



Brussels, 17 November 2023
Ares(2023) 11820760

Subject: response to the letter *Urgent Appeal for Justice and Accountability in Tigray (Ethiopia)*

Dear petitioner,

Thank you for your letter making an urgent appeal for justice and accountability in Tigray, Ethiopia, calling for more international support in upholding accountability and justice and for an extension of the mandate of the UN International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE).

The extreme gravity of crimes and human rights violations in Ethiopia denounced in the report from ICHREE requires the Government of Ethiopia to establish robust independent, impartial and transparent mechanisms to implement the transitional justice policy, deal with prosecution and enhance accountability, all in line with regional and international human rights standards.

Since the publication of the ICHREE report, we publicly called upon the Government of Ethiopia to ensure that the future policy meets regional and international human rights standards. Lack of progress in addressing these issues would indeed jeopardize the ongoing gradual normalization of relations between the EU and Ethiopia. As you may know, the decision to table a resolution is a responsibility of the EU Member States. The EU delivered a statement on October 11 at the HRC54 in Geneva, on behalf of a group of 45 states, urging the government to deliver on transitional justice/accountability.

The EU stands by the families of those who have been victims of the worst atrocities in Ethiopia. It is indeed of the utmost importance that the victims see justice being brought upon the perpetrators of those crimes.

Yours faithfully,

Jonas JONSSON

Head of Division

Africa Directorate

Division Horn of Africa & East Africa