

SITIATION REPORT March 2022



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March 4, 2022 marked 16 months since the beginning of Ethiopia and Eritrea's genocidal war on Tigray. National forces from Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia and troops and militia from neighboring Afar and Amhara regions have used armaments supplied by Turkey, China, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to carry out this genocidal war against the 7 million people of Tigray. Because of the communications and information blackout imposed on Tigray since November 2020, it is nearly impossible to get an accurate estimate of the devastation unleashed in the region in the last 16 months. However, the few reports made available from humanitarian agencies on the ground and eyewitness accounts provide a glimpse into the scale of the devastation, which has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), over 70,000 refugees in Sudan, over 2.2 million people internally displaced, and a man-made famine that threatens the lives of millions of people.

Additionally, the region's road, water, education, and health infrastructure has been completely decimated, exacerbating the dire humanitarian catastrophe civilians in Tigray face. Immunization programs, treatment for TB, HIV, and malaria, as well as family planning supplies and essential supplies, have been completely depleted for over 6 months, resulting in a healthcare emergency in Tigray. The decimation of the healthcare system, combined with the ongoing siege on Tigray, not only threatens the lives of millions of people today, but will have devastating consequences for the next generation of Tigrayans.

In February 2022, Al Jazeera reported on a campaign of ethnic cleansing perpetrated against Tigrayans living in the town of Abala, in Tigray's neighboring Afar region that took place in late December of 2021. During this campaign of ethnic cleansing, which involved massacres, looting, and sexual violence, Afar militiamen and Eritrean troops went door-to-door, identifying and killing Tigrayans throughout the town of Abala. Witnesses and survivors shared their accounts and footage of bodies in mass graves, showing hundreds of bodies dumped into craters in distant places. Entire families were killed in this days-long massacre, including 16 members from a single Tigrayan family.

The Ethiopian government's continued dehumanization and incitement of hate speech against Tigrayans have fuelled these types of attacks, which have claimed the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of Tigrayans. Moreover, the ongoing involvement of Eritrean forces in the most egregious atrocities has become an alarmingly common phenomenon.

While the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments have repeatedly informed the international community that Eritrean forces have left Ethiopia, it is glaringly clear that Eritrean forces are still operating with complete impunity across Ethiopia and fueling and leading the genocidal campaign against Tigrayans.

In February 2022, the world saw some significant challenges to global order and security, with flagrant violations of the rules and norms governing international relations, as Russia launched a war of aggression against neighboring Ukraine. While this action has rightly been criticized by the international community, it is vital to remember that the erosion of the liberal international order is not happening in a vacuum but rather in a context in which such violations have previously been allowed to go unpunished. As human rights advocates across the world have warned, violations of the most fundamental human rights going unanswered anywhere in the world emboldens those who seek to commit such violations themselves.

For over a year, the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments have been committing grave violations, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide against the 7 million people of Tigray, and the global response has been tepid at best. This sets a perilous precedent to other autocrats and dictators and further threatens existing mechanisms of global governance.

Given these developments, it is more important than ever for the international community to take swift and decisive action to stop the atrocities perpetrated by the combined forces of the Ethiopian and Eritrean states in collaboration with Amhara and Afar regional special forces.

ERITREA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE GENOCIDAL WAR

It is impossible to give an accurate account of the genocidal war on Tigray without mentioning the central role of Eritrea's dictator Isaias Afewerki. This section provides a chronological overview of the timeline and details of Eritrean involvement in the war on Tigray. Isaias Afewerki and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed have been at the forefront of the war on Tigray from the years-long planning phase to the full-scale invasion of the region and the execution of countless atrocities on the ground.

Historical Context

Formerly an Italian colony, Eritrea was taken over by Britain in 1941, before gaining a designation as a United Nations (UN) trust territory in 1949. In 1950 the UN passed a resolution granting Eritrea a confederal status, ruled under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian crown. In opposition to then-Emperor Haile Selassie's violation of the confederal arrangement, numerous liberation movements and fronts emerged that fought for Eritrean independence. After a decades long battle, liberation fronts from across Ethiopia, including Eritrea, Tigray, and Oromia ousted the Derg military regime and established a governance system based on respecting the rights to self-determination of Ethiopia's various nations and nationalities. Accordingly, Eritrea conducted a referendum in 1993, in which the population overwhelmingly voted for independence.

