

**ALERT**



# ETHIOPIA

**THE CIVIL WAR IN ETHIOPIA BEGAN IN 2020 AFTER MONTHS OF TENSION** between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government and the ethnic Tigrayan political party, the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF). The conflict turned violent in November 2020 when the TPLF attacked a government military base. In response, the government ordered a military operation into Tigray to allegedly prevent further instability in the region. To help fight the TPLF, Ahmed secretly invited Eritrean national forces into Ethiopia.

**As many as 465,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the conflict or died as a result of the man-made famine in Tigray, and more than two million have been displaced.** Over nine million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, predominantly in Tigray, where the Ethiopian government has blocked food, basic supplies, and access to healthcare, causing thousands of deaths. The government and its allies have targeted Tigrayan civilians and other ethnic minority groups across the country, in what the United States has declared to be ethnic cleansing. Despite clear evidence of mass atrocities, the conflict has received very little international policy attention.

According to the United Nations, all parties to the conflict have committed “serious abuses and violations of human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law,” many of which “may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.” Ethiopian and Eritrean federal forces have reportedly killed the largest numbers of civilians in Tigray. These forces have committed massacres, sexual and gender-based violence, extrajudicial killings, indiscriminate shelling, and large-scale forced displacement.

**While the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan forces agreed to a humanitarian truce in March 2022, aid has been slow to reach Tigray.** Meanwhile, the government has called for a national dialogue to discuss major political issues. However, key opposition groups—whose members the government has labeled as terrorists—have been excluded from participating, making it unlikely that lasting peace will be established.

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FOR THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE

The Museum's **Simon-Skjoldt Center** is deeply concerned about the risk for future mass atrocities, the continued targeting of Tigrayans and other minority ethnic groups, and the lack of justice and accountability for past crimes. Accountability efforts are needed to prevent more revenge killings and other violence.

**Governments around the world should:**

- Press the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan leadership to cease attacks and engage in negotiations.
- Support independent investigations and documentation of mass atrocity crimes.
- Maintain arms embargoes to prevent weapons from flowing to all sides in the conflict.
- Continue advocating for humanitarian access and aid to those suffering from famine.

**LEARN MORE AT** [ushmm.org/ethiopia](https://ushmm.org/ethiopia)



Previous page: A woman stands in line to receive food donations at a school turned into a temporary shelter for people displaced by conflict in the Tigray region, Ethiopia, March 15, 2021. *Baz Ratner/Reuters*

**WHAT YOU DO MATTERS.** We can all play a role in helping prevent genocide. Action takes many forms, and every action counts. You can:

**Stay informed.** Follow the news; visit our website to learn more about places at risk of genocide and other violence, [ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries](https://ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries)

**Join the Museum community.** Sign up to receive email updates and follow us on Twitter @CPG\_USHMM and Facebook @CenterForThePreventionOfGenocide

**Engage with your community.** Spread the word about what you've learned with friends, family, and colleagues

**Support education and relief efforts.** Find out more about humanitarian organizations, what they are doing in response to mass atrocities, and how you can help

**Contact the media.** Tell television, radio, newspaper, and online journalists that you want better coverage of places at risk of genocide and other violence; visit their websites, tag them on social media, call them, and send emails that provide feedback on their coverage

**Contact your elected representatives.** Alert them to the need to provide humanitarian assistance, protect civilians, stop the violence, and promote solutions to crises

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