



August 1, 2021

Robert F. Godec
Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
US Department of State

Dear Mr. Godec,

It is with a great deal of urgency and anguish that the Security and Justice for Tigray (SJT) write to you today to ask you to act on the pressing famine situation in Tigray. SJT is an international advocacy organization based in the United States concerned with the security of the people of Tigray.

Despite all the pleas by the UN, US government and others, it has been almost 9 months since the Ethiopian government under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has effectively denied food access to Tigray in a deliberate attempt to starve its people. While we appreciate the significant financial contribution and efforts by the US government through USAID, it has been widely reported that the help being offered by the US and the UN WFP is not reaching its desired destination because of the deliberate blockage of food trucks going to Tigray.

We are cognizant of the fact that you are fully aware of the severity of the problem and the resulting man-made famine as various news media and prominent leaders including Samantha Power of the USAID and EU's Joseph Borell Fontelles have described on several occasions.

According to the July 29, 2021, New York Times article, "Aid workers say the Ethiopian government has effectively cut off the lone route into the conflict-torn region of Tigray, leading to a risk of mass starvation".

In a tweet of July 29, 2021, Mr. Borell Fontelles stated the following:

"Trucks carrying supplies that could save countless lives in #Tigray are being prevented from moving, apparently **deliberately**. Increasingly hard to avoid conclusion that **access to food is used as weapon of war**. It is the **Ethiopian Government's responsibility to provide access**". Emphasis added.

Similarly, UNICEF spokesperson Marixie Mercado said "Our worst fears about the health and wellbeing of children in that conflicted region of Northern Ethiopia are being confirmed".



It should be abundantly clear to everyone by now that the Ethiopian government is carrying out food blockage to deliberately starve the people of Tigray as part of a well planned and coordinated campaign of extermination which has been in the works for the last 2 years. This act has been described as ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and genocide by many individuals with expertise in the field of human rights and the Horn of Africa.

It is a common knowledge that the world has significant leverage over Ethiopia, as such given the severity of the situation in Tigray, it is not clear why the US and other governments are not willing to consider other more effective means to deliver a desperately needed food aid to Tigray. In the face of such deliberate and well documented crimes against humanity on the people of Tigray, we are puzzled by the hesitancy of the international community to act swiftly and effectively to save millions of people in Tigray.

We are therefore writing to you today to urge you to deliver food and basic medical supplies through the fastest and most effective means possible – to air-drop necessary supplies to the people Tigray urgently. Dropping food and essential medical supplies by air is a proven method of saving lives.

Finally, as Mr. Abiy Ahmed continues his chokehold on Tigray, SJT as a key stakeholder in Tigray, would like to request a meeting with you Sir to emphasize the urgent need of the people of Tigray for basic necessities and peace, as well as to provide you with additional information on the ground that could lead to an end to the human suffering in Tigray.

Thank you for your continued support and efforts to bring about a lasting peace in Ethiopia.

Yours truly,

Teka Negusse, President SJT

- C: Jeffrey Feltman, Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa
- Samantha Power, Administrator, USAID
- Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US Ambassador to the United Nations
- Ambassador Geeta Pasi, US Ambassador to Ethiopia