



# Tigray

POPULATION, HISTORY, AND THE CURRENT GENOCIDE

# TIGRAY OVERVIEW

GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION, AND HISTORY





# GEOGRAPHY



- ▶ Tigray is the northernmost region of the second most populous country in Africa, Ethiopia. It is landlocked and bordered to the north and west by Eritrea and Sudan, and to the east and west by the Afar and Amhara regions of Ethiopia.

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- ▶ Tigray is known for its mountainous terrains that have often helped the people protect their territory from invaders, such as the Greeks, the Turkish, and the Italians.

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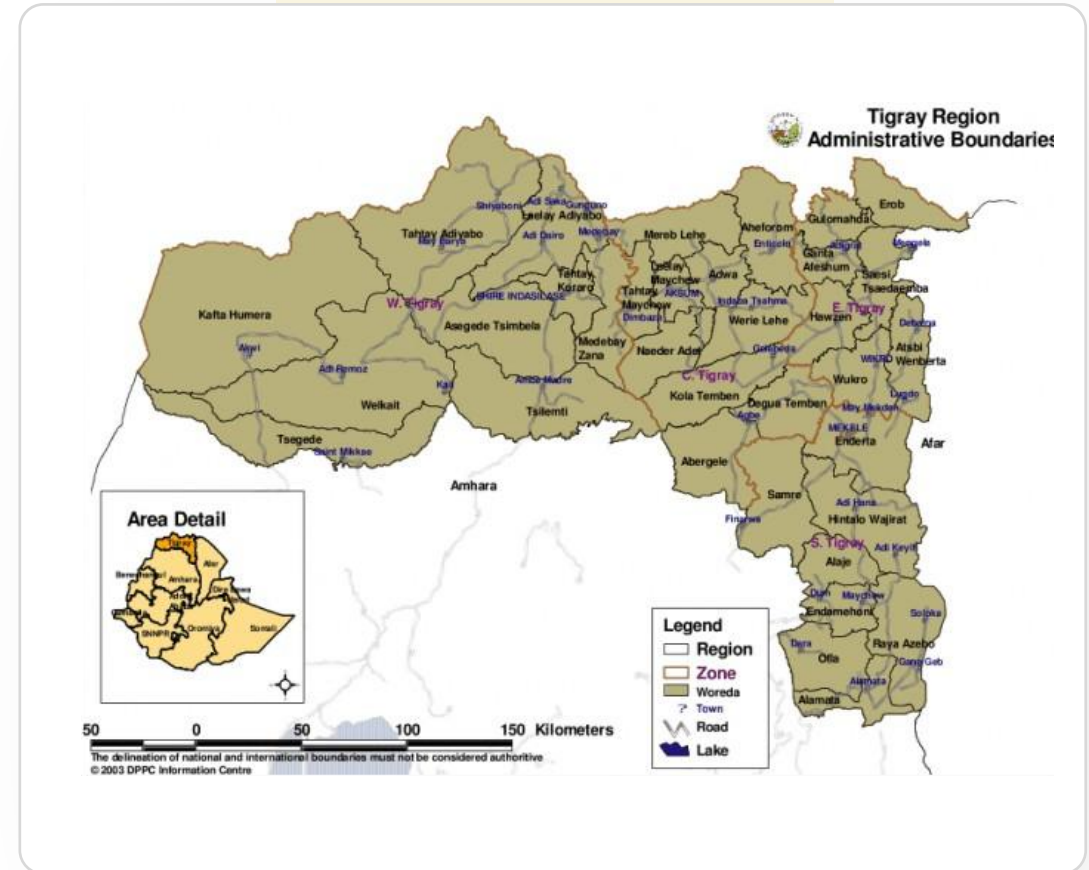
- ▶ Tigray is the 5th largest region in Ethiopia based on population, and is comparable in land size to Costa Rica.

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- ▶ Tigray is a geo-politically strategic region in the Horn of Africa, particularly for trade. It is rich in minerals, gemstones, and potentially petroleum shales.

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- ▶ Mekelle is the capital Tigray which is home to Emperor Yohannes IV, who was the emperor of Ethiopia in the late 1800s. Once the mecca of northern trade, Tigray now serves as an intellectual and political hub within the Horn of Africa. Other key towns in Tigray are Adigrat, Adwa, Axum, Shire, Humera, Wukro, Abiy Adi, and Alamata.



