

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

Topic: Reducing instability and conflict in the Tigray region

Student Officer: Zicheng Zhang

Position: Co-Chair

Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Zicheng Zhang and I am currently attending the 12th grade at the American Community School of Athens. The upcoming 9th CSMUN session this year on October will be my 8th conference and it is my utmost honor to serve as a co-chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. It is without a question that the MUN is one of the most compelling and exciting extracurricular activities, which not only can help improve your skills in professional writing and speaking, but can also open a window to a broader universe, and to enlarge your world view to an extent that a mere textbook could never cover.

In this year's agenda of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee we will be discussing issues such as the Tigray question and the dispute over the sovereignty of Western Sahara, both of which are highly relevant to the contemporary world we live in today. In the study guide, I will be covering the topic of reducing instability and conflict in the Tigray region. Since the start of the war in the Tigray region, the nation of Ethiopia is sliding into a very precarious situation that involved both humanitarian crisis and also foreign interference of multiple factions with different agendas, and the efforts for the return of peace in the region is still up to the topic. If there is any inquiries regarding the issue, please do not hesitate to contact me through my email.

Best Regards,

Zicheng Zhang

zhangz22@stu.acs.gr



Topic Introduction

The renewed conflict in the region of Tigray is a bleak reminder of Ethiopia's ill-fated past, a nation at the heart of East Africa which has just started to experience its long-lost stability after decades of civil war, ethnic violence, and famine; such conflict is also yet another exposure of scars left on this ancient land by colonialism and foreign intervention.

Ever since 2019, the political situation in Ethiopia has been deteriorating quickly due to the refusal of the region-based Tigray People's Liberation Front to collaborate with the newly-founded coalition of Prosperity Party led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The tension then exacerbated after the postponement of the general election scheduled for 29 August 2020, and the insistence of Tigray region to continue with its own regional election against the will of the federal government¹; the armed violence began with the assault of the Ethiopia National Defense Force's (EDNF) headquarters on November 4 2020, and has ever since developed into a fierce tug of war between central Ethiopian forces and local Tigrayan rebels that involved mutual mass-killings and ethnic cleansings of civilians.

The international community fears that the conflict will lead to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, as the United Nations have repeatedly warned of the risk of widespread famine, as up to now, 2 million of the region's 6 million population have been internally displaced by the conflict.² Multiple efforts to alleviate the conflict have been made by both international and regional organizations, however, all of them seemed to be futile, as the United Nations said that it was "frustrated" by the lack of humanitarian access to the region despite the agreements with the Ethiopian

¹ Al Jazeera. "Ethiopia Appoints New Tigray Leader, Amnesty Reports 'Massacre'." *Abiy Ahmed News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 13 Nov. 2020, www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/13/scores-of-civilians-massacred-in-ethiopias-tigray-amnesty.

² Fred Harter, Addis Ababa. "Civilians Killed in Tigray War Identified but Thousands Remain." *World | The Times*, The Times, 30 May 2021, www.thetimes.co.uk/article/civilian-victims-of-tigray-conflict-identified-but-thousands-more-still-unaccounted-for-22zqr3xpc#:~:text=As%20well%20as%20calling%20for,been%20displaced%20by%20the%20conflict.



government, and neither the federal government of Ethiopia nor the rebel groups in Tigray region are willing to accept any peace talk offers made by the international communities.³ The war in Tigray has also inevitably caused spillover effects over its neighboring countries, while tens of thousands of civilians fled the region to seek refuge in nations like Sudan, other nations like Eritrea and Somalia, have militarily intervened either officially or unofficially into the conflict, further complicating the already complex situation in the region.

