



Oromia Global Forum

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Open Letter: A Call to the government of Turkey and its people to stand with the Oromo nation

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey
Ankara, Turkey

Your Excellency, President Tayyip Erdoğan,

On behalf of the Oromo People, we, the [Oromia Global Forum \(OGF\)](https://ogfonline.org/) - a global alliance of 45 (forty-five) Oromo Civic, Professional, Faith-Based and Human Rights Advocacy Organizations, residing in North America, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa, call up on your government and the people of Turkey to stand with the Oromo People, the single largest nation in the Horn of Africa, with over 50 million population.

Turkey is the second-biggest investor in Ethiopia with almost all of its capital invested in the Oromia region, which has created employment opportunities for tens of thousands of our people. The Oromia Global Forum (OGF) is grateful to the government and people of Turkey for the friendship and cultural ties with the Oromo people. We are also pleased by the recent call by your government to mediate between all warring parties in Ethiopia and the region.

However, we are alarmed by the news of Turkish support for the current regime in Ethiopia. We sincerely believe that the current diplomatic ties with the present Ethiopian government could not have come at the worst time.

Your Excellency,

Supporting the government of PM Abiy Ahmed, diplomatically or otherwise, will be a great disservice to the Oromo people, and indeed, the majority of the peoples of Ethiopia. We also believe that it will be detrimental to the advancement of the noble interests pursued by the people and the government of Turkey in Ethiopia and the wider Horn region.

Morally, supporting the government of PM Abiy serves only to taint the good name of the Turkish people on the international stage. PM Abiy and his government stand accused of ethnic cleansing bordering on genocide by, among others, the United Nations, the US Secretary of State and multiple other governments and reputable human rights organizations based on layers of credible evidence. Furthermore, the US government has commissioned a study to determine whether the atrocities committed in Ethiopia constitute a crime of Genocide.

The ideological backdrop that led to the presently raging wars in Ethiopia stems from PM Abiy's desire to re-establish the old imperial rule that prioritized the narratives of one ethnic group. PM Abiy aspires to turn the clock back to Imperial Ethiopia characterized by a singular language namely Amharic, and a single faith called the Ethiopian Orthodox creed that zealously persecuted Oromo and others for over a hundred years. This has all been utterly rejected by the nations and nationalities in Ethiopia as evidenced by the current civil war that the government is prosecuting throughout the country.

Geo-politically, PM Abiy's government cannot be a reliable partner for Turkish long-term interests in the region as it has lost legitimacy from the vast majority of the peoples in Ethiopia. The June 2021 election, the sole legitimacy card that the regime plays internationally, was conducted only after the government systematically eliminated every credible opposition party that constitutes an electoral threat to PM Abiy's party from running. The majority of the peoples of the country, and the international community, do not perceive the election as free and fair including the Election Board chair, handpicked by the PM, who refrained from dubbing the election as fair.

Therefore, we, at the Oromia Global Forum, would like to implore the good people and the government of Turkey not to support the current regime in Ethiopia in its pursuit to advance its genocidal war on the Oromo people, the people of Tigray, and many other nations and nationalities in Ethiopia.

We, specifically, call upon your Excellency to:

- 1) Not provide any military equipment to PM Abiy's government to further commit genocide on the Oromo people, the people of Tigray, and many others;
- 2) Facilitate an immediate end to the ongoing war, which is already having ramifications for the stability and integrity of Ethiopia as well as for the entire Horn of the Africa region.
- 3) Play a positive role in the peaceful resolution of the crisis in Ethiopia by calling and facilitating an all-inclusive dialogue involving all concerned bodies;
- 4) Strengthen your generous humanitarian support for the population in need across the country and the region;
- 5) Stand with tens of millions of Muslims across the country who are being threatened by the 'one-state; one-language; one religion' policy and rhetoric reinforced by PM Abiy's government.

Kind regards,

Oromia Global Forum (OGF)