# PEOPLE: ETHNICITIES

(TIGRAYAN, IROB, AND KUNAMA)



- The total population stands at 7.1 million people based on the last recorded census. Some estimate the population may be as large as 10 million.
- Tigrigna is the official language of Tigray and the most widely spoken. However, other spoken languages are Saho, Kunama, and Amharic.
- Tigrayans make up 97% of the total population of Tigray. The other 3 percent of the population is composed of Irob, Kunama, Oromo, Amharu, Afar, and Agaw







# A WAR FOUGHT IN THE DARK

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE WAR ON TIGRAY





## CRISIS-REWIND: THE QEERROO OROMO MOVEMENT



The common misconception of the war often revolves around the genesis. The Ethiopian central government claims that the conflict began in September 2020, after Tigray held regional elections, but it arguably started brewing in 2014 if not earlier for a variety of complex reasons.

- In 2014, ethnic Oromo youth began demonstrating against the EPRDF, the ruling political party since 1991, demanding more political representation, fair elections, and the elimination of land grab and violent suppression of political dissidents.
- The mass uprisings were met with harsh militaristic government response, which led to the resignation of PM Hailemariam Desalegn in 2018.
- Abiy Ahmed Ali, the third chairman of the EPRDF and leader of the Oromo Democratic Party (OPD) was selected by fellow members of EPRDF to lead the country's transitional government until scheduled elections in 2020.
- PM Ahmed quickly became renowned for his swift and drastic socio-political reforms.



# ETHIOPIA-ERITREA “PEACE TREATY”

## UNLIKELY ALLIANCES



As part of his reform agenda, PM Abiy Ahmed promised to normalize relations with former foe and neighbor, Eritrea. Ethiopia and Eritrea have had a hostile relationship since the 1998 Badme War, a brutal 2 year border war with nearly 100,000 casualties.

- A verbal peace treaty was exchanged, in which PM Ahmed promised to return disputed territories on the Tigray-Eritrea border without consulting or including Tigray’s regional government the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF). The TPLF and the Eritrean government are hardened foes as a result of the 1998 war.
- People rejoiced when borders opened as families were able to reunite. PM Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean dictator, Isaias Afewerki, superficial relationship developed. Following the opening of the border Eritrean refugees began flooding into Tigray in order to escape the dictatorial regime and shortly thereafter the borders closed.
- Both leaders would often be seen visiting each other's military bases as the TPLF and central government's relationship deteriorated.





# ASSASSINATIONS THAT ROCKED THE NATION



PM Abiy Ahmed's rise to power was met with violence as there was a grenade assassination attempt two months into his reign in June of 2018.

On July 26, 2018, the lead engineer of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project, Simegnaw Bekele, was shot dead in Addis Ababa. He had privately disclosed that the PM was trying to undermine the internationally contested project.

On June 22, 2019, there were **a series of assassinations that further exacerbated the growing instability and rising ethnic tensions** in the nation:

Amhara regional president, Ambachew Mekonnen, and two of his advisors in Bahir Dar, Amhara Province.

General Seare Mekonnen, chief of staff of Ethiopia's military, and retired general Gezai Abera, in Addis Ababa. Both were ethnic Tigrayans with close ties to TPLF.

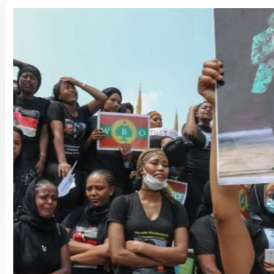
PM Office linked both of these assassinations to an ethnocentrist Amhara regional security chief (Asaminew) that was placed in power by PM Abiy Ahmed. He was killed in military gunfire and his accomplice allegedly committed suicide.



# ASSASSINATIONS THAT ROCKED THE NATION

## CONTINUED

- On June 20, 2020, renowned Oromo activist and singer, Hachalu Hundessa was shot in Addis Ababa. He was killed a week after criticizing PM Ahmed's superficial reforms. His death sparked mass protests in which 239 youth were killed by police and military forces.
- **All of these assassinations have two things in common:**
  - **(1)** The victims privately or publicly criticized PM Abiy Ahmed; and
  - **(2)** The results of the investigations into these assassinations were highly controversial as to who the perpetrators were. Leading many to be skeptical of the integrity of the investigation.



