



## Tigrayan Advocacy & Development Association (TADA)

211 Clapham Road

London

SW9 0QH

Email: [info@tadauk.org](mailto:info@tadauk.org)

Website: [www.tadauk.org](http://www.tadauk.org)

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### **"Giving the Devil the Pulpit, while Letting the Snake Charm the Crowd."**

RE: Serious Concerns Regarding Planned Meeting between Tigray Community Representatives and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed:

TADA UK wish to express my grave concerns and reservations regarding the upcoming planned meeting between purported Tigray Community Representatives and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia.

Prime Minister Abiy and his government stand accused of grave crimes against humanity, including war crimes, perpetrated against the people of Tigray, with involvement from Amhara and Eritrean forces. The atrocities committed demand accountability, and we call for Prime Minister Abiy to face justice before the International Criminal Tribunal.

#### *"In Tigray, Ethiopian National Defence*

*Force, Eritrean Defence Forces, regional forces, and affiliated militias perpetrated violations and abuses on a staggering scale, including mass killings, widespread and systematic rape and sexual violence against women and girls, deliberate starvation, forced displacement, and large-scale arbitrary detentions. These acts amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Further investigation is required to establish command and/or superior responsibility for such crimes. We also believe that further independent investigation is warranted to determine the possible commission of the crime against humanity of extermination and/or the crime of genocide" ICHREE.*

The gathering of so-called representatives of the Tigray community with Prime Minister Abiy raises serious questions about the legitimacy and intentions of such a meeting. It is deeply troubling that victims of the conflict are being presented alongside their alleged perpetrator as representatives of the Tigray people. Rather than holding Prime Minister Abiy accountable for the genocide and demanding the return of occupied sovereign land and the protection of displaced persons, this meeting risks providing him with a platform to whitewash his crimes.

Furthermore, we are alarmed by the apparent international support Prime Minister Abiy is receiving, including from institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, European Union, and the United States Attorney General's Office. Such support undermines efforts to hold him accountable for his actions. The federal government's attempts to coerce attendance at this meeting are unacceptable. The people of Tigray must have the freedom to decide for themselves whether to participate, particularly given the ongoing violence and oppression they are enduring.

We question the legitimacy of the individuals selected to attend this meeting and urge them not to cooperate with Prime Minister Abiy's agenda. We implore them to stand in solidarity with the victims of the conflict and refrain from legitimizing the actions of a genocidal regime.

In conclusion, we call on all parties involved to prioritise justice, accountability, and the rights of the Tigray people. Any dialogue or negotiation must be conducted in good faith and with the genuine participation of those most affected by the conflict via an independent Commission with inclusion of the Tigrayan People.

TADAUK.ORG  
[Info@tadauk.org](mailto:Info@tadauk.org)  
London  
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