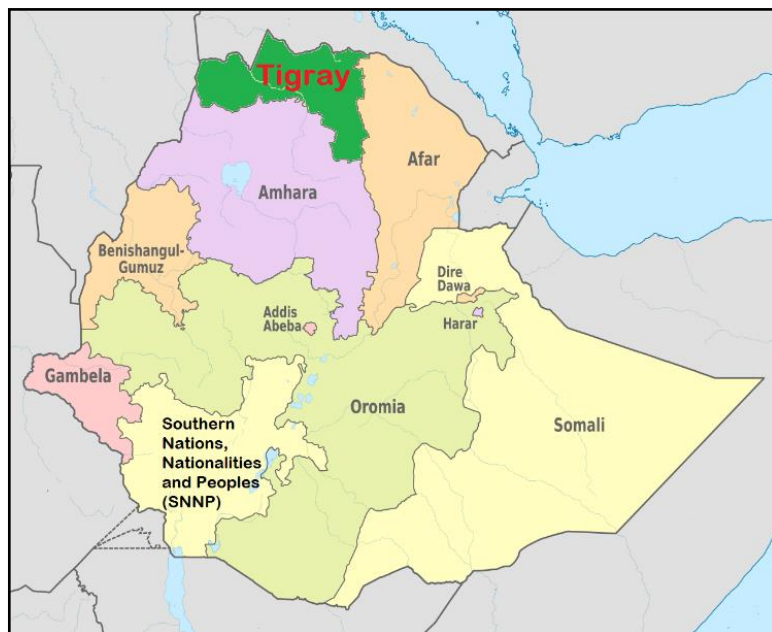


Figure 1: Map of Ethiopia with exact position of Tigray region highlighted in green⁴

³ “UN 'Frustration' at Lack of Access to Tigray.” Yahoo! News, Yahoo!, news.yahoo.com/un-frustration-lack-access-tigray-190020612.html.

⁴ “Map of Ethiopia, Tigray Region Highlighted in Green.” YWCA of Greater Portland, www.ywcapdx.org/community-solutions/tigray-on-a-map/.

Definition of key terms

Tigray

Northernmost region of Ethiopia, mainly inhabited by Tigrayan people who, despite being only the fourth largest ethnicity of the nation, were politically and militarily dominating Ethiopia for much of its history.

Extrajudicial Killings

Extrajudicial killing has the meaning of the killing of an individual by the government or separate people without any legal process.⁵

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

An internally displaced person (IDP) is someone who is forced to flee his or her home but who remains within his or her country's borders. They are often referred to as refugees, although they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee.⁶

Insurgency

A condition of revolt against a government that is less than an organized revolution and that is not recognized as belligerency.⁷

Instability

The stage of chaos and turbulence within a region or state.⁸ In this context, it comes in the form of political instability, meaning that there isn't a clear set of leaders fairly

⁵ Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions – the scope of the mandate of the special rapporteur, 2001, <https://www.abo.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2001-LuopajarviExtrajudicial-summary-or-arbitrary-executions.pdf>

⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Internally Displaced People." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/internally-displaced-people.html.

⁷ "Insurgency." *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/insurgency.

⁸ "Instability." *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/instability>



and democratically representing the people, along with high levels of corruption, leading to a lack of governance.

Secession

The official withdrawal and disassociation from a federation or body, usually in the form of a political entity. Regarding the question of the Tigray region, this refers to the popularly held opinion that Tigray should secede (separate) from the Ethiopian government and become its own independent territory.

Spillover Effects

The spillover effect refers to the impact that seemingly unrelated events in one nation can have on the social and political stabilities of other nations.⁹

Background Information

History of Ethiopia since the late 19th century

The history of Ethiopia in 19th century can be summarily characterized with resistance against colonial aggression, territorial expansions, and formation of modern Ethiopian national identity through both ethnic integration and military conquests. After having decisively defeated the Italian colonial armies at the Battle of Adwa in 1 March of 1896, the Abyssinian Empire (its former exonym) stood out to the world as one of the only two African nations that have survived the European colonization during the Scramble for Africa, such prestige also boosted the ambition of Ethiopia to carry out its own course of territorial acquisition, in which with the technological advantages brought by modern weaponries, the Emperor Menelik II (1844-1913) launched a series of successful military campaigns that have more than doubled Ethiopia's territory

⁹ Kenton, Will. "Understanding the Spillover Effect." *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 19 May 2021, www.investopedia.com/terms/s/spillover-effect.asp.



within a matter of four decades, thus shaping the country we see today, a vast, complex nation loosely pieced together by over 80 different ethnic groups.