# THE RISE OF THE PROSPERITY PARTY, OPPOSITION ANNIHILATION, & THREAT TO THE FEDERATION



Although PM Abiy Ahmed was selected to lead EPRDF's reform agenda, he quickly moved to distance himself from the party and the country's controversial multi-nationalist constitution.

In 2019, PM Ahmed dissolved the EPRDF coalition and formed the Prosperity Party.

By 2020, all regions in Ethiopia, except for Tigray, had a president appointed by the Prime Minister.

This exacerbated further uprisings amongst the ongoing democratic struggles in Oromia, Qimant, Wolayta, Benishangul Gumuz, and Sidama to which the government and regional police responded with violent suppression, which resulted in massacres and mass displacement in the millions.

The TPLF, the leading party of Tigray, did not agree with the Prosperity Party's reform methodology and felt like it strayed from federalism, disregarded the democratic reform process, and side-lined ethnic minorities, including Tigrayans.



# ESCALATING TENSIONS



PM Abiy Ahmed responded to TPLF's refusal to join the Prosperity Party by further sidelining the TPLF, purging many of ethnic Tigrayan officials from the federal government, and also arresting Tigrayan officials.

- TPLF's call for inclusive dialogue and release of political prisoners were not reciprocated by the PM.
- PM Abiy Ahmed postponed the 2020 elections in August, by using COVID-19 as a justification. TPLF called it unconstitutional and an attempt to extend his term and consolidate power.
- PM Abiy Ahmed warned TPLF that if they were to hold regional elections, a conflict would ensue and "mothers would mourn and buildings would be destroyed."
- Tigray's regional government decided to move forward by holding elections in September. TPLF won by a landslide.
- The federal government called the elections unconstitutional and TPLF illegitimate. In response, **they withheld social welfare funds, refused to release a budget, and confiscated locust fighting machinery** during the worst locust-outbreak in decades.

- On Nov. 4, 2020, PM Abiy Ahmed declared a “law and order” operation to disband the elected Tigray regional government claiming the TPLF attacked a northern military base.
- The PM enforced a telecommunication shutdown on the entire region and asserted that the domestic operation would not kill any civilians and would only last 3-5 days.
- PM's Office suspended the licenses of BBC and Reuters, two of the largest international media organizations covering the conflict.
- As the conflict worsened, PM Abiy rebuffed any suggestions of mediation by the African Union. TPLF leadership continued requesting negotiations and an all inclusive dialogue.
- On Nov. 21, 2020, the Ethiopian military warned civilians that there would be “no mercy” if the residents don't “save themselves” during a final offensive to capture the capital Mekelle. Shortly after, the PM declared the war was over, despite the numerous reports of continued fighting, in an attempt to suppress the international attention on the war.
- The federal government repeatedly denied claims of Eritrean forces involvement in the war, however, after mounting evidence was revealed, government officials from both Ethiopia and Eritrea publicly admitted to Eritrea's presence in Tigray.
- During a speech, Abiy Ahmed stated on Nov. 3rd between 10-10:30 pm, he secretly sent 500 commandos to Mekelle in a surprise attack. Additionally, a General admitted that they were preparing for war before the alleged attack by TPLF.



## THE FACADE OF THE "LAW AND ORDER" OPERATION AGAINST TPLF





# REALITIES OF A WAR FOUGHT IN THE DARK

AS OF JUNE 1, 2021



The war was not simply against a political party that would last less than a week. The war has lasted over 200 days with widespread electricity and internet blackouts throughout Tigray.

Over 2.2 million Tigrayans are internally displaced and over 70,000 are refugees in Sudan. Tigrayans outside of Tigray are facing ethnic-profiling, getting fired, having their accounts frozen, being persecuted, and are being arrested in mass.

Over 100,000 Eritrean refugees who were in Tigray were also made targets during the conflict.

Thousands of Tigrayans were killed by aerial bombardments and brutal massacres, in genocidal attacks at the hands of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), extremist Amhara Militias, Amhara FANO militia, Amhara Special Forces, and Eritrean Defense Forces.

