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The Government of National Regional State of Tigray
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Office of the President

001. 6 NOV. 2020

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H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa

President of the Republic of South Africa

Chairperson of the African Union

Pretoria

Excellency,

Ethiopia, a country that was the pride of Africa for its striding social and economic development and spearheading the perennial aspiration of the African people for peace, development and dignified life, is in a deep political and constitutional crisis. Dr. Abiy Ahmed who came to power with the mandate of expanding the political space, building on the achievements of the past and playing an even greater role in African affairs has betrayed the trust of his people and is leading the country into anarchy and disintegration.

Mr. President,

Tigrai has from the start tried to resolve the political problem that has now evolved into a crisis, through available party and government mechanisms. It didn't succeed. The ruling group continued to deconstruct the federal system and instituted a unitary system in its place by appointing its own viceroys in all federal states except Tigrai. Since Dr. Abiy Ahmed came to power, he has been at war with the Oromo, Benshangual Gumuz and Southern Peoples, nations and nationalities. The whole purpose of this senseless war has been silencing opposition voices and stifling the just demands of the people for self-

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ብ·ግሪ⋅ይ Tigrai መጀሪቲ ዲሞክራሲ፣ ሰሳምን ሰናይ ተሚያጠዕሐት ትግራይ ምርአይ።››

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The Government of National Regional State of Tigray ቤት ዕሕዴት ርእስ ምምሕጻር Office of the President

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administration. The war now is between the regime on the one hand and the rest of the Ethiopian people on the other.

Tigrai and other progressive and federalist forces called for a comprehensive and an all-inclusive dialogue to address the crisis the ruling clique had created when it indefinitely cancelled the constitutionally sanctioned election. Again our plea for a peaceful resolution of the constitutional crisis was contemptuously ignored. The regime rather focused on penalizing Tigrai and incarcerating leaders of major opposition parties who opposed its unconstitutional decision. Since the expiry of the term of the current administration in 6 October 2020, the country is plunged into an even deeper constitutional and political crisis. It is my opinion that the silence of the international community, including the AU, has emboldened the ruling clique and has contributed to the further deterioration of the situation.

Excellency,

In the last two and half years, the Tigrai National Regional State has patiently withstood the many economic and security pressures from the administration in Addis Ababa. It simply focused on calling and mobilizing domestic and international partners to help resolve the crisis. The regime's recent policy actions aren't, however, helping the efforts to peacefully break the impasse. It has chosen to escalate its discriminatory and bellicose policy against Tigrai and in the process has further complicated the problem.

What is more worrying is the regime is currently conspiring with a foreign state, Eritrea, to launch a military offensive against the people of Tigrai for the simple reason that the ligrai

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people had opposed the indefinite postponement of the national election and exercised their right to choose their leaders . The two governments have been for long coordinating their actions against Tigrai and have now jointly mobilized their forces and deployed them near the Tigrai border with the intention of launching a full-fledged military offensive. The parliament has also declared a state of emergency on Tigrai and has decided to administer Tigrai under military command. The behavior of Dr. Abiy Ahmed is evidently unconstitutional, dictatorial and treasonous.

Mr. President,

Dr. Abiy Ahmed's one man dictatorial regime has started to unravel the constitutionally established state institutions. He is also endangering the unity of this ancient country. The Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces has condemned the unconstitutional behavior of the administration in Addis Ababa and has stood on the side of the people of Tigrai to defend the constitutional order and foil his conspiratorial dealings with a foreign state against his own people.

Excellency,

The illegitimate government has declared war on the Ethiopian people. A country that was known for its internal harmony and peace keeping operations in Africa, is heading in to an inevitable collapse with its attendant consequences to the whole region. I would like to once again inform your Excellency and all African governments and institutions that Dr. Abiy Ahmed and his sponsors will be eventually responsible for all the adverse consequences of their belligerent actions on the country and the sub region.



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It is my firm belief that political problems can't be solved through military means. I also believe that the African Union has the responsibility and is better placed to help bring all political and civic stakeholders of the country into an all-inclusive and comprehensive dialogue and avert an all-out civil war in the country. I earnestly hope that your Excellency, In a spirit of African solidarity, will at the earliest possible time play your rightful role towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis engulfing the country.

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Sincerely,

Debretsion G/Michael /PHD/ President

H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat

Chairperson of the AU Commission

Addis Ababa

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