



Official Correspondence GSTS-O.C-2021-107  
The Global Society of Tigray Scholars  
and Professionals (GSTS)<sup>i</sup>

Classification: OPEN

**To: All Diplomatic Corps in Addis Ababa**

**Subject: Urgent Call for Protection of Tigrayans Under Genocidal Attacks**

The Global Society of Tigray Scholars and Professionals (GSTS) would like to urgently bring to your attention distressing reports it has received of genocidal calls for profiling, arbitrary detention, placing in internment camps, and retaliatory attacks on civilian Tigrayans across Ethiopia. This new round of ethnic targeting comes following the Ethiopian government's alleged military setbacks in Dessie and Kombolcha.

GSTS is gravely concerned by the recent intensification of hate speech by Ethiopian officials of the highest offices, including the Prime Minister and Amhara political leaders, towards Ethiopians of Tigrayan descent. These coordinated calls include explicit incitement for the extermination of Tigrayans living outside Tigray, rounding up, and internment of Tigrayans. The calls for attacks against Tigrayans are not only limited to social media but are also propagated by mainstream media with tens of millions of followers. In his public statement on Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> of October 2021), the prime minister said, "closely follow those [Tigrayans] who work for the enemy and live amongst us".<sup>1</sup> These barrages of statements expose the policy intention of those forces who waged war on Tigray.

Beyond this sharp increase in hate speech and inflammatory rhetoric, the Government of Ethiopia has also stepped up its practice of unlawful and mass detention of Tigrayans in Addis Ababa and cities in the Amhara region. On Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2021, police and security agents conducted door-to-door searches in Bole sub-city (Addis Ababa), in a locality commonly known as Hayat, and detained numerous residents of Tigrayan origin in unspecified locations. Further, on Monday (1<sup>st</sup> of November 2021), Washington Post reported that a "new roundup of Tigrayans was seen in the capital [Addis Ababa]".<sup>2</sup>

In this regard, GSTS would like to urge the diplomatic community based in Addis Ababa to immediately take action and offer alternative forms of protection, including, as practiced by most countries, temporary refuge within their premises to those seeking protection from threats to their lives.

<sup>1</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/africa-kenya-ethiopia-addis-ababa-abiy-ahmed-1780305c57bbb90c03394ee286502c12>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/ethiopia-pm-defiant-as-rebel-tigray-forces-make-advances/2021/11/01/a36b2be8-3adc-11ec-bd6f-da376f47304e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/ethiopia-pm-defiant-as-rebel-tigray-forces-make-advances/2021/11/01/a36b2be8-3adc-11ec-bd6f-da376f47304e_story.html)



GSTS further urges the diplomatic corps to engage and press upon the Ethiopian government on its obligation for an unconditional observance of international laws and norms on protection of civilians at times of conflict.



Sincerely,  
The Global Society of Tigray Scholars  
and Professionals  
1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2021

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*<sup>i</sup> GSTS is a 501(C), and 33/2011 legally registered non-partisan, not-for-profit, and autonomous Global Knowledge Network of over 3,200 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.*