The federal government refuses to grant unrestricted humanitarian access to Tigray to address the needs of 5.2 million people at risk of starving to death. 9 humanitarian workers have been killed by Ethiopia and its allied forces so far.

What was originally claimed to be a domestic law and order operation has caused a humanitarian catastrophe fraught with war crimes, ethnic-based persecutions, and genocide.



# HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN TIGRAY

EXPLAINED





## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN TIGRAY

November 2020 - Present (June 2021)



Since the unelected Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, and Eritrean dictator Isaias Afwerki waged war on Tigray on November 4, 2020, Tigrayans have endured ethnic cleansing and genocide by population displacement, starvation, intentional destruction of Tigray's healthcare facilities, access restrictions to essential medical needs, mass killings and among other war crimes.

Tigrayans have also been affected by the loss of livelihoods, damaged or looted properties, crippled infrastructure, and collapsed markets.

Eritrean and Ethiopian forces have violated Article 8 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions by committing different forms of war crimes.

Although the war crimes being committed in Tigray today are evident, unelected PM Ahmed began crippling Tigray soon after he came to power in 2018 in less obvious ways. He allowed road blockades to Tigray, reduced Tigray's budget, blocked tourism and investment in Tigray, and obstructed the fight against locust infestation.





# POPULATION DISPLACEMENT



Over a million people have been forced to leave their homes in Tigray since the beginning of the war.

Over 70,000 people—31 percent of which are children—have fled to Sudan since the beginning of the conflict in Tigray.

“Latest [Tigrayan refugee] arrivals tell of being caught in the conflict and being victims of various armed groups, facing perilous situations including looting of their houses, forceful recruitment of men and boys, sexual violence against women and girls.” - UNHCR News, January 2021

Over 2.2 million Tigrayans are internally displaced within the region—scattered across towns, remote areas, or trapped between localized outbreaks of fighting.

In Shire, Tigray, there are over 50,000 internally displaced women and children sheltering in schools and other abandoned buildings without fuel, running water, and food.

“Many families were separated as they fled, and there were many unaccompanied or separated children. Many families reported deep psychosocial distress and said they did not feel it was safe to return home, speaking of a persistent and pervasive fear of present and future harm.”  
UNICEF, February 2021



# LACK OF ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES



People throughout Tigray are dying  
due to a lack of essential services.

Many Tigray residents lack adequate  
access to food, fuel, water, and  
medicines.



The Ethiopian government continues to intentionally obstruct unfettered humanitarian access to Tigray, preventing the UN and other aid agencies from moving personnel and goods in Tigray.

There is also a complete internet blackout with scattered phone access in Tigrayan cities, electricity outages, and severe limited access to financial services in most of Tigray.



## HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION



The historic locust infestation in 2020 and COVID-19 had already challenged food security in the region when this war began and further worsened food security in Tigray.

“The Ethiopian Red Cross warned earlier in February that without improved humanitarian access to a region where 80 percent of the population of six million is still unreachable, tens of thousands of people could starve to death after two months.” - Aljazeera, February 20, 2021

**Over 4.5 million Tigrayans are at risk of starvation. Over 2 million children remain cut off from necessary emergency humanitarian assistance.**

UNICEF has dispatched 655 metric tons of emergency supplies but the majority of Tigrayans living in rural areas are still inaccessible.



# HEALTHCARE EMERGENCIES



The war on Tigray has caused a massive healthcare emergency affecting over 6 million people.

Millions of people without life-saving medication are either dying at home or traveling for days on foot to reach Mekelle where there is a functioning hospital. - MSF, January 29, 2021

The decimation of the healthcare infrastructure has forced pregnant women to deliver their babies in hazardous environments and many others have died from preventable diseases.

“A 55-year-old mother died in Mekelle in [December 2020] after the family was unable to find insulin.” - Reuters, February 8, 2021

With limited medical resources and space, the risk of a cholera and/or COVID-19 outbreak is considerably high in cities across Tigray.



# MORE WAR CRIMES



Witnesses have accused Amhara militias, Eritrean troops and Ethiopian troops of mass looting, killing, and sexual assaults. With the communication shutdown, it is difficult to assess the true extent of crimes being committed in Tigray.



