



June 7, 2021

Kristalina Georgieva
Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
700 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20431

Dear Director Georgieva:

We are writing to urge the International Monetary Fund to reevaluate its practices and halt its financial assistance to the government of Ethiopia which is committing atrocities of untold ruthlessness on its own people, the worst of which is in the Tigray region. We as diaspora Ethiopians with Tigrayan origin and as members of Security and Justice for Tigrayans in Ethiopia (SJTE), an advocacy organization, are extremely worried by IMF's continued engagement with the Ethiopian government widely condemned for committing atrocities.

SJTE has no doubt that IMF is aware of the atrocities because they have been extensively reported throughout the world. The government of Ethiopia turned off everything including electricity, telephone, internet, water, and banking systems and attacked Tigray on November 4, 2020 with its full military might along with allied forces it assembled from the region. During the past seven months, the invaders have massacred Tigrayans in the hundreds of thousands, raped thousands of women and girls as young as 12, some gang-raped by as many as 23 soldiers. In the last few days, The Telegraph reported of burn victims from the use of banned white phosphorus by the Ethiopian and Eritrean forces. These forces have looted or destroyed more than 80% of clinics and hospitals, factories, and the region's economic infrastructure.

Militants from the Amhara region have driven all Tigrayans out of their land and homes in western Tigray and are populating it with ethnic Amhara, in a classic ethnic cleaning operation the US administration has labeled as such. These displaced people numbering in the millions are scattered throughout other parts of Tigray without food, shelter, medicine, or any of their belongings. Today, the pillaging of Tigray has not stopped. It has continued at a much greater intensity.

SJTE believes any form of financial assistance by the IMF or any international institution to the Ethiopian government is tantamount to supporting the



atrocities it is committing on its own people. We are aware the Ethiopian government was working with the IMF to restructure its debt, while it was committing international war crimes of unspeakable magnitude. No information is available if it succeeded. What we know is the IMF was entertaining the request. Information on other assistance to the government is not available, but we are worried the Ethiopian government is receiving the assistance it was seeking without knowledge of the world. And that is why we are writing.

We know the government is desperately looking for ways to finance purchases of weapons including drones for the war. One of its most recent efforts is selling the country's telecom business for a quick cash. We know where this cash will go—directly for purchases of weaponized drones and other military hardware. Any assistance the government receives from IMF or anybody else will contribute directly to this effort of financing its genocidal war. The IMF should not taint its good name by aiding a government to perpetuate a war that has caused so much misery to people that want to live in peace.

We respectfully ask the IMF to evaluate its practices on Ethiopia and cease assisting the government until it commits to dialogue and peace, allows the return of the duly elected regional government, respects human rights, brings all criminals to justice, returns all looted properties, compensates individuals and the regional government for damaged and destroyed properties, and respects the constitution of the country.

We thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance with further information.

Respectfully,

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