



Brussels,
Ares(2021)2109718

Petition “Prevent Mass Atrocities Crimes in Tigray now”

Dear Petitioner,

The President of the European Commission would like to thank you for your petition concerning the conflict in Tigray in Ethiopia. She asked me to reply on her behalf.

Six months into the conflict, the humanitarian situation in Tigray remains alarming. As stated in the last Council Conclusions on Ethiopia adopted on 11 March 2021¹, the European Union, along with its Member States, is deeply concerned by the overall deteriorating context in Tigray despite some recent improvements.

The European Union is following the situation very closely and it will continue to do so. On top of an active humanitarian response given since the beginning of the crisis, the European Union has been engaged in a frank dialogue with the government of Ethiopia. The Finnish Foreign Affairs Minister P. Haavisto recently went to the region a second time, on behalf of the High Representative Josep Borrell, to exchange with Ethiopian and African Union authorities. At this occasion, he reiterated EU requests (end to hostilities, improvement of humanitarian access, investigations on human rights abuses, and withdrawal of Eritrean troops) and assessed the progress made so far on various fronts.

While fighting is ongoing, there is an urgent need for a monitored ceasefire to improve security conditions in Tigray. This is also essential to facilitate the humanitarian aid delivery. The announced withdrawal of Eritrean troops should start immediately and all parties to the conflict should exercise restraint, protect civilians, and, respect human rights and humanitarian law principles.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2021/03/11/eu-ethiopia-relations-eu-council-conclusions-stress-the-strategic-partnership-and-eu-s-deep-concerns-about-the-situation-in-the-tigray-region/>



It remains decisive to investigate all the allegations of human right abuses, war crimes and gender-based violence that are continuously reported. In that regard, the EU has been encouraging and offered support to the deployment of the joint investigations between the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. All abuses must be thoroughly investigated and perpetrators brought to justice.

More broadly, the only path for reconciliation is the immediate return to dialogue and a preparation of credible, transparent and fair elections.

To finalise, let me reassure you of our commitment to continue to monitor the situation closely and to engage in support of a sustainable resolution to the situation in Tigray, in Ethiopia and across the region.

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Marc Pisani
Head of division Horn of Africa and East Africa
Africa Managing Directorate
European External Action Service