The Border War

After years of relative stability and a harmonious relationship between the two nations, tensions began to escalate because of contested territories along the Ethiopian-Eritrean border. After the considerable escalation of tensions, in May 1998, Eritrean forces entered contested territories and took offensive positions. An international commission in the Hague decided that Eritrea broke international law and started the war by invading Ethiopia. The border war was exceedingly bloody and claimed many thousands of lives in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Because of its geographical location bordering Eritrea, the region of Tigray was disproportionately affected by the war. Not only was the war physically taking place on Tigrayan territory, as the inhabitants of the land, Tigrayans were also the first line of defense against Eritrean forces. Moreover, Eritrean attacks on civilian settlements, including schools, led to numerous civilian deaths. The war was especially brutal for the Irob, one of Tigray's two minorities who live on the Eritrean border. The atrocities committed during Eritrea's occupation of Irob during the border war are at the scale of today's atrocities.



A woman in Zalambessa, Tigray during the 1998-2000 Ethio-Eritrea Border War

In addition to the loss of life and economic destruction, civilians on both sides of the border suffered immensely and faced deportation from their countries of residence to their countries of citizenship. However, despite the fact that civilians on both sides suffered from this policy implemented by the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments, the Isaias regime and its supporters have used the border war as justification for their genocidal campaign in Tigray.

The Abiy-Isaias Alliance

Shortly after coming to power in April 2018, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed proclaimed that he wanted to repair Ethiopia's relationship with Eritrea. In June 2018, the Abiy administration announced that it intended to fully implement the ruling of the 2002 Boundary Commission, established at the 2000 Algiers Agreement for peace to resolve the border issues. Such an acceptance by Abiy of a decision not previously acknowledged by the Ethiopian government paved the way for the normalization of relations between the two countries. While overtures for peace were well-received, the Abiy administration's sweeping declaration, without any details provided as to how the decision of the Boundary Commission would be implemented, raised concerns among communities residing in the border areas in Tigray. Many residents of the town of Badme, one of the most hotly contested areas, saw this decision as an act of betrayal to the 50,000 Ethiopian soldiers that died in the war.

Residents, many of them veterans of the war, expressed their anger at being left out of the consultation process before the Abiy administration's declaration. Moreover, members of the Irob community organized a protest to oppose the Boundary Commission's decision, which would divide their land and ancestral home between two countries.



Dictator Isaias and Abiy made several trips to visit each other's military bases prior to waging the war on Tigray in November 2020.

Yet, despite these concerns raised by communities in Tigray directly affected by the Boundary Commission's decision, the Abiy administration forged ahead with the so-called 'peace deal' with the Isaias regime without consulting the impacted communities or the regional government of Tigray. After this 'peace deal', which earned Abiy a Nobel Peace Prize, the Ethiopian and Eritrean leaders began undertaking state visits and touring military installations in their respective countries. In July 2020, Abiy visited the center of Eritrea's National Service, Sawa, while in October 2020, Isaias visited the Ethiopian air-force base at Bishoftu. It was within three weeks of Isaias' last visit to an Ethiopian military base that the Abiy administration declared war on Tigray. In hindsight, it appears clear that rather than undertaking negotiations to bring about genuine peace or improve their citizens' conditions of life, Abiy and Isaias were jointly planning the genocidal war on Tigray. This is evidenced by their repeated meetings and visits to military bases and by how quickly Eritrean forces mobilized for the war in October and November 2020.



Isaias visits Ethiopian military base in October 2020, three weeks before the declaration of war

Despite the telecommunications shutdown, which was strategically deployed to conceal the horrendous war crimes committed by Eritrean and pro-Ethiopian government forces, reports and evidence released from the embattled region clearly indicate the perpetration of a genocide. Eritrea's presence in the Tigray region is directly linked to the genocidal elements in the current war. Some of the documented atrocities by Eritrean forces include massacres, SGBV, looting/pillaging, and wholesale destruction of hospitals, schools, farm land, and religious sites. The brutal occupation of specific regions of Tigray, such as Irob and Western Tigray, persists today.

