



Tigrayan Advocacy & Development Association (TADA)

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OPEN LETTER: URGENT CONCERN REGARDING DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

**To: Honourable Ervin J. Masinga,
Ambassador of the United States to FDRE
From: TADAUK.ORG**

Date: 27 January 2026
TADAUK.ORG

Subject: Serious Concerns Regarding Diplomatic Engagement with Alleged Perpetrators of Atrocity Crimes and the Failure to Uphold Legal Frameworks

Your Excellency,

We write to you as Tigray Advocacy & Development Organisation (TADAUK.ORG), to express our profound alarm and serious concern of your recent visit to Western Tigray. This region remains under illegal occupation and is the documented site of atrocity crimes, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. While we believe your intentions may be to revive the moribund Pretoria Agreement, which the African Union is neglecting, we must underscore that the perception created by this visit, especially within the context of the occupying force's narrative, is dangerously opposite, legitimising a brutal occupation rather than advancing peace and justice.

Our concern is rooted not only in humanitarian principles but, more critically, in the legal obligations incumbent upon all parties involved, including the United States, the United Nations, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council, IGAD and all mediating bodies overseeing the implementation of the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA).

1. The Legal and Constitutional Reality of Western Tigray

It is an established and evidence-based fact, recognised by the US Department of State, UN reports, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and independent legal analyses from institutions like Yale University, that forces from the Amhara region, backed by the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and Eritrean troops, have ethnically cleansed over one million Tigrayans from Western Tigray. These acts constitute atrocity crimes under international law.

- ❖ Under the Ethiopian Constitution, Western Tigray (Welkait, Tsegede, Humera) remains an integral part of the Tigray Regional State. Any alteration of this status by force is unconstitutional.

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- ❖ Under the Pretoria CoHA, the agreement explicitly mandates the resolution of “disputed areas” per the Ethiopian Constitution and calls for the withdrawal of “foreign and non-ENDF forces.” The continued Amhara regional administration and militia presence in Western Tigray is a direct and flagrant violation of this binding agreement.

2. Grave Criticism: Diplomatic Engagement with Sanctioned Alleged Perpetrators

Your Excellency’s meeting with representatives of the illegal Amhara regional administration in Western Tigray—an administration installed and maintained through genocidal acts—without publicly condemning their crimes and asserting the constitutional status of the territory, represents a severe dereliction of diplomatic and moral duty. This action:

- ❖ Undermines US Sanctions Policy: It confers unwarranted legitimacy on individuals and entities implicated in atrocities, contravening the spirit and intent of US sanctions programs established under Executive Order 14046.
- ❖ Violates the Principle of Conditionality: Engagement with parties to a conflict, especially those accused of genocide, must be strictly conditioned on their compliance with international law and peace agreements. Your visit, absent public condemnation and demands for compliance, abandons this crucial principle.
- ❖ Erodes the Foundations of Transitional Justice: Meeting with alleged perpetrators without demanding accountability directly fosters impunity, emboldens aggressors, and inflicts profound psychological harm on victims, signalling that geopolitical interests outweigh justice.

3. The Failure of Oversight and Legal Obligations

The current stalemate and continued suffering in Tigray highlight a systemic failure by the bodies tasked with upholding peace and law:

- ❖ The African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC): Has a primary responsibility under Article 7 of its Protocol to promote peace, security, and stability in Africa. Its failure to decisively address the illegal occupation of Western Tigray and the ongoing siege constitutes a neglect of its foundational legal mandate.
- ❖ The Mediation Team (US, AU, IGAD, UN): Possesses a legal and moral duty to ensure full implementation of the Pretoria CoHA. Allowing one party to flagrantly violate core provisions (Article 2, Clause 1 & Article 10) without consequence invalidates the agreement’s integrity and the mediators’ credibility.
- ❖ The United Nations: Beyond its reporting role, the UN Security Council and relevant agencies have a responsibility under the UN Charter to address threats to international peace and security, which includes ongoing atrocity crimes and the weaponisation of hunger.

Our Demands: A Return to Law and Accountability

We hereby urge you, and through you the United States Government, to immediately recalibrate your approach to align with legal obligations and stated US policy:

1. Publicly Affirm Legal Frameworks: Issue an unambiguous statement reaffirming that the status of Western Tigray must be resolved solely per the Ethiopian Constitution, demand the immediate withdrawal of Amhara regional forces and administration, and condemn all past and ongoing atrocity crimes.

2. Enforce the Pretoria Agreement: Use all diplomatic and economic tools to hold the Government of Ethiopia accountable for the full implementation of the CoHA, specifically:
 - ❖ The unconditional, safe, and dignified return of all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their homes, including Western Tigray.
 - ❖ The immediate cessation of the humanitarian and economic siege on Tigray, ensuring the full restoration of services, unimpeded aid access, and the release of lawfully allocated federal budgets.
 - ❖ The termination of hate speech, demonisation, and preparations for renewed conflict by the Ethiopian state.
3. Prioritise Transitional Justice: Advocate unequivocally for the urgent establishment of a credible, independent international transitional justice mechanism, as recommended by the UN International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE), to hold all perpetrators accountable.
4. Conditional Diplomacy: Cease all diplomatic engagements that normalise or legitimise illegal administrations and individuals accused of grave crimes, making future engagement strictly conditional on verifiable steps toward compliance with law and the peace agreement.

The people of Tigray have endured genocide. The path to peace cannot be built on the normalisation of its perpetrators or the erasure of its victims. We expect the United States, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a key architect of the Pretoria Agreement, to act in defence of international law, not in contradiction to it.

We trust you will treat this matter with the utmost seriousness it demands.

Respectfully,

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Attachments:

[War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Ethnic Cleansing in Ethiopia - United States Department of State](https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/ethiopia)
<https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/ethiopia>
<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R47898>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klyuRzxZVS0>
UK Parliament Report on Tigray: [Tigray-Report_29-September-2023.pdf](#)
UN ICHREE Reports
<https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/51/46>
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/chreetiopia/a-hrc-54-crp-3.pdf>
[A/HRC/54/CRP.2](#)
[The Policy Options for Transitional Justice in Ethiopia | OHCHR](#)
Yale University Law School Report: [all_of_us_are_in_constant_hunger.pdf](#)
New Lines Institute Strategy of Denial Report: [20240604-Report-Genocide-in-Tigray-NLISAP-FINAL.pdf](#)