



AI Index Number: IOR 40/4707/2021
13 September 2021

Oral Statement

Item 2: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-eighth regular session
13 September – 8 October 2021

Madame President,

Since the conflict in Tigray started in November 2020, many of us have been wondering how critical the situation must get for the international community, including this Council, to robustly respond.

Despite limited access for human rights organizations to the affected regions and severe communications restrictions, Amnesty International and other have managed to document enough evidence of human rights and international humanitarian law violations to prove that the situation is critical and requires action from the international community.

We have shared evidence of horrifying massacres that constitute war crimes and may amount to crimes against humanity. We have warned that the humanitarian situation has worsened with time, as the Ethiopian government continues to restrict access for aid and aid workers to the region. We have shared evidence of how women and girls have been subjected to rape and other sexual violence by forces aligned with the Ethiopian government.

And now new allegations of abuses by the TPLF, in their offensive in Afar and Amhara regions have emerged, which Amnesty International is trying to investigate.

Madam President,

We urge this Council to do more to protect the rights of the people of Ethiopia, to contribute to accountability for grave crimes, and to do all it can to avert further violations and abuses. To do more to strengthen synergies with important regional efforts, in particular the COI created by the African Commission. To stand with victims and survivors in their pursuit of justice.

We urge this Council to respond with urgency to the findings of the OHCHR joint investigation, as well as those of the African Commission's COI, at the earliest possible opportunity and play its role in contributing to holding perpetrators to account.

Thank you.