

Key issues

Violations and displacement: Egregious violations have been reported, including mass rape, extrajudicial killings, extensive looting, and the indiscriminate bombing of homes, churches, mosques, educational establishments, and other civilian structures. As of mid-February 2021, more than 60,000 Tigrayan refugees had registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sudan. However, Médecins Sans Frontières has (MSF) estimated that between 10,000 to 12,000 Tigrayan civilians remain in and around the border town of Hamdayet.¹ Thousands more are also displaced internally.

Plight of Eritrean Refugees: The situation for the 100,000 Eritrean refugees in Tigray (many of whom are unaccompanied minors) has deteriorated significantly. Reliable reports indicate that over 6,000 Eritrean refugees may have been forced into trucks and returned by the Eritrean military, and that these abductions are continuing. Satellite imagery has also shown that Shimelba and Hitsats camps, situated closer to the border with Eritrea than Mai Ayni and Adi Harush camps, have been completely destroyed. In January, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi confirmed that approximately 20,000 refugees who were formerly in Hitsats and Shimelba camps are missing.

Extrajudicial killing and Summary Execution: Tigrayan civilians are being subjected to collective punishment, having deemed guilty by association by dint of a shared ethnicity with the TPLF leaders. Ethiopian troops and allied forces stand accused of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian structures, and extrajudicial killings and summary executions that especially target Tigrayan men and boys. Several massacres have been reported as having occurred.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Reports continue to emerge of systematic, mass rape. On 11 February, these reports were confirmed in a Tweet by the Ethiopian Minister of Women and Children, Filsan Abdullahi Ahmed.² It increasingly appears that the mass rape being reported and documented in Tigray is not only being used as a weapon of war but may also be a constituent element of possible genocide. Prime Minister Abiy recently confirmed rape is indeed occurring, but also minimised it by contrasting it to the overrunning of the federal army's

Northern Command by forces loyal to Tigray armed with daggers in a surprise attack.

Hate Speech and Ethnic Profiling: The conflict has a clear ethnic dimension. CSW continues to receive reports of the proliferation of incitement and hate speech on social media and elsewhere, with Tigrayans being referred to in particularly dehumanising terms. Reports indicate Tigrinya speakers have been culled from places of employment elsewhere in Ethiopia, and federal soldiers have been disarmed and detained because of their ethnicity, including Tigrayan peacekeepers among Ethiopian forces in Somalia and South Sudan.

Looting and Destruction of Medical Facilities: Eritrean forces have looted extensively and destroyed equipment, medicines, and medical records. MSF reported that 70% of the 106 medical facilities its teams had been allowed to visit had been looted and only 13% of them were functioning fully, undermining medical treatment for those in need.

Need for an Independent Investigation: The United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights has agreed to Ethiopia's request for a joint investigation with the Eritrean Human Rights Commission (EHRC).³ However, confidence in this investigation risks being undermined by the inclusion of an institution funded and nominated by a significant party to the conflict.

Recommendations

For Eritrea's leader, Isais Afewerki, the war on Tigray is the fulfilment of a long-held vendetta against the TPLF dating back to the border war of 1998. He effectively groomed the leaders of Ethiopia and Somalia, aided in this endeavour by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's own antipathy towards the Tigrayan leadership and ambitions of centralising power. It is unlikely either will bring an end to the fighting until the senior TPLF leaders who remain free are captured and either humiliated, or eliminated, and Tigrayan civilians will continue bearing the brunt of their frustration at not being able to do so. CSW therefore calls on:

To the United Nations (UN) Security Council

- To act swiftly to ensure an immediate cessation of hostilities, the departure of Eritrean forces from the entire region, and unimpeded access to all of Tigray for local and international aid agencies. The imposition of

¹ Médecins Sans Frontières, 'People left with few healthcare options in Tigray as facilities looted, destroyed' 15 March 2021

<https://www.msf.org/health-facilities-targeted-tigray-region-ethiopia>

² Twitter, Filsan Abdullahi Ahmed @1_filsan, 11 February 2021

https://twitter.com/1_filsan/status/1359945231765032973?lang=en-gb

³ UN OHCHR, 'Ethiopia: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to conduct a joint investigation with a view to a credible accountability process' 25 March 2021

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?LangID=E&NewsID=26949>

an arms embargo on all identified warring parties, would be an important initial step in achieving these goals,

