

**MODEL LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA TO END AND INVESTIGATE STATE SPONSORED
VIOLENCE IN THE AMHARA AND OROMIA REGIONS**

29 MAY 2020 – JANUARY 2021

Minister Muferiat Kamil
Ministry of Peace
Ethio-China Street
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Dear Minister Muferihat,

I am writing to express my concern about the conduct of the Ethiopian security forces in the Amhara and Oromia regions. On 29 May, Amnesty International's report, entitled "*Beyond law enforcement: human rights violations by Ethiopian security forces in Amhara and Oromia*", revealed crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations and abuses committed by the Ethiopian Defence Forces, Regional Special Police, local administration officials and militia, and armed vigilante groups in the Oromia and Amhara regions.

Security forces deployed in the two Guji zones committed extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, forced evictions, and destruction of property. In the Amhara region, Regional Special Police units and local administration militia were complicit in violence between the ethnic Amhara and Qimant communities in West Gondar and Central Gondar zones. Some IDPs have even reported a denial of aid as a way of forcing them to return to their original homes, which remain unsafe for them to live.

I am calling on the Ethiopian government to immediately end the use of extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations in its security operations, and that it begins to immediately remedy and hold violators accountable for these crimes. I also urge you to:

- Provide and facilitate the provision of urgent humanitarian services and adequate compensation to communities forcefully evicted by security forces in Oromia and for IDPs in the Amhara Region;
- Investigate and, where there is sufficient admissible evidence of criminal responsibility, prosecute all instances of unlawful killings, including, extrajudicial executions, and other serious human rights violations by federal security forces, regional security forces, those under command posts, Unidentified Armed Groups, and vigilante groups; and
- Investigate and, where there is sufficient admissible evidence of criminal responsibility, prosecute all, with special attention to members of security forces, those suspected of inciting, coordinating and executing Qimant related violence that took place in the Amhara region in January, September and October of 2019.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,
[Insert Name]