Massacres

Eritrean forces have committed some of the most egregious and violent massacres of civilians across Tigray since November 2020. Amnesty International reported that Eritrean forces massacred hundreds of civilians in the holy city of Axum between November 28 and 29, 2020, firing indiscriminately in the streets, going on door-to-door raids, and carrying out mass killings. This massacre was one of the first reports of Eritrean troops committing crimes against humanity in Tigray. In April 2021, more than 180 civilians were killed in cold blood in the Tembien region of Central Tigray. In May 2021, Eritrean soldiers killed 19 civilians in a small village near the scenic Abuna Yemata church.



Tigrayan mothers mourning the death of their children after a massacre,

Other reported massacres by the Eritrean forces include 86 people killed in Zalambessa, 200 people killed in Shire, 80 to 150 people killed in Maryam Dengelat church, over 300 people killed in Wukro Maray, and 180 people killed in Cheli. These are only a handful of the known massacres Eritrean forces committed, and is likely a significant underestimation, as the communications blackout has prevented accurate reporting and accounting of the atrocities and casualties. What is clear from the reports that have emerged is that Eritrean forces have been at the forefront of the genocidal campaign in Tigray, deliberately and systematically targeting unarmed civilians in brutal attacks.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Since the war on Tigray began in November 2020, sexual assault, among other severe human rights abuses, has been a distinguishing feature of the genocidal campaign. Rape, gang rape, sexual slavery, sexual mutilation, and torture have all been committed against Tigrayan women and girls by Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Amhara regional forces. Among the perpetrators, Eritrean soldiers are accused of some of the most violent and brutal attacks, including holding women and girls in sexual slavery for several weeks, gang rape of young children, and attacks against the elderly, including religious leaders. SGBV was often committed in full view of the survivors' families, including their children. These acts were deliberate efforts to to terrorize and humiliate survivors, their family members, and destroy Tigray's social fabric.

The perpetrators often expressed their genocidal intent during these attacks, telling survivors that they intended to wipe Tigrayans off the face of the earth. The societal consequences of weaponized SGBV are catastrophic and long-lasting, as sexual violence remains stigmatized in Tigray and families have to be rebuilt and reconnected, some of them having to integrate children resulting from these rapes.



"The sexual violence perpetrated against women and girls in different areas of Tigray throughout the nine-month conflict is shocking in its scale and level of brutality. It is often accompanied by threats and by additional acts of physical and psychological torture aimed at causing lasting fear, and physical and psychological damage" [1].

- Amnesty International, August 2021

Looting

Countless accounts have surfaced of Eritrean forces raiding and looting industrial factories, educational establishments, public property, and private property, and systematically looting Tigrayan goods and materials from factories and machinery to everyday items like forks and spoons. In addition to looting public and private property, Eritrean forces looted and blocked food aid from reaching people in Tigray. Eritrean forces have utilized famine as a weapon of war by preventing Tigrayans from receiving humanitarian aid, slaughtering livestock, and destroying agriculture in North and Western Tigray.

According to the former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, Eritrean forces and Ethiopian government aligned forces are deliberately preventing aid from reaching the millions of people living in areas under the control of the Tigray government.



Looted Tigrayan goods reportedly being transported to Eritrea

Destruction

In addition to looting critical infrastructure and Tigrayan wealth, Eritrean forces also destroyed all they could. This includes private residences, food silos, farming implements, factories, and public facilities. Critical infrastructure in Tigray, from water purification systems to factories, were destroyed by Eritrean forces who appeared to be following orders to inflict as much destruction as possible. Additionally, the Eritrean forces' systematic demolition and looting of cultural and religious landmarks has caused irreversible damage to the invaluable sites tied to Tigrayan heritage. Health facilities were also directly targeted by this campaign of looting and destruction, leaving the health system in Tigray completely collapsed.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

As the genocidal war on Tigray enters its second year, over five million people require urgent food assistance. Furthermore, the man-made famine is reaching extremely distressing levels as aid agencies repeatedly confront bureaucratic obstacles, security challenges, and a belligerent Ethiopian regime that besmirches their work, making the operating space nearly impossible for humanitarian workers on the ground. UNOCHA noted that the period between January 6 and 12, 2022 marked the "all-time lowest food distribution in Tigray as stock and fuel almost entirely exhausted reaching only about 10,000 people" [1], while more than 50,000 children are severely malnourished.

