

END THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA

Over the last three months, thousands of innocent men, women and children have been raped, killed and starved by their own government in the Tigray region of Northern Ethiopia based solely on their ethnicity and the crisis is growing worse by the day. We must act to prevent further atrocities.

Background

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed assumed office in 2018 under a coalition agreement between four regional political parties that included the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Ethiopia had long suffered from both internal ethnic rivalries and a 20-year conflict with neighboring Eritrea. Ahmed came to power under the promise of ending these various conflicts, and he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for making peace with Eritrea

Sadly, instead of using peace with Eritrea as a springboard to resolve Ethiopia's internal ethnic divisions, Ahmed used calm on Ethiopia's Northern border as cover to systematically oust TPLF supporters from government positions, ultimately commencing a military offensive against the TPLF in the Tigray region. Worse, the peace accord has resulted in an unholy alliance between the two governments to destroy the Tigrayan people. Based on eye-witness reports, both Eritrean and Ethiopian military forces have turned their fire in concert on ethnic Tigray civilians, killing, raping and mutilating innocent civilians, blocking food and medicine from reaching the affected population, and blacking out power and communications in the region.

The Current Crisis

The conflict in Tigray has now become a full-blown humanitarian crisis:

- More than 50,000 civilians have been killed
- More than 60,000 civilians in external refugee camps
- More than 4.5 million people (over 2 million children) without food
- More than 2.2 million internally displaced civilians

We applaud Secretary of State Tony Blinken for expressing the "grave concern" of the United States over "the humanitarian crisis in the Tigray region" and for urging the "immediate, full, and unhindered humanitarian access to prevent further loss of life" in his call yesterday with Prime Minister Ahmed. We also support the UN Security Council's call yesterday for humanitarian access to the region.