

Official Correspondence GSTS-O.C-2021-143
The Global Society of Tigray Scholars
and Professionals (GSTS)¹

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GSTS Position Statement on Peaceful Resolution of the War on Tigray and the Rest of Ethiopia

1. The Global Society of Tigray Scholars and Professionals (GSTS), representing more than 3500 Tigrayan scholars and professionals worldwide, expresses its appreciation to the Government of Tigray (GoT) and profound respect to the people of Tigray and the members of Tigray Defense Forces (TDF) for spearheading the popular struggle against the genocidal war waged on the people of Tigray.
2. Tigray has been subjected to a genocidal war of attrition for more than a year. The GSTS underscores that the popular resistance against this genocidal war is a matter of survival for the people of Tigray. Ethiopian, Amhara and Eritrean forces that have committed ethnic cleansing, war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide since November last year now aim to conduct a final scorched-earth military occupation of Tigray. This, for them, constitutes the 'final solution' to subjugate Tigray and exterminate its people. These forces are not acting alone in their genocidal campaign. China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Iran and Turkey are active participants in this war.
3. Tigray and Tigrayans are facing extraordinary threat to their survival and this requires extraordinary response by the entire Tigrayan society. The GSTS requests that the GoT officially opens a broad-based inclusive consultation among all Tigrayan stakeholders including the political parties, youth, women, scholars, religious leaders, civil society and minority ethnic communities to foster unity of purpose, to identify and defend the vital interests of Tigray and determine the terms of negotiations on the future of Tigray and Tigrayans. The GSTS reiterates its strong belief that the strategic objectives of the GoT in all negotiations should be to achieve a territorially secure, integrated, peaceful, democratic, prosperous and resilient Tigray that guarantees the people of Tigray to exercise their rights to self-determination as enshrined in the 1995 Federal Constitution and international laws.
4. GSTS supports all peace efforts to end the genocidal war declared on Tigray by Ethiopian, Eritrean and Amhara forces, and foreign supporters of the genocide, and calls for the commencement of negotiations towards peace, normalcy and rebuilding of Tigray.
5. The GSTS calls on the International Community to force the complete and verified withdrawal of the Amhara and Eritrean forces from western Tigray and all other Tigray territories and halt the ongoing massive military offensive by Ethiopian, Amhara and Eritrean forces to reoccupy Tigray again and commit further atrocities and genocide against Tigrayans.
6. Furthermore, the GSTS would like to call on the peoples and scholars of Ethiopia, the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Regional States (particularly the neighbouring Afar and Amhara regional governments) to work in good faith towards achieving sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

7. Finally, GSTS remains committed to support and actively engage in all initiatives that aim at ending the ongoing genocide, facilitate negotiated ceasefire and dialogue, as well as ensure accountability aimed at ushering long-lasting peace and mutual coexistence in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa region at large.



Sincerely,
The Global Society of Tigray Scholars
and Professionals (GSTS)

23rd December 2021

ⁱ GSTS is a 501(C), and 33/2011 legally registered non-partisan, not-for-profit, and autonomous Global Knowledge Network of over 3,500 Tigray Scholars and Professionals aimed at creating Knowledge-based economy and society in Tigray, and beyond. It stands for academia, multidisciplinary and cross sectoral research and applied policy development, human capital development, fostering and advancing science, technology, and innovation, technology and knowledge transfer, youth and gender development, migration and displacement, and other educational and development related endeavors. It also works in educational advocacy and collaborates with various stakeholders towards promoting peace, good governance, human rights, and humanitarian activities.