Ongoing Occupation

Occupying Eritrean forces brutalized and terrorized the people of Tigray for months until they were pushed out of most parts of Tigray in June 2021. However, it is critical to note that the homelands of the Irob and Kunama peoples, as well as parts of Western Tigray remain under the control of Eritrean forces, placing these populations under brutal occupation. Irob and Kunama populations, who faced attacks from Eritrean forces during the 1998 border war, have been subjected to egregious violence during the genocidal war on Tigray. These communities have faced occupation, massacres, SGBV, looting and have been forced to flee to save their lives. Given their relatively small size, the Irob and Kunama peoples are at serious risk of extinction as distinct communities. The annihilation of these groups, who are central to Tigrayan culture and society, is further evidence of the genocidal intent of the war on Tigray.



Eritrean troops have been spotted disguised as Ethiopian military

Eritrea's involvement in the war on Tigray has been characterized by widespread human rights abuses, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against Tigrayans and other Ethiopian citizens. Eritrea's involvement signifies an effort by Isaias to reestablish himself in East African geopolitics following twenty years of being a political pariah. The Eritrean army's indescribably harsh and merciless operation in Ethiopia, enabled and facilitated by Abiy's regime, is among the most egregious violations of international human rights laws and norms the world has seen in recent years.

There are few historical examples that can capture the level of ruthless violence the Eritrean state and Eritrean forces have unleashed on the people of Tigray. For a meaningful ceasefire and peace process to begin in Ethiopia, the immediate, verified withdrawal of Eritrean forces from all areas of Tigray is a non-negotiable starting point. Without the full removal of all invading forces fueling war in Tigray and other parts of Ethiopia, e.g., in the Afar region, neither national dialogue nor reconciliation can occur in Ethiopia. Moreover, the physical and psychological harm the Eritrean state and the Eritrean forces have inflicted on the people of Tigray demand justice and accountability in international court.

FAMINE

Because of the Ethiopian, Eritrean, Amhara, and Afar regional governments' ongoing siege of Tigray, the man-made famine in Tigray threatens the lives of millions of people, especially vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and the elderly. There are currently 5.5 million people in dire need of food assistance, while 3.9 million require health assistance. In February 2022, the Tigray External Affairs Office gathered data from 40% of the sub-districts in the region over a limited time frame and reported that more than 5,000 people have died as a result of a lack of food and medicine. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate for children in Tigray is 23.7%, which is much higher than the global threshold of 15%. Moreover, of the children assessed, 4.2% were diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), more than double the global threshold of 2%.

While these numbers are staggering, it is important to note that most parts of Tigray, particularly the rural areas, remain inaccessible in the face of an ongoing siege and the complete decimation of the healthcare system. Accordingly, only an exceptionally small percentage of the population, including children, have been accessed for screenings. The capacity of the regional government and NGOs to conduct large-scale operations has been heavily constrained by the lack of resources that the war and the ongoing siege has brought about. As such, the numbers presented here likely significantly underestimate the true scale of the humanitarian crisis. An accurate account of the impact of the famine in Tigray and aid for those affected cannot be provided until the deadly siege and communications blockade on the region is lifted.

FAMINE CONT. PAGE 14



As has been noted <u>before</u>, the famine in Tigray is entirely man-made, produced through a months-long campaign of destruction spearheaded by the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments, as well as their regional allies. In addition to the looting and destruction of crops, livestock, and supplies, forces allied with the Ethiopian government prevented aid convoys from entering into Tigray soon after declaring war in November 2020. During the 8 months they occupied Tigray, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces looted, diverted, and returned aid intended for the people of Tigray, intentionally exacerbating the man-made famine in the region.

After being driven out of most parts of Tigray by July 2021, these forces have persisted in their genocidal mission, enacting a blockade to stop the transportation of food, medicine, and fuel into Tigray. A measly 8% of the required 16,000 trucks of humanitarian supplies have entered Tigray since July 12, 2021, forcing humanitarian partners to severely reduce their operations in the region. Relief convoys have not reached Tigray since mid-December 2021, with devastating consequences for the population. In February 2022, the stock of therapeutic nutrition for malnourished children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers completely ran out, which means there are no therapeutic supplies in Tigray at all.