- Together with the African Union, to create a hybrid peacekeeping force, mandated to protect civilians, and enforce a ceasefire,
- To prioritise justice by ensuring implementation of the recommendations of the 2016 report of the UN Commission of inquiry on Eritrea (COIE), and to:“(a) Determine that the situation of human rights in Eritrea poses a threat to international peace and security; (b) Refer the situation in Eritrea to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court; (c) Impose targeted sanctions, namely travel bans and asset freezes, on persons where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the said persons are responsible for crimes against humanity or other gross violations of human rights;”

To the United States, European Union, Canada, and United Kingdom

- To urgently consider the imposition of targeted sanctions on military and political persons and entities of both nations identified as complicit in human rights violations in Tigray, and particularly on the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea, who are the main protagonists of this war and therefore bear ultimate responsibility for any human rights violations that are being committed with impunity by their respective armed forces,

To the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)

- To mandate a genuinely independent inquiry into alleged human rights violations in Tigray and securing justice. Partnering with a Commission financed and appointed by one of the main parties to the conflict may ensure access, but also raises important concerns, given the pressure and intimidation experienced by Ethiopian journalists who have reported accurately on events in Tigray.

Background

The Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) played a significant role in the defeat of Ethiopia's military dictatorship, known as the Dergue, and in the ensuing governing coalition between 1991 and 2018. However, its influence weakened progressively following the death of Ethiopia's post-Dergue leader, Meles Zenawi, and particularly under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who took office in 2018 and announced sweeping political reforms, which included punishing officials deemed to have

committed human rights and other abuses during the era when the TPLF was dominant. From 2018, several senior Tigrayan officials were dismissed or detained in what the federal government described as a clamp-down on corruption and abuse, but which the TPLF interpreted as a means of quelling potential dissent, and from 2019, the TPLF focused primarily on their regional remit.

Another issue at the heart of the disagreement between the Prime Minister and the Tigrayan leaders is one of governance. While Prime Minister Abiy appears to favour rule by a strong central government, the TPLF preference is for a federal model whereby the ethnically based regional states enjoy a higher degree of autonomy, including an option for independence.

Tigrayan officials also objected to the postponement (ostensibly due to the coronavirus pandemic) of Ethiopia's national elections, which were to take place in August, and the consequent extension of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's time in office. In September, Tigray held elections, in defiance of the Federal Government, which called the vote “illegal”, and which the TPLF won comprehensively. The TPLF responded that the Prime Minister's mandate to rule had expired and warned at the time that an intervention by the federal government would amount to a declaration of war, but is also alleged to have rebuffed efforts by concerned elders, including the decorated Olympian Haile Gebresellassie, to broker reconciliation.

The conflict began in earnest on 4 November 2020 when Prime Minister Abiy ordered a military offensive against the TPLF forces to restore order and institute a state of emergency in response to a raid on the federal Northern Command base in the region, which the Tigrayan authorities described as pre-emptive. While the government continued to describe its actions as a “law enforcement” exercise occasioned by an unprovoked attack; an Ethiopian army general recently disclosed that he was in Ba'eker near Humera in western Tigray secretly instructing army battalions prior to 4 November: “We prepared the tanks and bullets for the war and alerted our allies in the Northern Command. We were ahead of [the TPLF].”⁴

Communications in the Tigray area were disabled once the conflict began, effectively obscuring the disturbing manner in which events in the area are unfolding. Additionally, access to electricity, banking services, and water supplies were suspended, causing further hardship, while fighting has inhibited safe travel both into and around the region.

⁴ Martin Plaut, ‘Situation Report EEPA HORN No. 108’, 22 March 2021 <https://martinplaut.com/2021/03/22/situation-report-eepe-horn-no-108-22-march-2021/>

Violations and displacement

While the Ethiopian authorities have claimed their forces are only targeting the Tigrayan leadership, forces, and allied militias, over the course of the conflict, egregious violations have been reported, including mass rape, extrajudicial killings, extensive looting, and the indiscriminate bombing of homes, churches, mosques, educational establishments, and other civilian structures.

By 22 November 2020, The Sunday Telegraph was already reporting Ethiopia “may be on the edge of genocide,” detailing violence including the decapitation of four children, and babies being cut out of pregnant women. CSW had also received disturbing reports of house-to-house shootings in the town of Zalambessa that allegedly resulted in the extrajudicial executions of over 50 people.

