

**Debunking False
Arguments About**

**The Genocidal
War in Tigray**



Isn't the war on Tigray just a law-and-order operation against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)?

The war is not a "law-and-order operation" but a **genocide against the people of Tigray**. This is evidenced by the current statistics on the ground in Tigray. Over 70,000 civilians have been killed, 70,000 refugees fled to Sudan, 75% of universities in Tigray have been destroyed, 80% of health facilities have been looted, and rape has been used as a weapon of war against over 20,000 Tigrayan women. The Ethiopian government has imposed blockades of humanitarian corridors as 900,000 civilians are currently facing a man-made famine. **A "law-and-order operation" supposedly targeting a dozen senior officials does not cause atrocities such as those being witnessed in Tigray.**



But didn't the TPLF attack Ethiopia's Northern Command, pushing the Ethiopian federal government to act in defense?

There is sufficient evidence that Prime Minister of Ethiopia **Abiy Ahmed premeditated the war** on Tigray since coming into power in 2018 by consolidating power in the federal government, imprisoning prominent political rivals, and blocking resources from entering Tigray. During this time, the Ethiopian Army Chief of Staff, a Tigrayan, was also assassinated.

On November 1st, 2020, Ethiopia's borders with Sudan were closed to "prevent border infiltration to and from Sudan by an armed party," according to the Sudan Tribune. The actions that the Ethiopian government were taking demonstrated clear provocation of war. In a statement on June 30, 2021, Abiy publicly admitted that the war on Tigray had been brewing for two years.



Isn't The TPLF a terrorist organization?

No, the **TPLF is the political party that was elected in Tigay's constitutionally mandated election in September 2020**. In response to these elections, Abiy launched a full-fledged genocidal war against the over 7 million people of Tigray.

In an attempt to justify and intensify the genocidal war on Tigray, the Abiy administration officially labelled the TPLF as a "terrorist organization" in April 2021. Instead of bringing accountability through the legal system, Abiy launched a war on a region and declared their rightfully elected government a terrorist organization.

Since this characterization, the targeting and ethnic profiling of Tigrayans outside of Tigray has increased, as Tigrayans are labelled as TPLF supporters and are hence equated to supporting and/or acting as terrorists.



There is no genocide in Tigray. The genocide narrative is false.

Atrocities that could fall under Article II of the Genocide Convention defining genocide as intentionally destroying a group, including killing members of a group causing serious bodily and mental harm, enacting measures preventing birth, are occurring in Tigray.

So far, **credible sources have verified war crimes and genocidal acts in Tigray.** Over 5.2 million Tigrayans in need of food assistance, 900,000 of which are facing famine conditions. There have been over 150 **massacres** in which thousands of civilians were killed; Over 20,000 Tigrayan women have reported **rape, gang rape, and torture** by Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Amhara militia forces aiming to either **sterilize them or “cleanse their bloodline”**. The deliberate **destruction and looting** of private and public property, such as factories, hospitals and schools are also crimes being committed to dismantle Tigray’s social fabric.



Western and Southern Tigray are historically a part of the Amhara region of Ethiopia, so Amhara forces have the right to take those territories back.

Prior to the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) taking power in 1991 and crafting a new Ethiopian constitution in 1992, the Amhara regional state did not exist.

Territories of Western and Southern Tigray have historically been Tigrayan land. However, prior to their return to Tigray under EPRDF, these areas as well as territories further south, were annexed from Tigray first by Menelik II, and then by Emperor Haile Selassie, in an effort to weaken Tigray.

Therefore, the Amhara region has no claim to these lands, and even if they did, **it would not justify massacres, weaponized rape and destruction, the restriction of humanitarian aid, and ethnic cleansing.**



Haven't the people of Tigray been receiving humanitarian aid?

The Ethiopian government is intentionally blocking humanitarian aid from reaching millions of Tigrayans in desperate need of assistance. As recently noted by the UN, "the restrictions on access are severely impeding the ability of humanitarian workers to assist. **Deliberate and repeated hinderances by the military and armed groups, the regular looting of humanitarian assistance, are driving the population towards mass starvation.**"

The weaponization of food is a part of the genocidal effort against the people of Tigray and echoes the famine of the 1980's that killed 1 million people in Ethiopia, disproportionately affecting Tigrayans.



The Ethiopian government declared a unilateral ceasefire in June 2021 and wants peace in Tigray.

The temporary ceasefire declared by the Ethiopian government is illegitimate. Having faced major military defeats and resounding international condemnation, the Ethiopian government was forced to retreat and declare a temporary ceasefire without making any active effort to stop the violence. Despite the supposed ceasefire, **hostile actors are still operating in many parts of Eastern and Western Tigray, continuing to commit atrocities against Tigrayan civilians**. Eritrean troops are still in the region; and there has been no attempt by Ethiopia to dispel them and no indication that Eritrea is committed to a ceasefire.

On July 14, 2021, a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that **the Prime Minister is breaking the unilateral ceasefire and re-entering the war in Tigray with several regional special forces**.



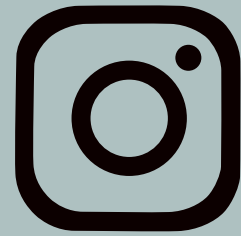
Outside of Tigray, Tigrayans across Ethiopia are safe.

Tigrayans in Ethiopia are not safe. In addition to the genocidal war on Tigray, Tigrayans outside of Tigray have been targets of the Ethiopian government.

In the aftermath of Ethiopian forces' significant military defeat against the Tigray Defense Forces, **the Ethiopian Government has alarmingly increased its intimidation, harassment, and ethnic profiling of Tigrayans across the country**, infringing upon their constitutional rights. This has included but has not been limited to: **mass imprisonment** on the basis of their Tigrayan identity, the **forced closure of Tigrayan-owned businesses**, the **denial of due process**, **extrajudicial searches of homes and properties**, **forcible abductions to concentration camps**, and the **silencing of solitary voices critical of the government's genocidal actions in Tigray**.



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#StopWarOnTigray, #TigrayGenocide, #AllowAccessToTigray

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