FAMINE CONT. PAGE 15

Alarmingly, two out of three humanitarian organizations that were carrying out school feeding programs have had to cease their programs in February 2022, citing lack of supplies and cash. The remaining humanitarian organization is rationing its supplies, distributing a single pack of food among two or three children to meet the overwhelming demand. Finally, since August 2, 2021, only two World Food Programme tankers of fuel have been allowed to enter Tigray. The blockade on food and fuel means that humanitarian organizations operating in the region have to reduce their already limited operations in Tigray.

On February 24, 2022, the president of the Afar Regional Government, Awol Arba, stated in a televised interview that he would not allow any humanitarian convoys to go through Afar into Tigray. The president of the Afar region not only admitted to the egregious crimes his regional government is committing by stopping life saving aid from reaching vulnerable people but also expressed his intention to continue doing so in the hopes of changing the political situation on the ground. This open admission of war crimes and crimes against humanity clearly lays out the regional government's plan to continue its campaign of genocide by starvation and demands a swift and decisive response from the international community. On February 26, 2022, the Tigray government's Department of Social Affairs stated that if humanitarian aid is not delivered by April 2022, close to half of Tigray's population would perish. "We are at the age of extinction," he said [2].

DISPLACEMENT

The war on Tigray has caused a large-scale displacement crisis, with 70,000+ Tigrayan refugees having fled to neighboring Sudan and over 2.2 million people displaced internally. IDPs, who often leave their homes having suffered or having been under the threat of violence, have to travel long distances to reach the relative safety of large cities. The host cities do not have the adequate infrastructure to receive the tens of thousands of displaced people that have entered. As such, many IDPs have had to seek shelter in schools, factories, and half-constructed buildings. In addition to the serious lack of shelter, IDPs also face the most severe consequences of the worsening famine. Because of the lack of resources due to the ongoing siege which has all but halted humanitarian organizations' operations in Tigray, IDPs have to depend on the generosity of host communities to survive. However, as the siege persists, host communities themselves face acute food shortages, leaving IDPs vulnerable to severe malnutrition and death.

DISPLACEMENT CONT.



Aster, Tesfay and their three children have been sharing a single-room shelter since their home in Adi Millen was burned down in May 2021

In addition to the difficulties they face due to the lack of resources, IDPs are also under threat of attack by the Ethiopian government, which is carrying out airstrikes on IDP camps. In early 2022, there were multiple airstrikes that injured and killed IDPs and refugees in Tigray. In early January 2022, UNICEF expressed its outrage at airstrikes on IDP camps that killed scores of civilians, including children. Similarly, there was widespread condemnation of the Ethiopian government's airstrikes on a camp for displaced people in the town of Dedebit, northwestern Tigray, which killed dozens and injured over a hundred people. Men, women, and children who have had to flee their homes after facing unimaginable violence are subjected to even more violence and attacks at the hands of the Ethiopian government.

In addition to people displaced within Tigray, there are also tens of thousands of Tigrayans seeking refuge in Sudan and other parts of Africa. Tigrayan refugees in Sudan face precarious conditions because of the lack of vital resources including food and shelter. There have been numerous disasters such as floods and fires that have destroyed shelters in refugee camps and left refugees without shelter for considerable periods. It is vital that international organizations allocate the resources and personnel necessary to provide the support that refugees in Sudan desperately need.

WEAPONIZED SGBV - ONGOING LACK OF SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

Invading forces systematically used rape as a weapon of war in the genocidal war against Tigrayans. While supporters of the Ethiopian regime propagate the harmful lie that rape was an endemic, pre-existing issue in Tigray prior to the genocidal war, they deny and dismiss the harrowing reports of genocidal rape, gang rape, and sexual slavery that marked the SGBV in Tigray as among the most atrocious in contemporary history.

The Tigray Health Bureau and Mekelle University reported that more than 120,000 women and girls, located in liberated areas of Tigray, aged 15-49, had been raped by Ethiopian, Eritrean and Amhara forces during the eight months of invasion and occupation of large swaths of Tigray. It is important to note that this figure does not capture the full scale of the SGBV in Tigray as it does not include Western Tigray, Eritrean occupied areas, boys and men, and the many that go uncounted because of a devastating war that has resulted in the near-total collapse of the region's healthcare system.



