—host communities struggle to meet their own needs.

Due to the war and the deliberate destruction by Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara troops, there is widespread food insecurity and a man-made famine across Tigray. These invading forces undertook a comprehensive campaign of looting and destruction, stealing food supplies from the region and destroying agricultural tools. Moreover, in the months they controlled the region, Ethiopian and Eritrean troops prohibited farmers from working their land, which resulted in them missing an entire cycle of production. The Ethiopian government's de-facto aid blockade, which has prevented the transportation of essential food supplies into the region, has exacerbated food insecurity and plunged the entire region into a deadly famine. Currently, over 90% of the people in Tigray require immediate food aid, hundreds of thousands are in famine, and millions more are on the brink. The consequences of this man-made famine are deeply felt in Tigray, with malnutrition rates skyrocketing, especially among pregnant or lactating women and children under five. As the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Relief Coordinator remarked, this is a man-made famine that can only be "remedied by the act of [Ethiopian] government."



Source: The Independent

A Tigrayan woman, displaced from her home to a refugee camp in Sudan, comforts her child suffering from malnutrition in December 2020. Food insecurity in Tigray has only worsened as the war and humanitarian blockade has continued for 2 years, while food shortages in refugee camps have been reported.



Source: AP News

Tigsti Mahderekal, 20 days old, with her mother Abeba Gebru from the village of Getskimilesley in a medical treatment tent in Abbi Adi, May 2021. Abeba walked 12 days to get Tigsti to the clinic, saying of the journey, “she only survived because I held her close to my womb and kept hiding during the exhausting journey.”



Source: AP News

Young women in the village of Merebmiet, South of Mekelle, May 2021. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed declared war in November 2020, shortly before the harvest season, which disrupted agricultural activities. Disruptions continued as farming was prohibited in occupied areas and Ethiopian authorities prevented seeds and fertilizers from entering the region.



Tekien Tadese, holds her 22-month-old son Amanuel Mulu who is suffering from malnutrition in Mekelle, May 2021. Amanuel weighed only 14 pounds and was unconscious when he was first admitted to the hospital, due to severe malnourishment and anemia, after losing half his body weight.



Natan Hailay (7-months-old) and his family were displaced from their home in Setit Humera, Western Tigray. Natan receives high-energy biscuits to prevent malnutrition while sheltering at Meserete high school in Mekelle, June 2021. Ethnic cleansing in Western Tigray conducted by Amhara regional forces with support from the Ethiopian government has displaced millions.



Mothers and children line up for UNICEF-run health screenings in Adikeh, Wajirat district, July 2021. Humanitarian services in the region became even more limited in July 2021, after the Ethiopian government and its allies imposed a complete siege.



Brkti Gebrehiwot (20 years old), and her one year and eight-month-old son Aamanuel Merhawi, who is suffering from severe acute malnutrition at a hospital in Wukro, July 2021. Brkti and Aamanuel are from the town of Agulae, which was occupied by Eritrean troops who have been especially brutal and destructive in accomplishing their genocidal project.



Source: Forbes

A severely malnourished baby receives care at a UNICEF-support health unit at Ayder Referral and Specialized hospital in Mekelle, Tigray, 2021. Ayder once Tigray's flagship hospital was forced to suspend its routine services in June 2022 due to the siege on Tigray and lack of power.

During the time they controlled large swaths of Tigray, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces committed countless massacres of civilians, killing tens of thousands of people. Some of these massacres, such as the one in the holy city of Axum, in which Ethiopian and Eritrean forces went door-to-door to find and kill young men, have been reported on by international organizations. However, there are dozens of other massacres carried out across all of Tigray, of which relatively little is known. Despite the paucity of information, survivors and witnesses have recounted their experiences of these horrific attacks. Moreover, numerous videos and photos taken by Ethiopian soldiers show them carrying out extrajudicial murders of Tigrayan civilians in heinous ways, including mass executions and immolation.



Four women dressed in black can be seen grieving and crying. A woman in the front holds a color portrait photograph of a young adult male who was a victim of a massacre in the village of Dengolat, Tigray, perpetrated by Eritrean troops. Young men were especially targeted by invading forces—an order which the Eritrean government has updated to include all males in Tigray in their most recent offensive.