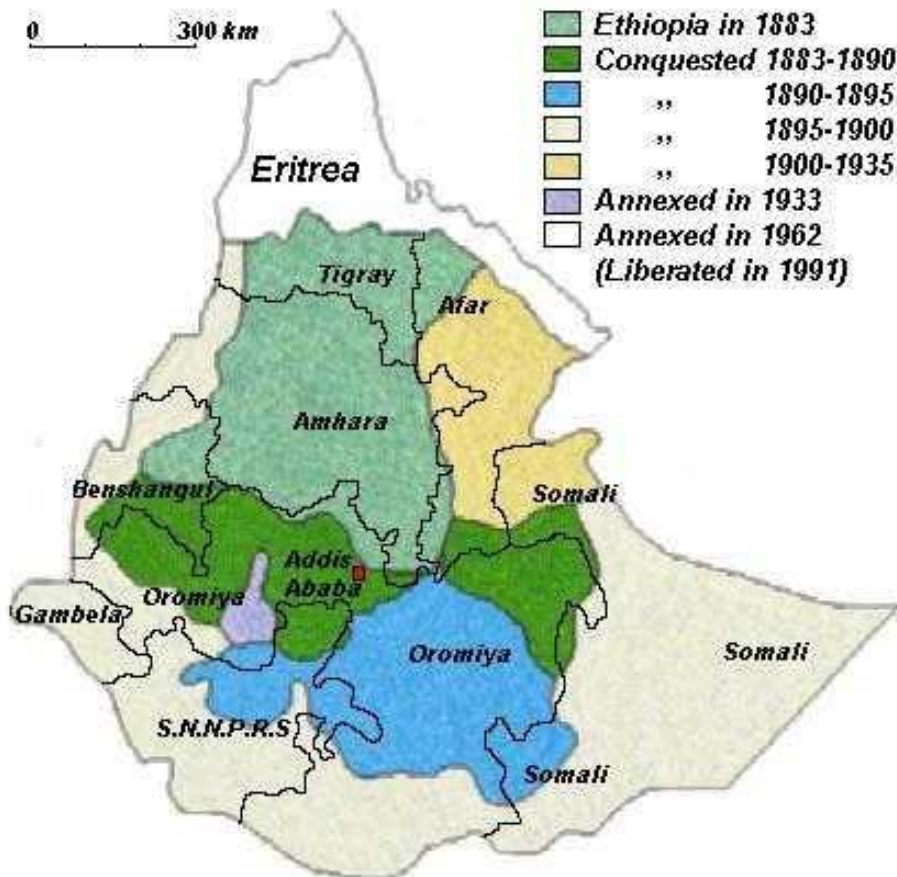


Figure 2: Map showing Ethiopian territorial expansions since 1883 ¹⁰

The establishment of Ethiopia's current ethnic federalism

The brutal Ethiopian civil war began with the overthrow of the last Emperor Haile Selassie I & the aftermath takeover of the Derg military regime in 1974, and ended in 1991 with the victory of anti-government rebels, and the subsequent establishment of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia led by Tigrayan and Eritrean forces. A new constitution was introduced in 1994 that divided the country into nine distinct administrative districts, and guaranteed the right to self-governing, autonomy, equal

¹⁰ Splinter, Hans van der. Ethiopia Eritrea - Background to The Ethiopia Eritrea Border Conflict, www.eritrea.be/old/eritrea-ethiopia.htm.



representation in the government, and **“unconditional right” to secession**.¹¹ Such political system on the basis of ethnic federalism was proven to be positive in promoting relative stability and economic growth, and the rights of formerly marginalised ethnicities were improved significantly. However, sporadic ethnic tensions continued despite the commitment of the government to guarantee equal status, and the right to autonomy was constantly infringed by the ruling-party Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

The start of conflict in 2019

In 2019, in order to consolidate the power of the federal government and to distance the nation from its decentralized system of ethnic federalism, the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed replaced and reorganized the ethnic and region-based constituent parties of the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition into his newly established Prosperity Party. Such a political decision was responded to positively by the ethnic Oromo and Amharas as the first and second largest ethnicities of the nation, but was rejected by Tigray People’s Liberation Front, which viewed the founding of new party as an attempt of power grabbing, and betrayal against the Tigrayan people who perceived themselves as the most valiant ethnic group during the Ethiopian civil war.

