



ቤት ፀሕፈት ዝምድናታት ትግራይ
Tigray External Affairs Office

Ref: TEAO- 020/2021

Date: 14 November 2021

Press Release on Ethiopia's MFA Statement on the U.S. Government sanctions imposed on the Eritrean Government

On November 13, 2021, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) released a statement stating its objection to the U.S. Government's imposition of punitive sanctions on Eritrean officials and entities for their role in massive human rights violations in Tigray as well as the intensification and prolongation of conflict in Tigray. This statement, though not shocking in light of the Abiy regime's invitation of the Eritrean military to take part in its genocidal campaign against the people of Tigray, represents an embarrassing milestone in the Abiy's regime habitual prostration before a foreign government at the expense of national sovereignty. Ironically, the Abiy regime, suffering from deliberate amnesia about its having already sold out the country's sovereignty when it solicited the support of a foreign adversary to eliminate its domestic opponents, continues to shamelessly frame Ethiopia's current conflict in terms of the need to preserve internal sovereignty.

In fact, despite persistent claims by the Abiy's regime to the contrary, Eritrean troops have not withdrawn from Tigray, as they continue to occupy Western Tigray, some parts of Northwestern Tigray and Irob in Eastern Tigray.

The regime's supine obsequiousness towards the authoritarian regime in Eritrea is indicative of the former's well-considered position that its fate is almost inextricably tied to that of the Eritrean dictatorship. In fact, Abiy's "novel" argument is that, in the absence of his government expressing objection to the presence of a genocidal foreign government, the international community has no business trying to stop atrocities committed by such a regime.

The MFA's statement of support for the Eritrean regime is intelligible in the context of the increasingly precarious position the Abiy regime finds itself on the heels of backbreaking battlefield losses. Following the Abiy military's ignominious departure from most of Tigray in late June, the Eritrean military has not been as readily willing as before to come to the former's rescue. This latest diplomatic self-immolation by the MFA is a down payment on Eritrea's reinvasion of Tigray with the goal of saving the Abiy regime from a certain demise.

By acting like a well-paid lobbyist for the Eritrean regime, the Abiy regime is telegraphing its willingness to do whatever it takes to secure the support of the Eritrean dictator. Abiy's overriding interest is the perpetuation of his reign even at the expense of national sovereignty. By telling the world that the Eritrean military committing unimaginable atrocities against his own citizens did not mean anything and going so far to rationalize this foreign military's dastardly brutalization of civilians, the Abiy regime remains wedded to an antiquated view of sovereignty defined as the right to act without external scrutiny. The international community should continue to turn up the heat on these genocidal partners until they deviate from their destructive path.