Source: Foreign Policy

Tigrayan women and mothers mourning the loss of their loved ones killed in the Mariam Dengolat massacre, February 2021. The mother at the center of the picture holds up pictures of the children she lost. Eritrean forces were instructed to cause as much destruction as possible, including murdering civilians.



An elderly woman having fled from the town of Shire to the city of Axum to seek safety, wounded during an attack on the city, sits with her head bandaged. Days later she died of her injuries. She fled the Axum massacre, in which Eritrean soldiers killed “many hundreds” according to Amnesty International, only to be attacked in Shire.



A still image from a horrifying leaked video showing people in Ethiopian National Defense Force military uniforms leading groups of unarmed Tigrayan men to the edge of a cliff, “shooting some at point blank range, and pushing dead bodies over the cliff” in Mahbere Dego, Tigray.



People gather to mourn the victims of a massacre perpetrated by Eritrean soldiers, at the house of Beyenesh Tekleyohannes in February 2021. Many families in Tigray were prevented from burying their loved ones that were killed in massacres.



Fetlework Amaha (left) and Abeba Girmay (center) sit on the grave of their loved ones at Abune Aregawi church, in Abiy Addi, Tigray. One of Fetlework's cousins and four of Abeba's nephews were murdered while farming on the outskirts of Abiy Addi. Families were not allowed to mourn the deaths of their loved ones.



Source: The National Geographic

A man walks near a hill where 15 people are buried, in the village of Adi Chilo, on the road west of Abiy Addi. Families were often forbidden from holding religious funerals for their loved ones and had to bury people in mass graves whenever they could.



Source: The National Geographic

Araya Gebretekla is pictured mourning his four sons, who were executed while harvesting millet in his fields, near the town of Abiy Addi. Executions and massacres of young men were rampant during the period Ethiopian and Eritrean forces controlled much of Tigray, which saw the deaths of tens of thousands.

One of the most egregious and atrocious aspects of the genocidal war on Tigray has been the use of SGBV as a weapon of war and tool of genocide. Since November 2020, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces have committed countless violations, including rape, gang-rape, sexual slavery, forced impregnation, and forced sterilization against Tigrayan women and girls. Tens of thousands of women and girls, ranging in age from 8 years old to 80 years old have been subjected to weaponized SGBV in the last two years. These assaults were often accompanied by dehumanizing and genocidal verbal attacks, with perpetrators telling survivors that they sought to eliminate the Tigrayan people from earth. Due to the Ethiopian government's ongoing siege, survivors have not been able to access the medical and psycho-social care they desperately need.



Source: The National Geographic

Senayit* was raped by soldiers on two separate occasions - in her home in Edagahamus, and as she tried to flee to Mekelle with her 12-year-old son. The second time, she was pulled from a minibus, drugged, and brought to a military base, where she was tied to a tree and sexually assaulted repeatedly over the course of 10 days. At one point, she awoke to find her son, along with a woman and her new baby, dead at her feet.



Soldiers raped Shewit in front of her children. "I told them, 'I am HIV-positive. Be careful, please don't do this.' They didn't care. They didn't even use protection." They said, "The Tigrayan race must be eliminated."