The development of war since November 2020

The political tension quickly escalated into a total armed conflict with the assault of the Ethiopian Northern Command bases launched by the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front on November 2020, which the central government in Addis Ababa subsequently responded with the mobilisation of Ethiopian National Defense Force, and counteroffensives in an attempt to push down the rebelled Tigrayan forces, and to reclaim its sovereignty over the region. In the initial stage of the conflict, with the diplomatic and military supports from the neighboring countries most notably Eritrea,

¹¹ Teshome B., Wondwosen; Záhofík, Jan (2008). ["Federalism in Africa: The Case of Ethnic-Based Federalism in Ethiopia"](#). *International Journal of Human Sciences*. 5 (2)



the Ethiopian forces were able to quickly reclaim much of the rebel-held territories, forcing Tigrayan forces into defensive position; this has led to the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to declare officially on 29th November the end of military operations and “victory” over Tigrayan rebels, despite the fact that at the same time the TPLF continued their guerrilla warfare in the rural hinterlands of the region.

Unexpectedly, the war took a dramatic turn in late June when the TPLF forces recaptured Mekelle, the regional capital of Tigray from the hands of the Ethiopian forces, the federal government in Addis Ababa then unilaterally declared a ceasefire while the Tigrayan forces continued the fighting and having made significant military advances into the bordering Amhara and Afar regions, displacing tens of thousands of people. The ceasefire however, did not stop the conflict from further brewing, instead, it has officially evolved into a cross-regional conflict that is accompanied with the gradual full-mobilisation of armed forces in different regions of Ethiopia, increasing the risk that the destruction brought by the conflict will expand nationwide into a whole new humanitarian disaster in the heart of East Africa.

Major countries and organizations involved

China

China’s past four decades of jaw-dropping economic rise and its relatively little desire in military actions has determined its role over the conflict in Tigray to be primarily an economic one. For the past ten years, China has always regarded Ethiopia as its most important partner in East Africa with enormous amount of investments ranging from all fields including manufactures, agricultures, and infrastructures, having contributed significantly to Ethiopia’s rise as Africa’s fastest growing economy in the last five years until the start of the conflict. Ethiopia is also considered to be a key nation in the formation of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, therefore the return of peace in Ethiopia is desired particularly by China, as the continuous conflict in Tigray would soon tarnish the economic interests in Ethiopia which China has spent years to invest.



Djibouti

The importance of Djibouti in the mediation of Tigray conflict is in sheer contrast to its relatively tiny size, because not only is it the only access to the sea for the landlocked nation of Ethiopia, it is also home to the most extensive array of military powers with military bases set by nations ranging from the United States, Japan, China, and France, etc. Additionally, as the country where the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the leading regional organization of East Africa, is headquartered, Djibouti has called the East African heads of government and state for several emergency summits, successfully resulting in an unanimous support for the resume of Ethiopian constitutional order and most importantly humanitarian access to Tigray region.

Ethiopia

As the main protagonist of the conflict, Ethiopia hopes to end the conflict and retain its control over the region as soon as possible, in order to secure the economic development and stability it has achieved in recent decades.

However, during its military operation, Ethiopia has been criticized for having committed multiple war crimes against local populations that involved ethnic cleansings and extrajudicial killings.

As the tide of the war start to turn in favor of the Tigrayan forces, the Ethiopian government passively responded with an unilateral declaration of ceasefire after the capture of Tigray's regional capital Mekelle by the rebels, and ethnic tensions in Tigray could also have chain effects in other regions with significant ethnic tensions, such as the Oromo region, the future of the nation seems to be uncertain, and it is predicted pessimistically that a demographic disaster could occur if situation continues to deteriorate.

Eritrea

Although traditionally hostile against Ethiopia ever since its independence from the nation in 1991, Eritrea has caught the global attention for its recent reconciliation with Ethiopia under the mediation of the United Nations, having formally resolved the



decades-long territorial disputes that have sparked the bloody Eritrean-Ethiopian war between 1998 till 2000. This reconciliation with Eritrea proposed by the Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed was seen as an attempt to strategically outflank the TPLF into a state of isolation, who viewed the peace agreement as a great betrayal against the Tigrayan people, as the Tigrayans have contributed most number of soldiers and also having endured heaviest casualties during the war with Eritrea. Officially the stance of the Eritrean government is in support of the Ethiopian federal government, and is right now militarily intervening on the side of Ethiopian forces, however, the Eritrean oppositions joined the conflict on the side of the Tigrayan forces.