WEAPONIZED SGBV - ONGOING LACK OF SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) found that in Tigray, the lack of supplies and cash has significantly impacted the provision of services to SGBV survivors with some health facilities, including One-Stop Centers, indicating, among others, a critical shortage of antiretroviral medication for people living with HIV/AIDS, for prevention of mother to child transmission of the virus, and pre-and post-exposure prophylaxis for survivors of sexual violence. SGBV survivors desperately need prevention and response interventions, including health services and supplies, SGBV case management, dignity kits, post-rape treatment, safe spaces, and mental health support. Since July 2021, UNFPA sexual and reproductive health kits have not entered the Tigray region, as some emergency obstetric procedures such as C-sections are close to suspension. To respond to the dire needs of SGBV survivors, humanitarian aid and supplies must enter Tigray in a consistent and unimpeded manner.

REGIONAL AND GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS

The United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) Amina Mohammed took part in a 5-day trip to Ethiopia. She participated in the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa and visited Tigray, Amhara, Somali, and Afar regions. The DSG declared Ethiopia to be in "a much better place" to resolve the war in Tigray, as she found "there is much more conversation and dialogue and talk around the national dialogue itself and the way to peace." While the international community seems optimistic that a dialogue and negotiated settlement will be pursued to end the war in Tigray, there have not been significant changes to indicate negotiations and dialogue will be achieved in a manner that will bring forth sustained peace. For example, the selection of the National Dialogue Commission members was not only done in an opaque manner, but it should have been inclusive of, and informed by, all parties that would take part in the negotiations.

While Abiy stated in a February 2022 address to parliament that he will not rule out the possibility of negotiation with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), there are inconsistent statements coming from the Ethiopian regime, where high ranking officials state that TPLF will not take part in negotiations. Members of the international community must be aware that these divergent positions from the Ethiopian regime could be a tactic used to buy time and stave off criticism. The international community, while continuing to push for a cessation of hostilities and a negotiated settlement, must look and believe in actions—not just words.

Additionally, the international community should not ignore the role of Eritrea in the genocidal war on Tigray. If there is any chance of a successful negotiated peace settlement to take place in Ethiopia, the withdrawal of Eritrean military and intelligence forces from Ethiopia must be ensured as a prerequisite for lasting peace and stability.

CALL TO ACTION

The international community faces challenges the likes of which have not been seen in recent history. In addition to the numerous wars, conflicts, and humanitarian emergencies we have seen in the last few years, in 2022, we are witnessing blatant attacks on the international order that has thus far managed to introduce a certain degree of global security, justice, and accountability. The strong, albeit imperfect international order based on mutual respect, interdependence, and the defense of human rights is increasingly under threat by dictators and autocrats across the world. As advocates and human rights activists have been warning for years, inaction and apathy only embolden dictators to flagrantly violate the fundamental tenets of international human rights.

A policy of appeasement is doomed to failure when utilized against ruthless dictators who undertake wars of expansion, invade and massacre civilians, and carry out a genocidal campaign, as Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia and Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea have done for more than 16 months in Tigray. Quiet toleration or only rhetorical condemnation of these violations is not only inadequate but also dangerous in the precedent it sets, as it assures those who want to commit similar atrocities that they will be met with little to no resistance.

Therefore, we are calling on the international community to take immediate and decisive action by demanding:

- 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 protection of Tigrayans who are facing ethnic cleansing in occupied Western Tigray;
- Implementation of economic sanctions on Ethiopian and Eritrean government officials to increase pressure to end the siege;

CALL TO ACTION

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- **Halt bilateral and multilateral trade relations** with Ethiopia and Eritrea and prohibit new investments in either country;
- **Immediate restoration of all essential services,** including banking, electricity, telecommunications, transportation, and trade in Tigray;
- An immediate end to the state-sanctioned ethnic profiling and ethnically-motivated attacks against Tigrayans living across Ethiopia, including evictions, firings, arbitrary arrests, detention, forced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial execution;
- Release of all Tigrayans detained on the basis of their identity, including journalists, 22,000 Tigrayan ENDF members, and Tigrayans deported from Saudi Arabia;
- Swift funding and implementation of the independent investigation, which should include investigations of drone supplying actors and linked atrocities:
- 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 government of Tigray and other relevant stakeholders; and
- Official recognition of 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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