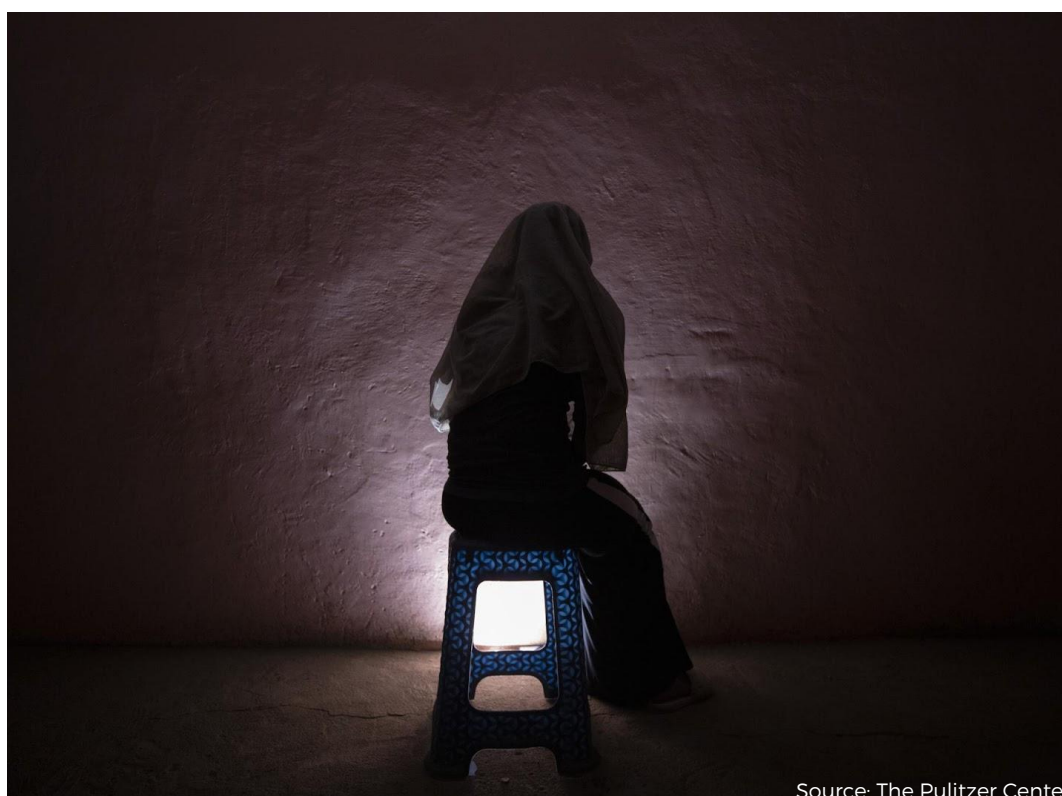


A Tigrayan woman who was gang raped by Amhara fighters, stands for a portrait in eastern Sudan, near the border with Tigray, Ethiopia, on March 23, 2021. Numerous reports by refugees who crossed the border into Sudan indicate that Tigrayans attempting to flee the fighting were captured and subjected to horrific attacks by Amhara forces in Western Tigray.



Source: VOA News

The same woman who was gang raped by Amhara fighters speaks to surgeon and doctor-turned-refugee, Dr. Tewodros Tefera at the Sudanese Red Crescent clinic in Hamdayet camp, Sudan. Since fleeing to Sudan, Dr. Tewodros has been helping and treating Tigrayan refugees and survivors.



Source: The Pulitzer Center

A Tigrayan survivor of weaponized sexual violence who fled the fighting sits for a portrait in a camp for refugees in Sudan, March 20, 2021.



18-year-old Mona Lisa is pictured as she recuperates in a hospital in Mekelle in April 2021. The teenager has survived an attempted rape that left her with seven gunshot wounds and amputations. Mona Lisa describes the pattern of sexual violence as ethnic cleansing, saying that “soldiers are targeting Tigrayan women to stop them giving birth to more Tigrayans.”



A 40-year-old woman held captive and repeatedly raped by 15 Eritrean soldiers over a period of a week in a remote village near the Eritrea border, photographed at a hospital in Mekelle, in May 2021. “They talked to each other. Some of them: ‘We kill her.’ Some of them: ‘No, no. Rape is enough for her,’” she recalls. She said one of the soldiers told her: “This season is our season, not your season. This is the time for us.”



Source: The National Geographic

19-year-old Rahel is at Abiy Addi Hospital because she fell pregnant after Ethiopian soldiers raped her. "They did this to eliminate Tigrayans, and for the generations of babies delivered to be Ethiopian, because they don't want the next generation to be Tigrayan," she says. "I am waiting to abort this baby".

