



Security and Justice for Tigrayans Canada (SJTC)

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Nicholas Von Arx
Head of Mission, ICRC
Ethiopia

September 12, 2021

Subject **Concerning the security and safety of Tigrayan university students in Addis Ababa and other regions of Ethiopia**

Dear Mr. Arx:

The Security and Justice for Tigrayans (SJTC) is a non-profit organization, based in Canada with a mandate to advocate for the security and justice of Tigrayans. We are reaching out to your good offices to appeal for your swift and committed action to ensure the safety of Tigrayan university students, currently stranded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, awaiting their return to their home region, Tigray.

SJTC is most concerned over the news about the aggressive profiling of ethnic Tigrayans across Ethiopia. We fear for the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, including the university students are now in danger. For your information and action, we wish to emphasize that the campaign to persecute Tigrayans has intensified following the military advance of TDF. Thus, we are calling for the immediate intervention of your organization to save innocent men, women, youth and children.

Even as we write to you, new directives are given by Abiy Ahmed to city officials to take measures against Tigrayans as they see fit, to shut down their businesses owned by Tigrayans in Addis Ababa and many other cities. This victimization has been going on for weeks and Tigrayan university students will suffer the same fate.

Abiy's government is actively engaged in a vicious hate propaganda against Tigrayans, this has also put Tigrayan students at a great risk. People in Addis Ababa and other parts of Ethiopia are arbitrarily arrested based on their identity. The Ethiopian government is openly committing ethnic cleansing and Tigrayans are being treated as criminals, merely because of their ethnicity. Indeed, Tigrayans who arrived from Saudi Arabia are being treated as prisoners of war.

We respectfully appeal for your intervention to ensure a safe passage for Tigrayan university students to travel back to their home region (Tigray). We seek the same humanitarian assistance made available by ICRC for students from other regions of Ethiopia, who were studying at several universities in Tigray region.

We hope that our request will receive your kind consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Kidane Gebremariam
Chair, Security and Justice for Tigrayans Canada