Although the Ethiopian forces now hold the Tigrayan capital Mekelle and the government claimed it had achieved its objectives, fighting continues in areas around the capital, and elsewhere. The war is causing hardship and significant displacement. As of mid-February 2021, more than 60,000 Tigrayan refugees had registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sudan. However, Médecins Sans Frontier (MSF) estimates that between 10,000 to 12,000 refugees remain in and around the border town of Hamdayet. An even greater number are also displaced internally. Local officials currently estimate around 950,000 people fled their homes, “most with just the clothes they were wearing.”⁵

Plight of Eritrean refugees

The situation of some 100,000 Eritrean refugees in Tigray, most of whom lived in four UN-sponsored refugee camps, and many of whom are unaccompanied minors, has deteriorated significantly. The refugees had sought refuge in Ethiopia from a regime that is deemed by a UN Human Rights Council mandated commission of inquiry to have been committing crimes against humanity since 1991.⁶ The violence prevented the UNHCR and the Ethiopian Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) from accessing the camps to restock monthly food rations, which eventually ran out.

The presence of thousands of Eritrean troops in Tigray from the onset of the fighting is no longer disputed. Eritrean soldiers have also been involved in extensive looting, robbery, and destruction of property, including of cultural

heritage sites and ancient artefacts, and churches are often attacked on annual feast days, seemingly to ensure a large number of casualties.

Following initial confirmations of attacks and raids by Eritrean forces on Hitsats and Shimelba camps, and reports of the bombing of Adi Harush camp, CSW received reports that a significant number of refugees were terrorised, seized at gunpoint from Hitsats, Shimelba and even Shire town, then either being forced onto the front lines of the fighting, or forcibly returned to Eritrea, where many disappeared and others were imprisoned. Credible reports indicated that Eritreans who had settled in the city of Adigrat were also rounded up by Eritrean soldiers and forcibly returned. Although Ethiopian military forces had reportedly taken areas in Tigray province that surround these camps, reliable reports indicated that over 6,000 Eritrean refugees may have been forced into trucks and returned by the Eritrean military, and that these abductions are continuing.

In December 2020 reports surfaced that many Eritrean refugees, several of whom had been evacuated by air from Shire in Tigray to the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa by the federal army, had been placed in buses and were being returned to refugee camps in Tigray under armed guard. Also, in December 2020 CSW received confirmation of thousands of refugees being forcibly returned to Eritrea from Hitsats and Shimelba camps, with some having been sighted in Eritrea. These camps remain inaccessible; however, in January 2021 satellite imagery revealed that both had been extensively and deliberately destroyed. In January, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi confirmed that approximately 20,000 refugees who were formerly in Hitsats and Shimelba camps were missing. Around 3,000 former residents from these camps had managed to reach Mai Aini, one of the two remaining camps for Eritrean refugees in Tigray. Citing eyewitnesses he had met during a recent visit to Mai Aini, the High Commissioner said many refugees appear to have been “caught in crossfire, abducted and forced to return to Eritrea under duress by Eritrean forces.”⁷

However, while the buildings and structures at the remaining camps, Mai Aini and Adi Harush, are intact, the situation remains insecure, amidst reports that unspecified armed gangs continue to access these camps at night, attacking, violating, and robbing them at will.

⁵ TIME, ‘The U.N. Is Warning of an ‘Alarming’ Crisis in Ethiopia’s Tigray Region’, 25 March 2021 <https://time.com/5950244/un-crisis-ethiopia-tigray/>

⁶ CSW, ‘Eritrea CSW welcomes Commission of Inquiry report’, 8 June 2016 <https://www.csw.org.uk/2016/06/08/press/3136/privacy.htm>

⁷ Bloomberg, ‘UN Says 20,000 Refugees Missing After Ethiopian Camps Destroyed’, 1 February 2021 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-01/un-says-20-000-refugees-missing-after-ethiopian-camps-destroyed>

Extrajudicial killing and summary execution

Tigrayan civilians are being subjected to collective punishment, having been deemed guilty by association due to a shared ethnicity with the TPLF leaders. Ethiopian troops and allied forces stand accused of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian structures, and extrajudicial killings and summary executions that especially target Tigrayan men and boys. Eritrean troops and Amhara militia are particularly implicated in house-to-house searches and executions. In one instance, when begged to stop Eritrean troops told those intervening to be grateful, because had they followed orders to the letter no male over 12 would live.