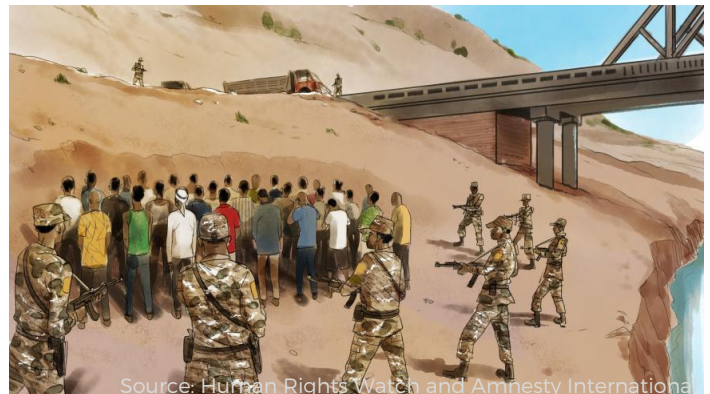
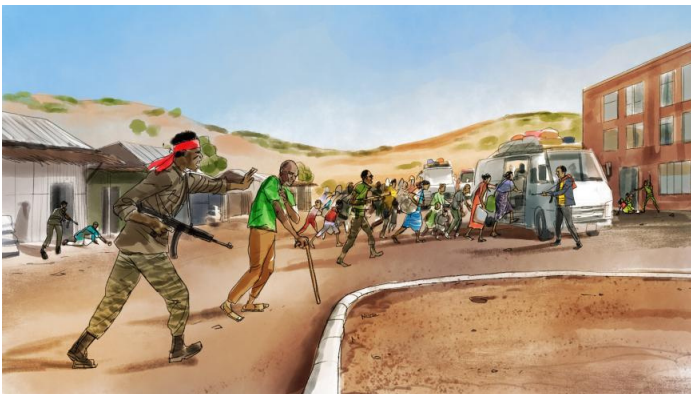
In addition to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide, the war on Tigray has also included a significant campaign of ethnic cleansing in Western Tigray. In this area, which is controlled by Amhara militias and Eritrean forces, hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans are imprisoned, tortured, and forcefully displaced from their homes. Shortly after the declaration of war, the Amhara authorities rounded up Tigrayans living in Western Tigray, confiscating their property, taking over their homes, and using violence and the threat of violence to forcefully displace them. This is a deliberate and organized campaign designed to change the ethnic make-up of the area, by expelling all the Tigrayans in Western Tigray. Similarly, the Irob and Kunama peoples, which are minority groups within Tigray, have been under sustained attacks and occupation by Eritrean forces. Given the small size of these groups, these attacks pose an existential threat to the Irob and Kunama communities.



Satellite image collected of the town of Adebai, in Tigray's western administrative zone, Amnesty International's analysis shows an overview of locations of damage and a possible detention site. From the start of the war in November 2020, Amhara regional forces started their ethnic cleansing campaign mass arresting and detaining Tigrayans. In these sites, Tigrayans were tortured and executed.



From the relative stability of a shelter near the Sudan-Ethiopia border, Abrahaley Minasbo, a Tigrayan survivor of the Mai-Kadra massacre, shows his wounds sustained from machetes yielded by Fano Amhara militias, December 2021.



As a result of the illegal occupation and annexation of Western Tigray and telecommunications imposed on all of Tigray images of Western Tigray are virtually non-existent. Per an investigation conducted by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, these sketches were developed based on testimonies. (Left) Amhara security forces rounded up Tigrayans in Western Tigray and forcibly transferred them east, towards Northwestern Tigray. (Right) Mesfin, one of the men rounded up, said: "They took us... somewhere around the bridge, a kind of field, but we were on the ground. ... We were facing a hill."



A body draped in plastic sheeting after being recovered from the riverbank of the Tekeze River. [CNN](#) documents the excruciating work of Tigrayans living in the Sudan, downstream from Humera. They collect bodies of victims of ethnic cleansing in Western Tigray from the Tekeze river—many of which show signs of torture and had their hands tied behind their backs. At the time of the investigation, the team of excavators had collected 60 bodies.



In remembrance of massacre victims from Tigray's Irob minority, a man is holding a poster with pictures of those slain by Eritrean forces at the beginning of the war. In a vulnerable position on Tigray's border with Eritrea, when the war on Tigray began in early November 2020, 75 individuals from Tigray's Irob minority were massacred.



List of Irob disappeared by Eritrean forces during the 1998 to 2000 Ethio-Eritrean war, as well as those massacred during the Irob massacre that took place between January 4th and 8th, 2021 with a backdrop of mountains of Irob. At least 72 young men and women were brutally killed by invading Eritrean Defense Forces across 22 villages during Christmas celebration.



