



November 13, 2020

**The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau**

Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture would like to bring to your attention the horrific killing of civilians and opposition parties by the federal government in Ethiopia that could lead to the breakdown of the country and a total destabilization of the Horn of Africa.

In the last 2 years, over three million Ethiopians have been displaced, thousands of people have been killed by armed groups, and thousands more killed in inter communal conflicts. In Oromia region security forces have killed hundreds of peaceful residents including pregnant women, children and seniors.

Amnesty International in its latest report “accuses Ethiopia’s security forces of extrajudicial killings and mass detentions. At least over 10,000 people under suspicion were detained and subjected to brutal beatings”.

According to human right organizations and various media sources, Amharic speaking Ethiopians have been massacred in the Oromia region in recent weeks. Tigreans are either being imprisoned or kicked out of their job because of their ethnicity including pilots ordinary police officers, soldiers, and businesspeople. The army is being purged of ethnic Tigreans. This is a prelude to genocide.

In a move that indicates the escalation of the crises in the county, The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Abiy Ahmed, has just started a major assault on Tigray Province with air strikes and bombardments. The government has cut off all services to the people of Tigray including food and medical transportation, electricity, internet, and telephone communications.

Just a few days after the start of the air bombardment, the government has escalated the conflict into a full- fledged war against an estimated 8 to 10 million Ethiopians in Tigray. The federal government is collaborating with Eritrea’s dictatorial president Isaias Afewerki for the sole purpose of attacking Tigray from both sides. This conflict has already involved bordering Eritrea and it is likely to engulf the whole of Horn Africa including Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and others leading to further destabilization of the politically sensitive region.

Main 194 Jarvis St, 2nd Fl., Toronto, ON, Canada M5B 2B7 T: 416.363.1066 F: 416.363.2122 E: mabai@ccvt.org Toll Free: 1.877.292.2288  
Scarborough 2401 Eglinton Ave. E., 3rd Fl., Unit 310, Scarborough, ON, Canada M1K 2N8 T: 416.750.3045 F: 416.750.4990  
The Hub 1527 Victoria Park Avenue 2nd Fl., Toronto, ON, Canada M1L 2T3 T: 416.750.9600 F: 416.750.9200  
Mississauga Office 130 Dundas St. East, #204, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5A 3V8 T:905-277-2288 F:905-277-8083  
20 Palace Road Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 1G4 T:416-364-3184

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The Ethiopian PM was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 2019 mainly because he signed a peace agreement with neighboring Eritrea to the north. Unfortunately, borders have been sealed off and the sought-after peace has not materialized.

The Prime Minister of Ethiopia has openly called for the Amhara population in the Gonder area to mobilize for a war against Tigray. This will be the first time in the 3000 years' history of Ethiopia that a leader promotes internecine war between Amhara and Tigray people of the country. The Mayor of Addis Ababa, Adanech Abeibie has broadcasted that she has sent six officials to prison, following up the cases of 240 city workers, and has received over 2000 cases forwarded to her by the public -all Tigrigna speakers - targeted because of their ethnicity.

This has all the hallmarks of the Rwandan genocide and we are gravely concerned that, unless the international community gets involved soon and makes efforts to prevent it, the world could see a human catastrophe and disaster the likes of which we have never seen before.

We urge the Canadian Government to demand that the Ethiopian PM to immediately stop the war in Tigray and the extrajudicial executions in other parts of the country in order to prevent genocide, the loss of lives and the destabilization of the Horn of Africa.

With Best Wishes

Mulugeta Abai  
Executive Director

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- i iDMC 2019
  - ii Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, November 4, 2020
  - iii BBC News, Tigrigna – November 8, 2020
- Amnesty International

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