Consistent allegations of the targeting of young men and boys indicates a systematic effort to eliminate an ethnic group may be underway. Additionally, imagery continues to emerge of Tigrayan civilians of all ages – male and female – with wounds to the arms and legs that will require, or have already necessitated, amputation, possibly in a deliberate effort to disable survivors.

Several massacres attributed to the Ethiopian army and its allies occurred in the wake of defeats by TPLF forces. The wanton cruelty displayed by Eritrean soldiers in particular, who reportedly massacre civilians casually, including children, and regularly refuse to grant permission for their burial for several days, is indicative of a disturbing military ethos that has evolved under a pathocracy where crimes against humanity are committed largely, although not exclusively, within the context of military service.

The following list, although far from comprehensive, provides an insight into the kinds of the atrocities that have reportedly occurred:

Between the seizure of Mekelle by Ethiopian soldiers on 28 November 2020 and 9 March, Ayder Referral Hospital received the bodies of 250 men aged between 20 and 35. Four fifths of these bodies had gunshot wounds, while the rest had suffered knife wounds.

- *8 January*: Ethiopian soldiers reportedly went from house to house, killing 160 people in Bora.
- *5 January*: Around 100 people were killed by Ethiopian soldiers in Debre Abay monastery, around 175 miles west of Mekelle.
- In an incident that occurred in the first two weeks of December, 13 boys aged between 12 and 15 from Tokot village near Idaga Hamus were executed after

being forced to load the bodies of dead Eritrean troops into a truck.

- *2 December 2020*: Eritrean troops forced 17 teenagers and young men from Sasun Betehawariyat near Idaga Hamus to assist them as they looted the Goda Bottle and Glass Share Company near Hadish Hiwot. All were later executed.
- *30 November 2020*: At least 100 people were killed when Eritrean troops opened fire on worshippers attending the annual celebration of the Orthodox Feast of Tsion Maryam at the Maryam Dengelat Church near Idaga Hamus, continuing to shoot them as they fled.
- *28–30 November 2020*: At least 750 civilians were reportedly killed by Eritrean forces in Axum. Some of the victims were dragged from the Maryam Zion Church, while house to house particularly targeted young men. The soldiers forbade burials for the victims until hyenas had begun to consume them.
- *25 November 2020*: Eritrean forces executed at least eight civilians at the Addis Pharmaceutical Factory in Adigrat after handcuffing them, and eight more in their homes in Hawzen.
- *21 November 2020*: Eritrean troops executed 12 male civilians in Adigrat after Ethiopian forces seized control of the town.
- *21 November 2020*: Eritrean troops executed 24 civilians shortly after capturing Idaga Hamus.
- *9–10 November 2020*: This massacre was initially reported, including by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), as the murder of 100s of ethnic Amhara day labourers by militia loyal to the TPLF. However, refugees from the area later claimed the murders were committed by Fano, an Amhara militia, and that most of the victims were Tigrayan.
- *18 November 2020*: 59 civilians were executed in Zalambessa by Ethiopian forces.

Also disturbing is the seeming lack of concern by the ‘professional’ Eritrean soldiers for the wellbeing of barely trained young conscripts, who reportedly have died in large numbers, some without having fired a single round, or when captured, exhibit confusion about their mission. Allegedly, 16-year-olds are now being conscripted.⁸ Unconfirmed reports that emerged earlier in the conflict also alleged Eritrean soldiers were under orders to eliminate their own wounded to conceal the country’s involvement in the fighting.

⁸ Eritrea Hub, ‘BREAKING: Eritrea extends conscription to 16 year olds; trained or untrained’, 28 March 2021 <https://eritreahub.org/breaking-eritrea-extends-conscription-to-16-year-olds-trained-or-untrained>

Sexual and gender based violence

Compelling and deeply disturbing reports have continued to emerge since the beginning of the crisis of systematic mass rape. On 11 February, the veracity of these reports was confirmed in a Tweet by Ethiopia's Minister of Women, Children and Youth, Filsan Abdullahi Ahmed: "We have received the report back from our Taskforce team on the ground in the Tigray region, they have unfortunately established rape has taken place conclusively and without a doubt."⁹

Survivors range from the very young to the elderly, are female or male, and are generally held captive for extended periods, and raped multiple times by multiple assailants. In an extensive report on the issue the French journal *Libération* highlighted a case in which a husband had to pay ransom to Eritrean soldiers to secure the return of his wife.¹⁰ CSW received extremely disturbing video footage of a victim who had been raped repeatedly by 23 Eritrean soldiers over ten days undergoing the removal of stones, nails, used tissues and other objects that were inserted in her before she was dumped on a road.