Members of the minority Kunama community in the Tigray region who were displaced after coming under heavy attacks were featured on the local DW TV. The Tigrayan Kunamas who number about 10,000 have been targeted by Eritrean forces with the extent to exterminate the population. Many have been displaced suffering without food.

Since November 2020, the Ethiopian government has been utilizing its control over communications and transportation infrastructures to besiege the population. As early as December 2020, aid organizations were raising the alarm about not being allowed to transport supplies into Tigray. In particular, since June 2021, the Ethiopian government has enacted a brutal siege, blocking the transportation of food aid and medical supplies into the region. This siege has plunged millions of people into acute food insecurity, thrust hundreds of thousands into a man-made famine, and created a health care catastrophe across Tigray. Throughout the last year, the Ethiopian government has admitted to using food as a weapon of war on multiple occasions. However, met with nothing more than statements of concern from the international community, it has pressed on with this strategy, causing the deaths of countless people in Tigray.



A convoy of World Food Programme trucks stand still on a winding road in the mountains of Afar. The siege imposed on Tigray has prevented humanitarian aid from entering the region, exacerbating a deadly food and healthcare crisis.



Source: Eduardo Soteras Jalil

A young woman carries a bundle of sticks on her back and the lid to a clay fire pit in her right hand, walking toward an armored military tank parked along her route. The siege on Tigray, combined with the disruption of electricity and telecommunication services, has forced the civilian population into darkness. Sticks are used to burn fires, make food, and bring warmth to the homes of a civilian population under siege.



Source: Eduardo Soteras Jalil

A woman looks after a patient lying in a bed in a hospital emptied of medical devices and medicines. Tigray's healthcare infrastructure was devastated by Ethiopian and Eritrean forces who looted and destroyed healthcare centers and hospitals across the region. Today, the medical crisis has worsened due to the siege, which has prevented necessary medical equipment and medicines from entering Tigray. Hospitals have shut down and stopped providing routine services.



Source: Doctors Without Borders

Health facilities across Tigray were deliberately looted and vandalized by occupying Ethiopian and Eritrean forces. Militarized forces seized ambulances, broke windows and doors, smashed medical equipment such as ultrasound machines and monitors, and destroyed health facilities with fire and rockets. The ongoing siege has undermined efforts to rehabilitate and restore the healthcare system in Tigray by organizations such as Doctors without Borders, who reported that 70% of health facilities in Tigray have been looted and more than 30% damaged.



Source: INEWS

An injured girl is woken by her mother at Ayder hospital in Mekelle, the capital of Tigray region, where thousands have died as a result of a two-year siege. Since the end of August 2022, the Ethiopian government and its allies have intensified their aerial attacks and shelling, bombing civilians. Casualties of innocent civilians has become the norm in Tigray today. The health professionals are able to appropriately treat victims due to the impacts of the siege, resulting in preventable deaths.



Source: Globe News Net

Children requesting food and medicine at a rally in Mekelle, Tigray, in December 2021. Children have been among the most impacted by the genocidal war and siege on Tigray. Malnutrition rates far exceed emergency levels and there is no treatment available for it. The children of Tigray are being starved and bombed without a medical system to save them.

Since the start of the genocidal war on Tigray, the safety and security of Tigrayans across Ethiopia has been under serious threat. Mass arrest of Tigrayans started early on with the purging of ethnic Tigrayan EADF soldiers and non-combatants, United Nations and African Union peacekeepers, police, and members of public services. Furthermore, ordinary Ethiopian citizens of Tigrayan background have consistently been detained, with intensified campaigns of mass arrests occurring in June 2021, October and November 2021, and July 2022. Among Tigrayans who have been detained are those repatriated from other countries, including Saudi Arabia. Conditions in detention camps that qualify as concentration camps violate most, if not all, basic human rights. Those detained are confined to crowded spaces, forced to sleep standing up, with no security and privacy. There are limited, if any, sanitation facilities. They do not have access to food or medicine. They are at great risk of infectious diseases, and medical care is withheld. Many detained Tigrayans are tortured, and some have been executed. If people have not died from torture and execution, they have died from starvation and disease. At least 10,000 Tigrayans are languishing in concentration camps across Ethiopia.



Image from inside a detention camp at Aba Samuel Prison in Addis Ababa provided to Reuters by a former prisoner. Those detained are confined to crowded spaces, forced to sleep standing up, with no security and privacy. There are limited, if any, sanitation facilities.



