



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia should investigate all atrocities

Amnesty International welcomes the establishment of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia and their briefing to the Council. Since the outbreak of the conflict in Tigray in November 2020 that subsequently spread to neighboring regions, Amnesty International has documented grave human rights violations that amount to war crimes and may amount to crimes against humanity.¹ There is an urgent need to investigate the full extent of the atrocities committed by all parties.

A communications blackout and restrictions on physical access for independent observers to areas affected by the conflict have severely inhibited documentation of human rights abuses. Amnesty International believes that the level of human rights abuses documented and published to date merely scratch the surface.

We condemn the decision by Ethiopian authorities to publicly reject the mandate of the Commission as well as the ACHPR Commission of Inquiry. In doing so, the Ethiopian government has attempted to protract and derail steps towards justice and accountability measures and has failed to take tangible steps to break the culture of impunity for atrocities. Moreover, Ethiopia's laws and justice institutions are ill-suited to ensure justice and accountability for mass atrocities by Ethiopia's armed forces, rebel forces and foreign troops.

Justice and accountability are essential to address the human rights crisis in the context of the conflict in Ethiopia, as well to address conditions that contributed to the context in which systemic violence occurred in the past. To this end, this Council must keep supporting the work of the Commission. Amnesty International further calls on this Council and on all UN members states, as well as regional bodies, to take meaningful steps to assist the Commission to secure adequate resources and unconditional access to all areas and survivors, including refugees, affected by the conflict since November 2020.

¹ [Ethiopia: "We will erase you from this land": Crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing in Ethiopia's Western Tigray Zone](#) (AFR 25/5444/2022) 6 April 2022; [Ethiopia: "I don't know if they realized I was a person": Rape and sexual violence in the conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia](#), (AFR 25/4569/2021), 11 August 2021; [Ethiopia: The Massacre in Axum](#), (AFR 25/3730/2021), 26 February 2021; [Ethiopia: Survivors of TPLF attack in Amhara describe gang rape, looting and physical assaults](#), 9 November 2021.

Background

This public statement is based on an oral statement Amnesty International delivered to the Human Rights Council on 30 June 2022, during the interactive dialogue with the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia at HRC 50.

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