Many women and young girls are being treated for injuries caused by rape in Ayder Referral Hospital in Mekelle, having been referred there from hospitals in rural areas that are not equipped for such cases. A CNN report found over 200 women had been admitted in recent months. However, these are the patients who have managed to reach the hospital for assistance.¹¹ The actual numbers reported from rural areas are far higher, and even more may have gone unreported. As well as effectively enduring torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, which in some cases has caused prolapses, many women have also contracted sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

In a virtual briefing to members states on 25 March the UN's Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, who had spent two and a half months in Tigray, stated that five medical facilities had recorded 516 rape cases in mid-March, adding that it was "projected that the actual numbers are much higher."¹² Earlier, in a 'Statement on Gender Based Violence in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.'¹³ 12 UN officials, including the heads of nine agencies, had called on "on all State and non-State parties to the conflict to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian

and human rights law; ensure their forces respect and protect civilian populations, particularly women and children, from all human rights abuses; explicitly condemn all sexual violence; and take action to bring perpetrators to justice where abuses do occur.

It appears that mass rape is not being used solely as a means of humiliation in a country and on a continent where victims can face stigma and even rejection; nor is it being used only to destroy the psyche of the victims. Survivors regularly narrate that their assailants – generally Eritrean soldiers or Amhara militia men – speak mockingly of purifying or cleansing their bloodline, in an indication that rape is also being utilised as a means of eliminating Tigrayan ethnicity and identity.

UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) stipulates that "rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide." It appears increasingly that the mass rape in Tigray may fall under this category - it is not only being used as a weapon of war but could also be a constituent element of a possible genocide.

Hate speech and ethnic profiling

The ethnic dimension to the conflict is unavoidable. CSW continues to receive reports of a proliferation of incitement and hate speech on social media and elsewhere, with Tigrayans in particular being spoken of in dehumanising terms. Surprisingly, several opponents of President Afewerki in the Eritrean diaspora, who were formerly thought to be 'justice seekers', have supported or even celebrated the attack on Tigray, citing the expulsion of Eritreans from Ethiopia in the lead up to the border war (1996-2000).

Reports indicate there has been a culling of Tigrinya speakers in places of employment elsewhere in Ethiopia. The EHRC has reported complaints that individuals of Tigrayan origin have been prevented from travelling overseas for work, medical treatment, or studies. Federal soldiers have been disarmed and detained because of their ethnicity, including Tigrayan peacekeepers among Ethiopian forces in Somalia and South Sudan.

⁹ Twitter, Filsan Abdullahi Ahmed, 11 February 2021

¹⁰ *Libération*, 'Viols de masse en Ethiopie : «Plus aucune femme ne se sent en sécurité au Tigré»', 21 March 2021 https://www.liberation.fr/international/afrique/viols-de-masse-en-ethiopie-plus-aucune-femme-ne-se-sent-en-securite-au-tigre-20210321_MBNPIWC7NFGPNAZKN3HDH7ZXZU/

¹¹ CNN, "Practically this has been a genocide", 22 March 2021 <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/19/africa/ethiopia-tigray-rape-investigation-cmd-intl/index.html>

¹² TIME, 'The U.N. Is Warning of an 'Alarming' Crisis in Ethiopia's Tigray Region', 25 March 2021 <https://time.com/5950244/un-crisis-ethiopia-tigray/>

¹³ Relief Web, 'Statement on Gender-Based Violence in Tigray region of Ethiopia', 22 March 2021 <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/statement-gender-based-violence-tigray-region-ethiopia>

There are serious concerns that whilst there is no government policy condoning or permitting ethnic profiling, existing security measures are being exploited to target Tigrayans. It is vital that all parties to the conflict refrain from using inflammatory language that dehumanises ethnic groups and immediately end the current practice of ethnic profiling.

