

March 08, 2021

H.E Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield  
UN Security Council President  
Permanent Representative of U.S. Mission to the United Nations  
New York,  
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**Subject:** Appeal for Intervention in Ethiopia to prevent impending civil war and bloodshed

Your Excellency,

We, members of the Oromia Global Forum—a global alliance of 46 Oromo civic, professional, and faith-based organizations—appeal to you to intervene urgently on behalf of the Peoples of Ethiopia to stop the ongoing war crimes in Oromia, Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz regional States.

1. The conflict in Tigray has been damning and devastating. In an unprecedented move, the Abiy administration invited foreign adversarial states and mercenaries to loot, torture, rape, and kill the people of Tigray with impunity. Eritrean troops and Amhara militia are committing ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories of Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.
2. Oromia, the largest of the ten Regional States has been under martial rule since mid-2018. Security forces intimidate, imprison, torture and kill fathers, mothers, daughters, and sons, and rape mothers and daughters. They also burn crops and homes of poor Oromo farmers. Tens of thousands of supporters and leaders of Oromo opposition parties have been jailed without due process and any formal indictment. Those who are arraigned are kept in jails against courts' orders to have them released. Some of the detainees are reportedly held and tortured in dark dungeons. Prisoners are reportedly picked up from their cells and executed overnight and their remains are discarded in the wilderness for wild animals to devour. Prominent Oromo politicians, activists, journalists, and hundreds of thousands of opposition supporters are in prison.
3. Currently, the Ethiopian Government promotes a quasi-national election after incarcerating significant opposition party leaders known to command the support of the overwhelming majority of the citizens. The Abiy administration made it impossible for the two major Oromo opposition parties, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) to participate in the election by closing all their offices and incarcerating the majority of their leadership. In a similar turn of events, the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) is also forced to withdraw from the election. It is obvious that the upcoming election is to crown dictatorship and fascism when the majority of the country is engulfed in

internal conflicts and wars. Election under these circumstances is likely to engulf the country in a prolonged violence for years to come.

4. The crimes committed against Tigray, Oromia and Bensishangul deserve an immediate and lasting solution. Treating the war in Tigray as an isolated phenomenon is part of systematic letdown that runs deep in history. The conflicts in Ethiopia are driven by a quest for perpetuating political and economic supermacy on one side, and the quest for self-determination, equality, justice, democracy, freedom and peace on the other. The systematic destruction and alienation will not end with Tigray. The proponents and perpetrators of such criminal acts in Tigray have repeatedly asserted their plan to use the same brutality as a deterrent to silence those seeking equal rights and justice in the other Regional States, particularly in Oromia. They are counting on the support of Isaias Afewerki, the brutal Eritrean dictator, to lend them support to continue Abiy's war crimes in Oromia and other regional states. Their ultimate goal is to dominate Ethiopia economically, politically, and socially by destroying the identities of the Oromo and the greater southern nations.

We support the international community's call for full and unconditional withdrawal of Eritrean army and Amhara militia from the Tigray region. We also support the demand for an immediate secession of hostilities. We call for an independent and transparent investigation into war crimes committed in Oromia and Tigray, including the assassination of Activist Hacaaluu Hundessa, and mass killings in the wake of Hacaaluu's assassination.

We believe that the nations, nationalities, and peoples in Ethiopia are looking up to the international community to be an honest broker in the search for a comprehensive solution that goes beyond a patchwork designed to perpetuate Amhara hegemony all over Ethiopia. We believe that any support given to Ethiopia should be contingent on democratic order. Any assistance should be predicated on respect for human rights, freedom of the press, the opening of the political space, freedom of assembly, and an independent legal system.

We call on the international community to pressure Abiy's administration to immediately free all political prisoners and lift the ban on independent media. We also appeal to the international community to broker a genuine and all-inclusive national dialogue to deliberate on the establishment of an all inclusive transitional government that charts new possibilities for all the peoples in Ethiopia, by the people themselves, through self-determination.

In summary, we would like to let the international community know that Abiy's authoritarian regime is no more capable to bring peace to Ethiopia. It has lost credibility among the majority of the population to protect the rights of Nations, Nationalities, and peoples as stipulated in the current constitution and conduct a free and fair election. We request that the UN Security Council intervene in Ethiopia to stop the mayhem in Oromia, Tigray, and Beneshangul Gumuz, and oversee a national dialogue to establish an all inclusive

transitional government that charts new possibilities for all the peoples in Ethiopia, by the people themselves, through self-determination.

With highest regards,

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### **Signatories:**

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7. Gaadisa Sabboontottaa KP
8. Global Gumii Oromial
9. Global Oromo Advocacy Group
10. Global Waaqeffannaa Council
11. Horn of Africa Genocide Watch
12. Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa
13. International Oromo Lawyers Association
14. International Oromo Women's Organization
15. International Qeerroo Support Group
16. Network of Oromo Studies
17. Mana Kiristaanaa Fayyisaa Addunyaa
18. Oromo Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
19. Oromo Communities' Association of North America
20. Oromo Community of Bergen
21. Oromo Community of Columbus Ohio
22. Oromo Community of Oslo
23. Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church of Los Angeles
24. Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church of Washington DC Metropolitan Area
25. Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society
26. Oromo Human Rights and Relief Organization
27. Oromo Lutheran Church of Baltimore
28. Oromo Parliamentarians Council
29. Oromo Political Prisoners Association
30. Oromo Relief Organization, ORA in USA
31. Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Church
32. Oromo Scholars and Professionals

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33. Oromo Seniors Welfare & Benevolent Association In Victoria (OSWBAV) Inc.
34. Oromo Society of Science and Technology
35. Oromo Studies Association
36. Oromia Support Group
37. Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church
38. Tawfiq Islamic Center
39. Tawhid Oromo Islamic Center in Minnesota
40. Tumsa Sochii Haqa Oromoo
41. Union of Oromo Communities in Canada
42. United Oromo Christian Church in Australia
43. United Oromo Evangelical Church
44. Wabii Maccaa Association
45. Washington DC Metropolitan Oromo SDA Church