Refugee camps have faced destruction of infrastructure, forcing already vulnerable groups of people to flee to other camps. Validated satellite images have shown the destruction of two refugee camps Hotseats and Shi melba that hosted around 25,000 refugees.

Eritrean forces took control of refugee camps where Eritreans who had fled Eritrea's dictator had taken refuge. There are valid concerns that these Eritrean refugees were returned to Eritrea in violation of the 1951 Convention of the Status of Refugees of which Ethiopia is a signatory.



The impending violence has also had devastating impacts on women in Tigray with numerous reports of sexual and gender-based violence. This is highly worrisome with the lack of humanitarian access, limited capacity of medical centres, and shortages of rape kits and HIV medication.



# DESTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURES AND RELIGIOUS SITES



The Ethiopian and Eritrean forces have been targeting institutions that uphold a society, with the destruction of schools, hospitals, factories, churches, mosques, and looting of ancient manuscripts that detail Tigrayan history and culture. We are witnessing a cultural genocide in real time.

Religious sites are an integral part of Tigrayan culture and history. In hopes of destroying Tigrayan identity, Eritrean and Ethiopian forces have looted and destroyed ancient churches, mosques, and religious manuscripts.

Cultural heritage sites such as the Al-Nejashi mosque, believed to be the first mosque built in Africa during the time of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), experienced shelling and looting by Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers.

Historically significant rock-hewn churches such as the Debre-Damo Monastery have sustained drone attacks and have been destroyed in the war.

# THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT'S DENIAL AND INACTION



- The Ethiopian government has failed the people of Tigray. The Ethiopian government continues to deny the extent of the crisis in Tigray.
- **Despite 80 percent of Tigray being completely cut off from aid agencies and the world, the Ethiopian Health Minister reported that conditions were rapidly improving as they were working to restore health systems in Tigray. - Reuters, February 2021.**
- Although the Ethiopian Government signed an agreement with the UN in November 2020 to allow unimpeded humanitarian access, the UN and other aid agencies only have access to 20 percent of Tigray. Millions of dollars of resources are waiting to be disbursed.
- The situation in Tigray requires immediate action from the international community as it has the potential to be one of the most catastrophic humanitarian disasters in modern history.





EXPLAINED

# WEAPONIZED SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN TIGRAY



# WEAPONIZED SGBV DURING THE WAR ON TIGRAY



Since the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments waged war on the regional state of Tigray on November 4, 2020, there have been countless reports about the high numbers of rape and sexual violence committed on Tigrayan girls and women by Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Amhara forces.



The impacts of the war have been exacerbated by a telecommunication and internet blackout in most of Tigray, blockage of humanitarian assistance to most of Tigray, disconnections to electricity and water, and severely limited access to financial services.



The Ethiopian government has also refused mediation efforts, blocked international media coverage of the war on Tigray, and suspended the licenses of BBC and Reuters from Ethiopia.



Although the Ethiopian government labeled the war on Tigray as a “law and order operation” to disband the elected Tigray regional government, many reports have revealed that over 70,000 Tigrayans have fled to Sudan seeking asylum due to bombing, killing, and rape by Ethiopian and Eritrean troops. Women and children are bearing the brunt of the war.



Families of Weaponized SGBV survivors, international aid/medical workers in Tigray, Tigrayan medical workers, doctors in refugee camps in Sudan, and Ethiopian military officials have confirmed the increasing number of SGBV survivors in Tigray. Reports of these allegations from Tigray are coming from the capital city of Mekelle, where some telecommunication has been restored.





## EVIDENCE OF WEAPONIZED SGBV DURING THE WAR ON TIGRAY



Doctors in Sudan treating Tigrayan refugee women have recounted harrowing stories from survivors of weaponized SGBV. Hundreds of women who fled to refugee camps in Sudan when the conflict broke out have reported being raped by invading forces prior to fleeing their hometowns or on their way to refugee camps in Sudan.



Most of these women have confessed to being forced to choose between rape or death. Others were raped in exchange for basic commodities, such as water and food.



Hospitals and aid agencies operating out of Tigray estimate thousands of women have been raped by Eritrean and Ethiopian soldiers.



