



SEBHIDRI INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY OF TIGRAY

June: 2021

A petition delivered to: UNSC, EU, UK, Australia, and many more on the developing Tigray crisis.

Your: excellency:-

We are writing this urgent letter to urge your government help stop and find a lasting solution to the ongoing dangerous genocidal war in Ethiopia's Tigray, a war that comprises all types of crimes including unique kind of gangrape and hunger as a weapon. Our Sebhidri source on the ground as we prepare this document is telling that Abiy Ahmad and Isaias Afeworki have prepared to use incendiary petrochemical white phosphorous against the people of Tigray.

Who is Sebhidri?

Sebhidri is a nonprofit Civil society founded in 2017, to promote democracy, human rights and Justice in Ethiopia particularly in the state of Tigray. It is organized by intellectual Tigrians operating across the globe, and legally registered in Ethiopia, Tigray, and Washington State (U.S.A). Its main office has been in Mekelle, Tigray with thousands of its members and more than 9 offices operating in the region. Now, however, all its offices are closed due to ethnic cleansing and genocide war in the region. Its current chairman Dr. Goitom Aregawi together with few members have fled to Kenya for safety.

Brief genesis of the war

Seven months have passed since the war of genocide in Tigray launched on 04 November 2020. We know that it has taken the world longer time to discover the true nature of the said law enforcement operation. This was a war foreign military forces, from neighboring states of Eritrea and Somalia allowed to intervene by the Ethiopian prime minister (Abiy Ahmad) in the Ethiopian Tigray war. This war begun under the pretext of law enforcement to quickly blackout the entire region's electric power,



shutdown telecom and internet access, closed all banks, and blocked transport services that entered or exit Tigray.

The attack of an army base on 03 November 2020 in Tigray by the TPLF was what the Federal government claims for its reasons to declare war. However, the forces engaged in the war particularly the Eritrean troops and Amhara militia were long prepared, Since Abiy Ahmad become Prime Minister in 2018 followed by the removal of the TPLF from the federal positions. Tigray was almost under siege, from the north by Eritrea and south by the Amhara regional state. Abiy Ahmad at the center who established personal loyalty with the Eritrean dictator Isaias Afeworki finally was able to forge military alliance. The forged alliance had no purpose to serve other than attacking the legally elected regional government and destroy the people and livelihood of Tigray as it has proven during the course of the war. Sebidri was closely watching the developing situation that the TPLF government had only 12,500 special army units organized under 23 battalions, and of course thousands of local militias.

On 28 November 2020, the Ethiopian federal army (ENDF) entered Mekelle, the capital city of Tigray, without resistance from the regional armed forces known as the Tigray Defense force (TDF). It was then declared by prime minister Abiy Ahmad, that the TPLF was toppled, dismissed, destroyed and the ENDF scored total victory without being killed a single person. This was so told to the world and announced in the Ethiopian parliament. Meanwhile, news of atrocities, slowly begun to leak and most of the war crimes committed were told by the Eritrean, Ethiopian troops, and Amhara militias. Both Eritrea and Ethiopia vehemently denied the intervention of the Eritrean Army until Senator Chris Coons visited Ethiopia and talked Abiy Ahmad on 20 March 2021.

Between 09 and 15 November 2020, over 1000 Tigrian residents in Western Tigray namely in a place called MiKadra, got massacred by Amhara unlawful armed gangs known as Fano. It was a house-to-house search and kill campaign, all those killed were young males, and their bodies were thrown on the streets and corners of the village. Ironically, the Ethiopian “human rights commission (EHRC)” led by Mr. Daniel Bekele reported seven days after the murder that a Tigrian group known as Samri affiliated to the TPLF has committed the genocide. This same report by the



same institution was reported to Amnesty international headquarters as well. This was a serious warning for the Tigrians that this war is a premeditated to exterminate the people and nation of Tigray, with a fig leaf institution like EHRC incorporated under the federal government to produce conspiracy theory. Now president Isaias and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmad have got closer to their goals of exterminating 7.4 million people of Tigray, by blocking humanitarian access and use hunger as a weapon of war.

Shelling and terror

Horror, bombings, murder, and burning harvest become the order of the assailant's campaign as they roam to achieve their goal of genocide. It can be traced from the genesis of the war the objectives of the perpetrator's intension. The combined Ethiopian and Eritrean forces first, shelled the town of Humera from two directions, one by the Eritrean army from Omahajer north and the second from the south by the advancing Ethiopian army. With several buildings collapsed and people died the town was stunned and destroyed. The majority people fled the town and crossed the border of Sudan to save their lives, while hundreds died.

The invaders next trek was to the city of Shire and Central Tigray where they shelled dozens of small towns on their way before they reached. On 16 November eight combined Ethiopian and Eritrean divisions entered the city of shire without any resistance from the Tigrian forces. Looting, and burning crops as they cross the small towns of Shiraro, Adihagerai, Adidaero, and Adinebred, was the actions the invaders. They have shot and kill 1,100 innocent civilians most of them young men on their way to be followed by more than 50 times. The ancient city of Axum 60 KMs east of Shire took its turn to suffer from the shelling and terror. On Thursday November 18 and 19, 2020 "Axum and its surrounding were heavily and randomly shelled from heavy artillery from the combined forces of the Eritrean and Ethiopian troops to create havoc and terror, just like they did in the towns of western Tigray. The entire city was in turmoil and every creature not only

humans but also animals, were in a great shock. (Said Getu Mak an eyewitness account in his detail report to the Eritrean hub).⁰¹The invaders



campaign of destruction continued to shell and capture the cities of Adwa, Enticho, Adigrat, Wukro and over 20 small and medium towns north of Mekelle without any battle.