Figure 3: President Isaias Afwerki and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sign the Joint Declaration of Peace



*and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia on 9 July 2018*¹²

Sudan

As a nation that shares border with Ethiopia and its rebelled Tigray region, Sudan has been inevitably impacted by the currently ongoing war. Having received tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees seeking asylum since the start of the conflict, the humanitarian crisis is further putting a strain on the already fragile internal stability

¹² "After Making PEACE, Ethiopia and ERITREA Now Focus on Development | Africa Renewal." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2018-march-2019/after-making-peace-ethiopia-and-eritrea-now-focus-development.

of Sudan, which has yet fully recovered from the secession of South Sudan in 2011, and is still suffering from the prolonged war in its Darfur region.

Beside the influx of Ethiopian refugees, sporadic border skirmishes also happened between rebels and paramilitary units that have resulted in casualties from both sides. Additionally, Sudan's current diplomatic relationship with Ethiopia is very tense due to disputes with Ethiopia over the water resource of Blue Nile and the construction of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and is working hand-in-hand with Egypt to obstruct the dam from completion.

Somalia

Same as Eritrea, Somalia is a nation that is equally hostile with Ethiopia due to the scars left by the Ogaden War in 1977 and treatment of Somali minorities within Ethiopia, and is suspected of secretly sending soldiers to be trained in Eritrea and to fight in the region of Tigray. However, the official stance of the central government of Somalia towards the conflict in Tigray is in contrast to its grudges with Ethiopia, as during the emergency summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in December 2020, the central government of Somalia has officially pledged their support for Ethiopian government, so did the representatives of Somali minorities in Ethiopia's Ogaden region.

United States of America

Being a permanent member of the Security Council, and also as currently the world's most powerful nation with its military influence stretching across the globe, the stance of the United States will definitely have an impact on the overall situation of the instability in Tigray, and the direction it is heading to. The US government has urged for the de-escalation of the conflict and the immediate return to peace, and having condemned the TPLF for their rocket attacks against Eritrea's capital Asmara as an attempt to "internationalize the conflict in Tigray"¹³.

¹³ "U.S Condemns Tigray Forces' Attacks on Eritrea." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 15 Nov. 2020, www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-conflict-usa-idUSKBN27V0KT



At the same time, the US government is also “deeply concerned” over the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia, and has made diplomatic communications with relevant nations like Kenya to further discuss the situation in Tigray and its effect on the surrounding regions. Even though the US has traditionally viewed Ethiopia as vital partner in the region of Horn of Africa, the current administration of the US government has been openly critical of the conflicts in Tigray, in which the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has condemned in March 2021 the “unfolding ethnic cleasings” in the Western part of Tigray, and further announced in May visa restrictions on Ethiopian and Eritrean officials accused of escalating the conflicts.

African Union

The African Union is the leading regional organization that is responsible for the affairs within the range of all African nations, in which together with the international organizations like the United Nations, they have indeed strived with many efforts to put an end to the conflict, serving the important role as the peace broker of the situation. Officially the African Union is in defense of the Ethiopian government, as the principle of member states of the African Union is to tacitly maintain the status quo between the nations with as minimal changes in borders as possible, they also believe that the decision made by the Ethiopian government is a step to preserve the unity and stability in the country. Despite the repeated efforts for peace talks and negotiations, most of the peace and mediation proposals made by the African Union leaders were however futile as neither sides were willing to accept the peace offers.