A 25-year-old woman who was given a harrowing ultimatum between rape or life by a soldier, ended up being raped with a gun held to her head. International and national aid workers have described receiving similar reports of abuse in Tigray (Choose - I Kill You or Rape you: Abuse Accusations Surge in Ethiopia's War) -- Reuters, January, 22 2021

**"In Shire, Eritrean soldiers raped and killed a 20-year old autistic woman, killed her 14-year old sister, and raped their 60-year old mother. When the mother asked them to kill her too, they responded: no, we want you to cry."** Interview with survivors' family

# ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO SGBV IN TIGRAY



Military officers and appointed interim Tigray officials have acknowledged the issue on national TV.

January 9, 2021: Ethiopian national TV showed a military officer admitting to rape allegations in Mekelle, after the Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers took control. He went on to say that rape is expected to occur in conflict.

Ethiopia's Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth seems to have turned a blind eye on weaponized SGBV in Tigray. In fact, they are "investigating" the legitimacy of these SGBV claims without any urgency.

January 26, 2021: The Ministry denied Suballocations on local radio, saying the claims were unfounded. — Ahadu Radio, Ethiopia

January 29, 2021: In a Twitter post, Minister Abdullahi Ahmed announced the Ministry's plans to investigate sexual violence allegations "in the northern region" through a special Task Force, without acknowledging SGBV in Tigray: "The task force will be on a fact finding mission to investigate and ascertain facts on the ground."



**Filsan Abdullahi Ahmed** 🇪🇹🇧🇪 @1\_filsan · Jan 29

We met with the gender directorate within the Ethiopian military, as a response to the raised concerns over violence against women in the northern region, we have established a special Task Force comprised of teams from our ministry and the military 1/2

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**Filsan Abdullahi Ahmed** 🇪🇹🇧🇪 @1\_filsan · Jan 29

The task force will be on a fact finding mission to investigate and ascertain facts on the ground.

This Gov't. has a zero tolerance policy against any form of sexual violence, the attorney general is also working closely with our joined special Task Force. 2/2 #MOWCY #Ethiopia







## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO WEAPONIZED SGBV IN TIGRAY



- The European External Programme with Africa (EEPA) reported: "countless number of women and survivors of physical and sexual abuse and rape, including gang rape and other forms of violence and brutality" -- Situation Report EEPA Horn No. 42, January 2, 2021.
- The UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten said that she was "greatly concerned by serious allegations including 'a high number of alleged rapes in the Tigrayan capital Mekelle."
- There are also disturbing reports of individuals allegedly forced to rape members of their own family, under threats of imminent violence. Some women also reportedly been forced by military elements to have sex in exchange for basic commodities."  
--January 21, 2021

# URGENT CALL TO ACTION



- The Ethiopian and Eritrean governments are weaponizing rape and endangering the lives of women and girls in Tigray.
- Although the United Nations' recognition of weaponized SGBV crimes in Tigray is a significant step forward, it is not enough to ensure the protection of millions of women and girls who are at risk of weaponized SGBV.
- We are calling for an immediate stop to the crimes being committed on Tigrayan women and girls during this war. In order to put an end to these crimes, the international community must demand:

## IMMEDIATE END TO WEAPONIZED SGBV IN TIGRAY.

Instant and unimpeded humanitarian access into Tigray so that women and girls who are survivors of weaponized SGBV receive immediate provision of services (treatment) necessary by professionals.

Immediate withdrawal of Eritrean forces from Tigray and the Ethiopian government's call for

a ceasefire, in order to safeguard the physical security of women and girls and prevent future weaponized SGBV crimes.

Independent investigations into all weaponized SGBV that took place during the war so that perpetrators face justice.



"I am deeply concerned by the escalating violence and the hardening of regional and ethnic divisions in multiple parts of Ethiopia. The large-scale human rights abuses taking place in Tigray, including widespread sexual violence, are unacceptable and must end. Families of every background and ethnic heritage deserve to live in peace and security in their country."

**JOE BIDEN,**

President of The United States.