Looting and destruction of medical facilities

A statement by ICRC released on 29 November 2020 highlighted the fact that Ayder Referral Hospital in the Tigrayan capital, Mekelle, was “running dangerously low on sutures, antibiotics, anticoagulants, painkillers, and even gloves” due to an influx of wounded people, 80% of whom had suffered unspecified “trauma injuries. The statement also spoke of a shortage of “body bags”, and of the presence in Mekelle of some 1000 Eritrean refugees in search of food.¹⁴

Since then, the situation has worsened, amidst the targeting of health facilities throughout the province by Eritrean forces, who have looted extensively, destroying medical records and anything else that they have not been carried away, including equipment and medicines, deliberately undermining efforts to treat civilians in need. MSF has reported that 70% of the 106 medical facilities its teams had been allowed to visit between mid-December 2020 and early March 2021 had been looted, 30% had been damaged, and only 13% were functioning fully. Additionally, every fifth health facility the team visited was occupied by soldiers.¹⁵

An independent accountability mechanism

On 23 March Prime Minister Abiy admitted for the first time – in an interview conducted in Amharic – that Eritrean forces were in Ethiopia, and atrocities had been committed in Tigray. Describing war as “a nasty thing” he claimed soldiers who raped women or committed other war crimes

would be held responsible, but also attempted to minimise reports of its prevalence. Expressing gratitude for Eritrea’s assistance, he further claimed his government would never accept violations against Ethiopian civilians, and that Eritrea had promised to leave once Ethiopia controlled the Province. However, following visits by a high-level US delegation, the EU’s sanctioning of Eritrea and expressions readiness to “activate all [its] foreign policy tools”¹⁶ with regard to those responsible for violations in Tigray, and his own visit to Eritrea, the prime minister announced Eritrean forces would be withdrawing from “border areas.” However, this announcement has met with a significant degree of scepticism. Eritrean forces are also deployed in the restive Oromo region,¹⁷ and are also involved in fighting on the border of Sudan¹⁸ alongside Amhara militia. Moreover, Eritrean forces are not alone in targeting Tigrayan civilians; Amhara militia and the Ethiopian armed forces are also implicated in human rights violations yet will remain in the area.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has agreed to Ethiopia’s request for a joint investigation into human rights violations alongside the state appointed EHRC.¹⁹ However, confidence in this investigation risks being undermined by the inclusion of an organisation which is vulnerable to pressure from a significant party to the conflict. “To have a real chance of uncovering the full truth, the investigating officials must not come from Ethiopia or Eritrea, and they must be given full freedom to go wherever they see fit and to interview anyone they wish, without Ethiopian government officials being present. [... T]he Ethiopian Prime Minister, who agreed to the invasion of Tigray and military operations there by a foreign (Eritrean) army against his own people, should have no influence or control over this investigation.”²⁰

¹⁴ International Committee of the Red Cross, ‘Ethiopia: Hospitals in Mekelle struggling to care for wounded as medical supplies run out; Red Cross ambulances evacuate the injured’, 29 November 2020 <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/ethiopia-hospitals-mekelle-struggling-care-wounded-medical-supplies-run-out-red-cross>

¹⁵ Medecins Sans Frontieres, 15 March 2021

¹⁶ Addis Standard, ‘EU “ready to activate all foreign policy tools” against human rights violations in Tigray; to dispatch Envoy back to Ethiopia’, 23 March 2021 <https://addisstandard.com/news-eu-ready-to-activate-all-foreign-policy-tools-against-human-rights-violations-in-tigray-to-dispatch-envoy-back-to-ethiopia/>

¹⁷ Eritrea Hub, ‘Report: “Eritrean troops despatched to Oromia”’, 22 March 2021 <https://eritreahub.org/report-eritrean-troops-despatched-to-eritrea>

¹⁸ Mekete Tigray UK, ‘Eritrea Forces Deployed In Disputed Sudan-Ethiopia Area, UN Says’, 25 March 2021 <https://meketetigray.uk/2021/03/25/eritrea-forces-deployed-in-disputed-sudan-ethiopia-area-un-says/>

¹⁹ UN OHCHR, 25 March 2021

²⁰ Human Rights Concern Eritrea, ‘Ethiopia should not be allowed to investigate its own crimes in Tigray’, 23 March 2021 <https://hrc-eritrea.org/ethiopia-should-not-be-allowed-to-investigate-its-own-crimes-in-tigray/>