



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Africa
The Director

Brussels, 4 May 2021

Dear Petitioner,

I would like to thank you for your petition to Commissioner for International Partnerships Ms Jutta Urpilainen, received on 10 March 2021. I am pleased to reply on her behalf.

Nearly six months into the conflict in Tigray, the EU continues to be extremely concerned by the situation in Ethiopia.¹ The protection of civilians caught in the Tigray conflict is at the heart of our preoccupations.²

The EU urges all parties to immediately end violence, and to respect International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Refugee Law. Full, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access to all people in need must be ensured in all areas. Humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality, and independence must be guaranteed for a scaled up humanitarian response. The EU calls for the protection of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees, and reminds that the international principle of 'non-refoulement' must be respected.³

The EU remains extremely concerned by the numerous testimonies and reports that substantiate allegations indicating involvement of multiple actors and possibly amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, extra-judicial killings, mass executions, sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, forced returns of refugees, as well as other human rights violations and abuses such as looting of property, destruction of infrastructure and religious sites. Those acts must cease immediately.⁴

The EU will continue to monitor the situation in Tigray closely and to call on all the parties to a peaceful resolution of the conflict based on dialogue.

Yours sincerely,



Sandra KRAMER

¹ [Speech by Commissioner Urpilainen at the European Parliament plenary debate on Humanitarian situation in Ethiopia | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

² [Speech by Commissioner Urpilainen at the European Parliament plenary debate on Humanitarian situation in Ethiopia | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ [Council Conclusions on Ethiopia](#) (Point 5)

⁴ [Council Conclusions on Ethiopia](#) (Point 9)