EXPLAINED

# WEAPONIZED STARVATION IN TIGRAY



# RECENT HISTORY OF WEAPONIZED STARVATION IN TIGRAY

HAILE SELASSIE



- The last imperial ruler of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, practiced a policy of concealment throughout his regime and deliberately ignored famines in the Tigray region in 1954-58, 1965-67 and again in Afar, Wollo and Tigray in 1973-74.
- Although famine posed a risk to the image of the imperial regime on the world stage during a period where the rest of the continent was fighting colonial powers, it was deliberately used as a tool of suppression where aid was withheld in areas that opposed imperial rule, especially the Tigrayan youth and peasants



## REPORTS OF FAMINE WERE CONSISTENTLY IGNORED OR DENIED.

Haile Selassie is often criticized for his indifference to hunger in multiple parts of Ethiopia. He was known to have lavish parties.

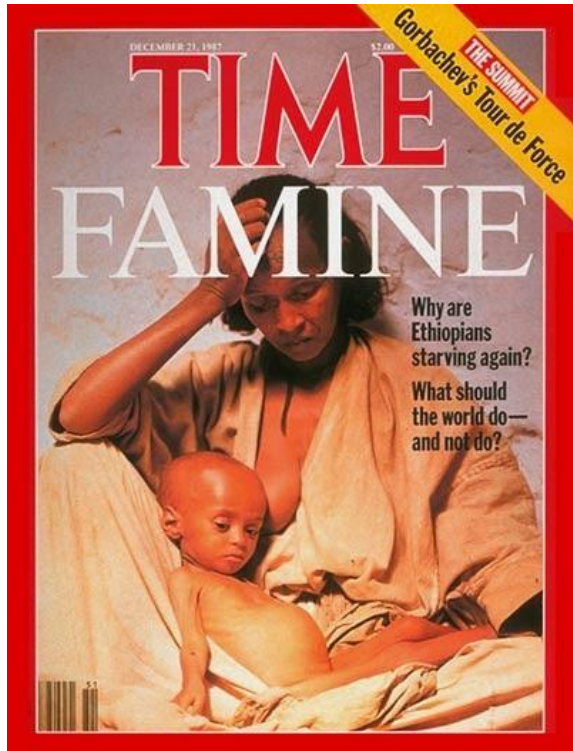
During the 1974 famine, Ethiopia maintained its position as net exporter of food for foreign capital gain while over 200,000 people died from famine.

This policy of indifference by the imperial regime was highlighted in a 1991 Human Rights Watch report: "[Haile Selassie's] attitude was that peasants always starve and nothing can be done, and that in any case it was not the Shewan Amhara who were dying."



# RECENT HISTORY OF WEAPONIZED STARVATION IN TIGRAY

## THE DERG



Many groups opposed the imperial regime. In 1974, a collection of opposition groups overthrew Emperor Haile Salessie. In 1977, a military junta, the Derg, quickly sought to consolidate power. It abolished the monarchy and worked to weaken political competitors through massacres and starvation.

**A widespread famine affected Ethiopia during the Derg regime (1983-1985), leaving over 1.2 million dead in the country.**

The 1984 famine in Tigray was orchestrated through the destruction of civilian lives, food production capacities, commerce, and forced resettlement.

During the 1984 famine, senior Derg officials were caught stating that "to kill the fish, you drain the water" to justify aggression towards certain political groups.

# RECENT HISTORY OF WEAPONIZED STARVATION IN TIGRAY

## THE DERG



In 1991, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that Tigray's famine during Derg in 1984 was utilized as a cover to the man-made famine that the Derg created. A Derg official was even caught saying that they were utilizing food supplies as a "counter-insurgency tool."

**According to the report, there were three elements that confirmed the famine was man made:**

Military campaign from the government to suppress the population beginning in 1980, including the contributions, forcible displacement of farmers, destruction of villages;

Bombing of Tigray starting mid 1980s (markets, villages, churches, schools, and farmers ploughing their land); and

The restriction of movement and trade in Tigray starting in 1980, including the restriction on grain trade, implemented to increase the price of grain in Tigray and intended to target the TPLF and its supporters.



# CURRENT DAY WEAPONIZED STARVATION IN TIGRAY



**IMPACT:** More than 4.5 million people need emergency food in Tigray.

**CONTEXT:** Since PM Ahmed declared war on Tigray on November 4, 2020, over 70,000 civilians have fled into Sudan. Banks and phone lines are limited and constantly cut off and back on. There is a critical shortage of medicine, fuel, and cash, and famine is imminent.

## **JANUARY 8, 2021:**

Tigray administrators and NGO officials confirmed that without aid, hundreds of thousands may starve to death. People are already dying from starvation and unclean water.