Burning peasant harvest, killing every domestic farm animals, and destroying farm tools, was a strategy to use food as a weapon to starve and perish the people. There was no battle as Tigrian forces have followed the policy of no engagement in the cities of Tigray. But the shelling and terror continues as a strategy to drive people out of their homes, chase, deny respite and finally starve the people on the run to eradicate them. The pattern lingers in all major, and small cities. The objective is clear, and sound kill the entire population of Tigray by all means.

Gangrape and blackout.

Tigray genocide in using sexual violence as a weapon of war is the most dangerous new phenomenon. Gangrape in the Tigray war has been rampant. About 23,000 women of all age including religious nuns and underage girls have been raped, in a savage manner. Armed gangsters have raped woman frequently for days and weeks and filled up her gentile with dust and sharp objects, Sara Charles U.S.A aide assistance director in her report told “abusing women in front of their family, and left women organs damaged, is unseen in my long experience”.⁰² This is a warning to the civilized world of new type of humiliating and brutalizing woman. An insult to the civilized world. Should the world allow this new horrific practice?

Total blackout took place between 04 November 2020, and February 2021 throughout Tigray. International, local, independent and or freelance media, journalists, reporters, and or visitors were all restricted, denied entering Tigray until 23 February 2021. Keep the people in darkness where no one can see and reach them, so that the genocide will be perfectly executed, was the policy the attackers ascertained. As a result, there were not reporting as thousands were killed, displaced, Churches and historical sites bombed, social and economic institutions looted and dismantled.



Starvation and displacement

The war has proved itself repeatedly a hellbent act to eradicate seven million Tigrians. This premeditated plan engineered by PM Abiy Ahmad and President Isaias Afeworki of Eritrean with the cooperation of Amhara regional leaders to smother the entire region by arraying large armies from both countries (Ethiopia and Eritrea). In western Tigray alone, where the Amhara militia operating an estimated 1.2 million Tigrians are displaced, killed, lost, and dumped to unknown locations. These people have been denied by the combined troops of Ethiopia and Eritrea to cross to the Sudan for safety.

The hunger was created by Abiy Ahmed, Issayas and Amhara expansionist leaders. When the International community started to send assistance, they block humanitarian access. People are denied from getting food aid. This has been persistent throughout until this time. Eritrean and Ethiopian troops have shown to the world their ruthless mission of starving the people of Tigray to death. Independent international media have proved repeatedly beyond reasonable doubt, as CNN eyewitness reporter Naima told “Eritrean troops in the city of Axum in cooperation with the Ethiopian army have blocked humanitarian access threatening reporters to arrest and or harm “.

The result has proved starvation as UN world food program voiced alarm that “a total of 5.2 million people, equivalent to 91% of Tigray’s population, need emergency food assistance due to the conflict, “WFP spokesman Tomson Phin told reporters in Geneva.” (Qtd in AFP by Eritrean Hub pp:2) ⁰³ Furthermore, “over 90 percent of the harvest was lost due to looting, burning, or other destruction and that 80 percent of the livestock in the region were looted or slaughtered.’ (Said UN top emergency relief coordinator Mark Lowcock pp: 2)” ⁰⁴ 2.2 million domestic farm animals (cattle) have been looted killed and transported to the Amhara region and Eritrea.

Social and economic infrastructures collapsed.

The seven-month campaign of genocide in Tigray have assured the destruction of health and school system services as well as all utility services in Tigray. “a Hospital that hosts 400,000 patients known as Ayder Hospital 70 percent of the facilities looted and burned, out of 240 Healthcare centers in the region only 40 are currently operating.



18 Hospitals have been destroyed, over 2000 farm tractors have been looted, and transported to the Amhara region, there are only 100 available. All schools are damaged and there is no school for the Tigrian children.

What is Sebidri requesting?

Your excellency

We are requesting you to:

- Save the remaining people of Tigray from an impending extermination genocide, starvation, and war crimes by Eritrean, Ethiopian troops, and Amhara militia by joining the United States sanction against Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- Promote an Immediate and verifiable withdrawal of the Eritrean army and Amhara militia from Tigray.
- demand an Immediate and unfettered access to humanitarian organizations.
- Demand Immediate lifting of all economic and service blockade imposed against the people of the region.
- Strengthen an immediate independent investigation of war crimes, genocide and other international law violations and holding those perpetrators accountable. Take the key actors Abiy, Issayas and Amhara region President to International Court of Law.
- Immediate cessation of hostilities and finding political solutions.
- Help a new measure of sanctions against Ethiopian and Eritrean authorities that brings the war to an end.

Notes:

1. Eritrean Hub an eyewitness account by Getu Mak, January 2021
2. Sara Charles U.S. A aide assistant report to U.S senate May 2021
3. WFP spokesman Tomson Phin, to reporters, Geneva, May 2021
4. Mark Lock, UN emergency relief coordinator report to Un, May 2021

Sincerely,

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