



Tigrayan Advocacy & Development Association (TADA)

211 Clapham Road

London

SW9 0QH

Email: info@tadauk.org

Website: www.tadauk.org

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Members of the AU panel, as well as the observers –

UN Representatives.

EU Representatives

IGAD Representatives

USA Representatives

UK – FCDO

RE: An urgent call for the full implementation of the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Nairobi Declaration

Your Excellencies,

A strategic review of the implementation of the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between Ethiopia's federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) is underway hosted by the African Union. We trust this is going to be a forum where the two parties, members of the AU panel, as well as the observers – UN, EU, IGAD and the USA will take stock of the status of the implementation of the Pretoria agreement. We thank you in advance for your continuous efforts & commitments to bring just solutions to this political impasse.

Our Concerns:

The impending meeting involving the TPLF, the Federal Government of Ethiopia, and African Union mediators is likely to face significant hurdles due to the contentious interpretation of the Pretoria Agreement. A pivotal concern is the Federal Government's apparent intent to undermine the constitutional rights of the Tigray Regional government, particularly in matters of territorial autonomy, which are fundamental to the broader principle of self-determination. The establishment of "Regional States" is crucial for ethnic groups in Ethiopia to exercise their language, cultural, and political rights, as enshrined in the constitution, which recognizes the sovereignty of each of the 12 regional states.

The Federal Government seems inclined to infringe upon these principles by asserting control over certain zones of Tigray (Welkait , Tslemeti & Raya), altering demographic compositions, and even advocating for referendums, which contravene the inherent rights of Tigrayans. Such actions are bound to be contentious topics during the upcoming discussions.

Another point of contention revolves around the presence of armed militiamen and Eritrean soldiers in Tigray, as well as the repatriation of internally displaced Tigrayans. The FDRE government appears reluctant to allow Tigrayan security forces into these areas, favouring the reinforcement of Amhara Forces under the guise of local law enforcement. Reports indicate the training of law enforcement agents with the support of the Ethiopian National Defence Forces, further exacerbating tensions.

Your Excellencies,

It is imperative for members of the AU panel, as well as the observers – UN.EU, IGAD and the USA to assert their positions early on, highlighting the unconstitutional nature of such actions and their violation of the Pretoria Agreement. Any newly formed militias in the disputed zones must be disbanded, and law enforcement must be jointly monitored by the Federal Government and Tigray Regional Police until the safe return of internally displaced persons is safeguarded.

Failure to adhere to these principles would signal a disregard for the Pretoria Agreement, potentially leading to the escalation of hostilities and the annexation of Tigrayan territories by Eritrea and Amhara militia. Such actions would be perceived as ethnic cleansing and a declaration of war against the people of Tigray, warranting swift international condemnation and intervention. Your intervention on this matter is critical.

We wish you all the best to succeed on your endeavours to bring sustainable peace, which ultimately benefits the people of Ethiopia & Regional Peace and Security at large.

Regards

Estifanos Abebe
Director
TADAUK.ORG
Admin@tadauk.org
London
United Kingdom