



December 20, 2021

To: Mr. Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN  
EU Secretary-General  
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**Your Excellency,**

Security and Justice for Tigray (SJT) and the people of Tigray will always remain grateful to the EU for understanding the plight of the genocidal war waged by the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's despotic regime. We recognize and highly appreciate the efforts made to date to put pressure on Abiy Ahmed's government to stop the atrocious war and accept dialogue as the only avenue to achieve peace in Ethiopia.

For more than a year now, the government of Abiy Ahmed has misinformed and misguided the international community with a narration that he declared the war spontaneously, as if the Tigray government started the war by attacking the Northern Command of the Ethiopian army. However, the New York Times in its recent article exposed the fabricated narrative Abiy Ahmed and his ally Mr. Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea jointly planned and conspired the war in a secret pact in the Middle East immediately after they signed a mysterious "peace deal."

SJT has been providing facts on a continuous basis that the war declared by Abiy Ahmed on November 4, 2020, using "Law Enforcement Operation" as a pretext, was planned, and coordinated for a couple of years. In a [document](#) it published a few months ago, SJT has provided facts that prove the war unleashed on Tigray started long before November 4, 2020. So, SJT was not surprised by the new revelations of the New York Times.

In the minds of the people of Tigray, there has never been a single doubt that Abiy Ahmed planned and started a premeditated war and committed indescribable crimes unseen anywhere in the world. During the first 8 months occupation of Tigray, the Ethiopian Defense Forces, Eritrean troops, and the Amhara armed forces massacred thousands of civilians and raped girls and women. Moreover, the invading forces deliberately destroyed religious sites and 90% of the health care facilities and equipment, looted and destroyed personal and public properties including universities, schools and factories, they burned and destroyed crops and stored grains. Once driven out of most of the territories of Tigray, they placed the people under



a calculated siege to starve them to death and deny them access to life saving medicines. They have done all of these in darkness by debarring media outlets from reporting from Tigray to create a perfect situation for them to deny facts of atrocities and lie and hide the crimes they committed.

### **Excellencies**

The Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his hardcore supporters have been consistent in manufacturing lies to purposely misinform and mislead the international community. Immediately after the Tigray Defense Forces (TDF) managed to enter the Amhara and Afar regions to further weaken and prevent the Ethiopian army from attacking Tigray again, Abiy's supporters scaled up their efforts of fabricating and disseminating fake news and fictitious 'documentary' reports to smear TDF. Their effort is clear to us. They are hoping to erase the crimes they had committed in Tigray (and still ongoing in western Tigray) by smearing the TDF with equivalent crimes. They are ferociously campaigning to create false equivalency in the eyes of the international community that TDF is committing similar crimes of the massacre, property destruction, and rape in Afar and Amhara regions. This regime is skilled at producing unimaginable lies to mislead the international community without shame.

The solution is easy and straightforward. We ask for an independent international investigation to uncover all crimes, identify perpetrators, and hold them accountable. We know that Abiy Ahmed fears this proposition and will do everything to prevent such investigations. But it is only through an independent investigation that the truth will be found and eventually hold perpetrators accountable for the crimes they have committed against the people of Tigray.

SJT would like the EU and the international community as a whole to know that, with Abiy Ahmed in power, Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa in general will not have peace or stability. This is a government that is bent on telling lies, continuing with the genocidal war on Tigray and promoting an internecine war in order to cling to power at any cost. Unfortunately, with each passing day, thousands of people are dying from starvation and the country's economy is being shattered.

Lately, the government of Abiy Ahmed has been running a dangerous and sinister campaign trying to convince Africans that the war in Tigray is between Africa and the West and pit Africans against the West using Pan Africanism in contempt. The attempt by the Abiy government to use Pan Africanism to involve Africans in its campaign to exterminate the people of



Tigray is just evil. The strongest diaspora abusers of the noble concept of Pan Africanism are based here in Europe and the United States.

SJT respectfully urges the EU to consider taking the following measures to stabilize the region and help end the genocide in Tigray and alleviate the suffering of other ethnic groups in Ethiopia.

- 1) Reject the narrative by the Abiy government that the war started on November 4, 2020. The war was engineered by Abiy and Isaias over several years to exterminate the people of Tigray. There should be no doubt about it.
- 2) Designate the crimes committed against the people of Tigray as genocide. At this point, there should not be any confusion as to whether or not the crimes can have any other designation.
- 3) Take actions that stabilize Ethiopia and the region by pressing for the participation of all stakeholders in the country. In our recent correspondence, we have argued that the recently formed United Front is the most viable force that can help to maintain Ethiopia's integrity and remain united and stable. This new organization consists of nine political parties representing the interest of the majority of the Ethiopian people. SJT believes this organization has a better and a clear roadmap in Ethiopia today that can stabilize the deteriorating security situation and stop the ongoing bloodshed.
- 4) Earnestly respect the wishes and aspirations of the Nations and Nationalities of all Ethiopians. With the exception of the Amhara elite chauvinists who are working hard to take down the constitution, all Ethiopians want their constitution to be respected and enjoy practicing the democratic rights and privileges enshrined in it.

### **Excellencies**

Since 1991, as you may be aware, Ethiopia, under the leadership of the Ethiopian People Democratic Revolutionary Front (EPRDF) for which the Tigray People Liberation front (TPLF) played a key role, enjoyed 27 years of peace, security, and double-digit economic growth. The Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) during this time had a well-disciplined army that had a well-known and respected peacekeeping track record globally. The ENDF was led by very experienced, capable, and disciplined TPLF officers, many of whom were drawn from the 17-year armed struggle against the former military Government of Ethiopia named "Derg". Such traits of leadership remain today and are the hallmarks of the TDF. In this regard, we believe that the TDF can become an alternative peacekeeping force in Ethiopia today, and if recognized and supported, it can meet the needs of the EU in East Africa.



It is with the above urgent and time-sensitive concerns in mind that SJT is calling upon your governments to help end the war, name the crimes committed in Tigray as genocide, support the call for an independent investigation, hold perpetrators accountable, and pressure the Ethiopian government to allow unfettered humanitarian aid to the millions who are languishing from man-made hunger and the thousands who are dying from lack of access to medicine.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the many efforts made by the EU to date.

Most respectfully,

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