The gravestone of Tesfaye Weldemariam (36 years old), who is one of the many detainees to have died, February 2021, Addis Ababa. Tesfaye was among the 3,000 Tigrayans crammed into 12 cells in a prison in Mizan Teferi, Ethiopia. He died because of lack of treatment for malaria and meningitis.



A warehouse in Addis Ababa having served as a detention center for Tigrayans, February 2021. As prisons were full, makeshift detentions centers had to be established to detain the thousands of Tigrayans-especially during the intensified campaign which took place during the State of Emergency declared in November 2021.



Source: BBC

Groups formed to check people's I.D.s for ethnicity in Addis Ababa during the State of Emergency November 2021. Civilians, former friends, and neighbors of Tigrayans across Addis Ababa, became vigilantes, checking ethnicity and reporting their Tigrayan neighbors. The genocidal campaign has been accepted and encouraged by many in Addis Ababa and across Ethiopia.



Source: Addis Standard

Thousands of Tigrayans who were forcibly kept in detention camps in Semera, in Afar regional state, began returning to Ab'ala town. Under the guise of camps for displaced persons, thousands of Tigrayans in Afar were detained in concentration camps, with video evidence of mass graves. Many detainees died from lack of food and medical care.

Since September 2022, Ethiopian and Eritrean forces have intensified their attacks against Tigrayan cities and territories, carrying out indiscriminate shelling and bombardment and causing significant casualties and new waves of displacements. As a result of this renowned attack, there have been reports of certain Tigrayan cities and towns falling under the control of the invading forces in October 2022, raising serious concerns about the atrocities that could be committed on civilians.

Additionally, while the Ethiopian government claims to be ready for peace negotiations, it continues to commit egregious crimes in Tigray as it attempts to invade Tigrayan cities and towns with the collaboration of the Eritrean government. It also continues to downplay the humanitarian crisis in Tigray and undermine the credibility of the elected Tigrayan government.

Given the scale of the atrocities committed by invading forces, including the Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces, during the time they controlled Tigray in the first eight months of the war, it is imperative for the international community to stop another round of invasion of Tigray. The invading forces that committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide for the past two years cannot be expected to be sympathetic to the interests of the people of Tigray.

The international community must respond with an urgency and seriousness matching the gravity of the situation in Tigray. To this end, we continue to call for the following:

- **Blocking World Bank and International Monetary Fund from funding Ethiopia** until the country is able to bring peace to the region of Tigray;
- **Support for proposed U.S. legislation—H.R. 6600 and S.3199**—so that they may pass through Congress to hold perpetrators of crimes committed accountable;
- **Implementation of Magnitsky Sanctions on the Ethiopian, Eritrean and Amhara government officials** to increase pressure to end the siege, as well as trade and investment restrictions in both countries;
- **Provision of sufficient resources for the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia**, including financial, technical, and staffing resources; and
- **Former Kenyan President Kenyatta to be appointed as the lead mediator in negotiations**, with support from distinguished African leaders, in discussions moving forward.

So as to facilitate:

- Immediate humanitarian access into all of Tigray;
 - Immediate internationally monitored and verifiable withdrawal of Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces from all parts of Tigray and the restoration of pre-war territorial boundaries;
 - Immediate restoration of all essential services, including banking, electricity, telecommunications, transportation, and trade in Tigray;
 - Immediate protection of Tigrayans who are facing ethnic cleansing in occupied Western Tigray and an end to the state-sanctioned ethnic profiling and ethnically-motivated attacks against Tigrayans living across Ethiopia;
 - Release of all Tigrayans detained on the basis of their identity, including journalists, 22,000 Tigrayan ENDF members, and Tigrayans deported from Saudi Arabia;
 - An arms embargo and a limited no-fly zone that does not hinder humanitarian delivery;
 - A negotiated ceasefire and an inclusive, internationally-mediated national dialogue that includes the democratically elected and constitutionally mandated Tigray government and other relevant stakeholders; and
 - Official recognition of the Tigray Genocide committed by the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, Eritrean Defense Forces, Amhara Special Forces, and Amhara Fano Militia against the Tigrayan people.
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