



Security and Justice for Tigrayans Canada (SJTC)

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APPEAL TO END THE SIEGE ON THE TIGRAY REGION OF ETHIOPIA

Your Excellencies,

The Security and Justice for Tigrayans Canada (SJT Canada), in alliance with other organizations of the Tigray Diaspora community in Canada, is appealing to you to take prompt and effective action to end the de facto siege on the innocent people of Tigray region, Ethiopia. As you are aware, the people of Tigray today find themselves in an existential quagmire, as seen in the unprecedented genocide being committed through:

- Extra-judicial executions, internal and external displacements,
- Complete blockade of life-saving humanitarian aid, including: food, water, medicine, banks, electric, gas, telephone, internet land and air access,
- Mass arrest, including profiling and detention of Tigray intellectuals,
- Using rape of women and girls and starvation as weapons of war,
- Destruction of livelihood means, from burning harvest to slaughtering animals,
- Looting and deliberate damage of development projects, such as factories, universities, schools, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies,
- Bombing of historical and cultural sites, including UNESCO registered sites
- Wide-spread and calculated robbery of private properties, with a design to impoverish Tigray and its entire population.
- A well-planned and coordinated hate campaign to tarnish the image of Tigrayans by vilifying the people with inflammatory terms: “*Daytime hyenas, looters, junta, weeds, cancers, terrorists, enemy of the Ethiopian people, etc.*”
- Political, religious and entertainment personalities inciting public anger against the innocent people of Tigray by using hateful references as was said by Daniel Kibret, the Prime Minister advisor, “*We must exterminate them not only from the face of earth, but also from our conscience.*”

It has now been more than 500 days since the war on Tigray was declared by the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in collaboration with his allies, the Eritrean government, Amhara forces and other foreign actors. The Tigray Diaspora, in solidarity with the people of Tigray, has brought the unprecedented atrocities being committed on the people of Tigray to the international community, however, the atrocities continue unabated to this day. The recent immolation of Tigrayans in the Benishangul Gumuz region of Ethiopia has taken the extent of the crimes to another level - **barbarism**.

It is now obvious that, in the absence of concrete action, those expressions of concern will bring no relief to the people of Tigray. We have seen the contempt of the Ethiopian government to international organizations, international laws and the international community. They have shown their disregard to all calls for restraint with attacks that have not only continued but also worsened both in level and intensity. In truth, the world response has emboldened the perpetrators and has only given them more time to further refine their genocidal methods, reaching to a horrific level of burning human beings alive. They have also declared their intention to continue these crimes with impunity.

Excellencies:

We wish to demonstrate to you evidence from credible sources that are speaking against the genocide.

- The EU's envoy said that Ethiopia's leaders told him in closed door talks earlier last year that "*they are going to wipe out the Tigrayans for 100 years.*"
<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/eu-envoy-ethiopian-leadership-vowed-wipe-tigrayans-78356719>
- Professor Jan Nyssen, of Ghent University reported, "*...in the last 17 months, about 500,000 civilians died (50,000 to 100,000 are victims of direct killings; 150,000 to 200,000 died of starvation and more than 100,000 died due to lack of health care. It is important to note that about 300,000 civilians, including children have died due to lack of food and health care as Tigray is under a complete siege/blockade.)*" <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-tigray-war-has-seen-up-to-half-a-million-dead-from-violence-and/?msclkid=ab85169ab5bf11ec851a6298400a081f>
- Bloomberg recently reported that "[The World's Deadliest War Isn't in Ukraine, But in Ethiopia.](#)" The war in Ethiopia is indeed the world's deadliest and ugliest. As we write this appeal, the extermination campaign is in full swing with the collaboration of the despotic Eritrean government and supported by rogue governments including Turkey, UAE, Russia, China, and Iran. These forces are determined to exterminate the entire people of Tigrayans demonstrated by the over 10 months blockade of Tigray.

Excellencies:

Recently, committees in the US Senate and House of Representatives have passed bills that rightfully recognize the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. These bills have called for accountability of those who are involved in the planning and execution of these crimes. We would like to thank members of the committees in both the chambers for their efforts to draft and approve laws that would bring peace, stability, and democracy in Ethiopia and beyond.

We also welcome the recent announcement of a humanitarian truce by both the Ethiopian and Tigray governments to "cessation of hostilities" and commitment to facilitate unfettered delivery of humanitarian aid into Tigray. However, 20 trucks only have arrived in Tigray in the past two weeks, in spite of the announcement. We urge for the implementation of the truce without delay, and we are ready to support in any way we can.

At the same time, we appeal to the government of Canada, together with the international community, to take prompt and effective action:

1. To put maximum pressure/sanctions on the government of Ethiopia to abide by its promise to implement the humanitarian truce to lift the blockade and to end the siege;
2. To denounce in strongest terms the barbaric act of immolation and to call for legal action against the perpetrators;
3. To hold accountable officials of Ethiopian and Eritrean government for all crimes they have and continue to commit with impunity;
4. To urge the Eritrean government to withdraw its forces from Tigray and to stop meddling in Ethiopia's internal affairs without which peace in Ethiopia is not possible.
5. To call for the immediate end to the siege and to lift the blockade on Tigray.

Signed by:

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