## **JANUARY 2021:**

A Doctors Without Borders official said that in the towns of Adigrat, Adwa, and Axum, the level of civilian casualties is extremely high.

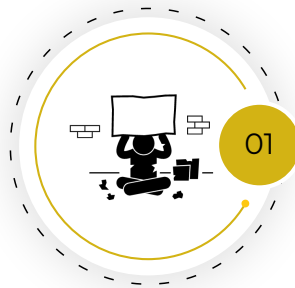
**THE ELDERLY ARE DYING IN THEIR SLEEP.**



# CURRENT DAY WEAPONIZED STARVATION IN TIGRAY



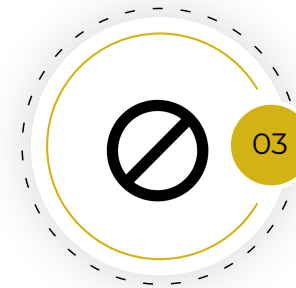
**CAUSES:** Eritrean troops looted markets, small shops, and residences in the past seven months. Eritrean troops and the Amhara militia also burnt crops that were ready for harvestation. Satellite imageries have confirmed the destruction of crops and the U.N. World Food Programme compound at one refugee camp.



"Ethiopia's government appears to be wielding hunger as a weapon as the Tigray region is "being starved into submission." - The Economist, January 2021



According to the UN, this is a human made tragedy, with purposeful 'red tape' created by the Ethiopian Ministry of Peace. **"Plenty of food is available. Charities and UN agencies have been trying to get supplies through for months. But Ethiopia's Orwellian Ministry of Peace has sent them on a paper chase for permits."**



UN Humanitarian Chief, Mark Lowcock, states: "For more than two months there has been essentially no access to Tigray... There are 450 tonnes of supplies we've been trying to get in that are stuck."

**CHALLENGES:** During the war, Tigray's infrastructure (roads, hospitals, government/NGO buildings) were also destroyed. Efforts to provide food aid and medical care to those in need will be a challenge.

# DESTRUCTION OF TIGRAY'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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According to MSF, prior to the war, Tigray had one of the best health systems in Ethiopia with relatively well-equipped and well-functioning hospitals as well as referral systems throughout the region.

2

As a result of the war, Tigray's health system has completely collapsed due to widespread and deliberate looting, vandalizing, as well as total destruction of health facilities by Eritrean and Ethiopian troops.

3

**"I've been doing this work for a long time and I've never seen the complete collapse of a healthcare system as in Tigray. It's shocking."** — Médecins Sans Frontières emergency manager on the ground, April 2021

4

Time magazine has reported that more than 82 percent of health centers are not functioning, and there is limited access to the few remaining functional hospitals due to ambulances being looted, set on fire or turned into military vehicles by the Eritrean and Ethiopian armies. — March 25, 2021

5

Many of the standing health facilities are also experiencing basic medical supplies and equipment shortages.

6

Some of the functioning hospitals are inaccessible to civilians because they have been turned into military camps for the Eritrean troops, or are only open to military personnel.

7

Additionally, many healthcare providers have been displaced or are unable to work without compensation as a result of the war. Hence, there is a dire shortage of healthcare personnel throughout the region.

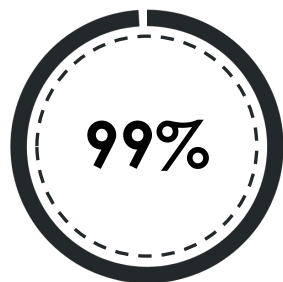
# DATA ANALYTICS



OF STATE AND PRIVATE  
UNIVERSITIES LOOTED AND  
DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR



OF HEALTH FACILITIES LOOTED,  
VANDALIZED OR DESTROYED



OF AMBULANCES STOLEN,  
TAKEN TO ERITREA OR  
DESTROYED

CHILDREN NEEDING  
ASSISTANCE

2.3M+

INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PEOPLES

2.2M+

70,000+

5.2M+

70,000+

CILINILAS KILLED

IN DIRE NEED OF  
EMERGENCY FOOD  
(~91% OF TIGRAY)

REFUGEE COUNT IN  
SUDAN





**THANK YOU**