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

Médecins Sans Frontières, or Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian medical non-governmental organization that is known for its medical operations in countries affected by diseases and conflict zones. The security for humanitarian mission of MSF in Ethiopia's conflict-ridden region of Tigray is at an alerting level, as in 26th June 2021, three employees of the MSF have reportedly been found killed by unknown attackers in Tigray, drawing condemnations from the UN as an “appalling violation” of international law. Besides the security concerns, the organization has also gotten itself involved in fierce squabbles with the central government of Ethiopia, which on 4th August this year, the aid operations carried out by the Dutch section of MSF and together with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) were suspended by Ethiopia for “disseminating misinformation in social media and other platforms outside of the mandate and purpose for which the organisations were permitted to operate”¹⁴.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The UNICEF is the major provider of humanitarian aids to the local populations throughout the conflict in Tigray region, in which together with other humanitarian organizations, they have demanded passage way from Ethiopian government in order to have access to the local civilians. However, the current progress of the UNICEF in the region is in a state of stagnation, as their humanitarian operation have reported to be constantly harassed by local militias, and frustrated by the lack of access and the apparent unwillingness of either the Ethiopian government or the Tigrayan rebels for any further cooperations.

¹⁴ Al Jazeera. “USAID Chief Power Says Tigray Rebels Should Exit Border Regions.” *Humanitarian Crises News* | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 4 Aug. 2021, www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/4/usaid-chief-urges-tigray-rebels-to-exit-border-regions.



Timeline of events

<u>1974</u>	The overthrow of the Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I and the takeover of the Derg military junta
<u>18 February 1975</u>	The foundation of the Tigray People's Liberation Front as the leading faction in resistance against the Derg regime.
<u>1991</u>	The end of the Ethiopian civil war and subsequent establishment of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia
<u>May 1998-June 2000</u>	The outbreak of two-year long Eritrean-Ethiopian War due to the border disputes between the Eritrean state and Ethiopian region of Tigray.
<u>3–4 November 2020</u>	Start of the currently ongoing Tigray War within Ethiopia
<u>25-27 November 2020</u>	A trio of former African presidents appointed by AU chair Cyril Ramaphosa visited Ethiopia with the aim of mediating. ¹⁵
<u>2 December 2020</u>	The United Nations has promised humanitarian access to the territory held by the ENDF in the Tigray Region.
<u>7 December 2020</u>	Fighting erupted between the African Union Mission to Somalia and Ethiopian troops in Somalia.
<u>May 2021</u>	The TPLF is designated as a terrorist organization by the Ethiopian federal government.
<u>28 June 2021</u>	The Ethiopian government then unilaterally declared a ceasefire as the Tigray Defense Forces captured the city of Mekelle.
<u>16 July 2021</u>	Tensions worsened as three more Ethiopian regions (Oromiya, Sidama, the Southern Nations Nationalities and People' Region) began sending soldiers to reinforce the national army in the battle against the Tigrayan forces.
<u>19 July 2021</u>	The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) reported the assault by unknown armed forces on its convoy of nine trucks while moving aid into Tigray.



Previous attempts to solve the issue

Within a very short and pressing period of time, the international and regional communities have strived in conducting several attempts in an effort to resolve the issue, all of which have achieved more or less degree of successes.

African Union

On November 25-27 of 2020, a trio of former African presidents appointed by AU chair Cyril Ramaphosa visited Ethiopia with the aim of mediating, which was rejected by the Ethiopian PM Abiy.

European Union

On November 19 2020, the European Union declared the mobilization of an initial 4 million Euro worth of the emergency aid, in an effort to provide humanitarian aid to the refugees seeking asylum in Sudan. Simultaneously, the EU has also planned to cease such aforementioned aid and to impose sanctions on certain areas of Ethiopia due to the conflict.¹⁶

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

The IGAD is a regional organization consisted of eight major East African nations that is responsible for the coordination of cooperations among member states regarding economic, political, and security matters. In December 2020 in Djibouti, the member states of IGAD including Ethiopia have met up in Djibouti to discuss the instability in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, and have unanimously declared their supports for the Ethiopian government to maintain its constitutional orders, and also to grant border access for humanitarian aids, thus concurring the legal and political justification for the military actions carried out by the Ethiopian federal forces.

¹⁶ "Press Corner." *European Commission - European Commission*, ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2160.



Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

7685TH MEETING SECURITY COUNCIL S/RES/2286 3 MAY 2016

This resolution was co-signed by more than 80 Member States, the 15-member Council “strongly condemned” assaults against the sick and wounded, medical personnel and facilities, it has also warned the long-term repercussions and adversarial impacts of such attacks that bring casualties to civilian populations and damages to health-care systems in the conflict zone.¹⁷

The United Nations World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) May 23-24 2016

The United Nations World Humanitarian Summit was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-24 May, 2016, the summit was initiated by the former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and was coorganized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA); the result of the summit has drawn approximately 1,500 commitments from 400 UN member states and organizations, in which they have pledged to “fundamentally reform the humanitarian aid industry to react more effectively to today’s many crises”.¹⁸

482 Resolution on the Fact-Finding Mission to the Tigray Region of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia - ACHPR/Res. 482 (EXT.OS/XXXII) 2021

This resolution adopted by the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR) recalls its duty to defend human rights in Africa in accordance with the Article 45 of the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (the African Charter), and demanded the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into the situation in the Tigray region, which will collect evidences, and to carry out investigations on any possible violations of international human right laws in the region of Tigray.

¹⁷ “Resolution 2286 (2016) /.” *United Nations*, United Nations, digitallibrary.un.org/record/827916.

¹⁸ “Ban Ki-Moon: ‘Close the Gap between the World That Is and the World That Should Be’.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 9 Feb. 2016, www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/feb/09/ban-ki-moon-world-un-humanitarian-summit-conflict-leadership.



FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL A/HRC/47/L.20/Rev.1- 8
JULY 2021

This resolution is one of the recent moves the United Nations has made regarding the situation of conflict in Tigray region, in which it has voiced the concern over the general situation of deteriorating human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, and the alleged violations of international humanitarian laws perpetrated by all factions in the Tigray region since the start of the conflict on November last year; most importantly, the resolution called for the alleviation of conflict by calling for the “verifiable” withdrawal of Eritrean forces from the Tigray region, and further requested the High Commissioner to put legal sanctions on those responsible for the violation of human rights.

Possible solutions

Pessimistically, what we are witnessing right now is a highly complicated geopolitical conflict that has involved multiple intervening stakeholders with different goals and opposing agendas, and the effort to reduce instability and conflict in the region of Tigray is going to be inevitably intertwined with the interests of various groups, thus making it a particularly challenging task that requires extra precaution. The possible solutions being proposed in this guideline could be carried out for the nation of Ethiopia to overcome the social, economical, and political dilemmas brought by the instability in its Tigray region.

The prevention of conflicts and maintenance of long-term peace

First of all, as it is stressed by the head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Samantha Power: “If aid is to reach people in need in #Tigray, then ALL parties must end hostilities. There is no military solution to this conflict.”¹⁹ It is recommended for the member states and organizations involved to further reinforce

¹⁹ Al Jazeera. “USAID Chief Power Says Tigray Rebels Should Exit Border Regions.” *Humanitarian Crises News* | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 4 Aug. 2021, www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/4/usaid-chief-urges-tigray-rebels-to-exit-border-regions.



and strengthen the current measures to end the conflict, by taking reference to the aforementioned relevant treaties and protocols that will assist the peacemaking process; alternatively, additional pressure could be imposed by the support of major political powers on both sides to enter diplomatic peace negotiations.

External supervision is of vital importance as well, by sending convoys of observers both internationally, regionally, and locally to the areas of conflict to monitor the implementation of ceasefire, collect the evidence of any violation against the international human right law, and to reflect the information back to the headquarters for further analysis and decisions.

The reinforcement of international humanitarian aid

Furthermore, it is of top priority to guarantee the safe and effective access for the international organizations to increase the aid to the civilians in need. The refugee problem of the Tigray conflict is not just limited within the boundaries of Ethiopia. Therefore meetings between the related nations should be organized exclusively for the dealing of refugee problems, with the aim of sustaining more coherent and cooperative relations, in order to better improve the efficiency of cross-border aid operations and to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings due to lack of communication.

The question of where funding and support will come from for the various necessary measures taken to cater for refugees must also be taken into consideration.

The promotion of legal actions and justice

Consequently, the victims whose rights to life and property were infringed need to be identified, and reliefs for their losses must be addressed. A possible solution could be the empowerment of a national and international legal body that is responsible for the identification, and registration of victims, to provide victims legal status and protection of their rights. The financial source of the relief could be collected through both the support from international charity organizations and campaigns, and also by raising awareness to attract global attention. In the end, those who were found guilty for perpetrating war crimes and violation of human rights must be held accountable in accordance with international human right laws.



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