



## Tigrayan Advocacy & Development Association (TADA)

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Date: 30/01/2024

Mr QU Dongyu (PhD)  
FAO Director-General  
Rome

[Director@fao.org](mailto:Director@fao.org)

Dear Dr Qu Dongyu,

The recent award bestowed upon Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for his purported commitment to food security and nutrition is deeply troubling. Despite widespread reports of blocked humanitarian aid, man-made famine, and destroyed agricultural sectors under Abiy's leadership, the FAO seems disconnected from the harsh realities faced by the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE).

Contrary to the FAO's recognition, Abiy's actions have contributed to severe food shortages, as highlighted in a recent report by OCHA. The report emphasizes the immense challenges faced by humanitarian partners in aiding amid resource constraints and active hostilities. Millions of Ethiopians, spanning regions like Amhara, Tigray, Somali, and Afar, continue to grapple with pressing needs in various sectors, including food, nutrition, water, sanitation, health, agriculture, and livelihoods.

The FAO's decision to honour Abiy, especially considering the ongoing humanitarian crisis outlined by OCHA, raises questions about the agency's awareness and commitment to unbiased assessments. It appears either insincere or misguided for the FAO to disregard the pressing needs of the Ethiopian population and laud a leader accused of War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and weaponizing humanitarian aid during conflicts. The suffering in Tigray Ogaden, Oromia and Amhara, among other regions, contradicts the FAO's celebration of Abiy's supposed efforts in ensuring food security. This award risks legitimizing a leader who has faced criticism for worsening hunger and famine. Awarding accolades to Abiy sends a perplexing message, portraying a leader responsible for humanitarian crises as a champion of food security. The disconnect between the FAO's recognition and the grim realities on the ground raises concerns about the agency's impartiality and understanding of Ethiopia's current challenges.

In a world where millions are grappling with malnutrition and hunger, the FAO's decision appears incongruent with the urgent need for a large-scale, multisector response to address the humanitarian crisis. It leaves those suffering questioning the sanity of a system that awards leaders for actions causing immense hardship. The FAO's accolade risks perpetuating a narrative that contradicts the dire circumstances faced by the people of Ethiopia in general and Tigrayans in particular.

TADAUK.ORG would like an answer as to why you grant an award for a leader who committed war crimes, involved in donor grains theft and used food as a weapon war in Tigray Regional State. Your motivation could be driven by your ideology or special national interest, which shouldn't be exercised while serving at the UN.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

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