



Human Rights Council**Forty-seventh session**

21 June–14 July 2021

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 13 July
2021****47/13. Situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant international and regional human rights treaties,**Reaffirming that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to the enjoyment and full realization of their human rights without distinction of any kind such as religion, belief or ethnic origin,**Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Ethiopia,**Noting with appreciation the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire by the Government of Ethiopia on 28 June 2021, and calling upon all parties to cease hostilities,**Deeply concerned about the situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, in particular the serious allegations of human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law and international refugee law, including those involving indiscriminate shelling, extrajudicial killings, mass killings of civilians, widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary arrests and detention, ethnic profiling and discrimination, forced displacement, abductions and forcible returns of refugees, widespread looting and the destruction of humanitarian aid,**Deeply concerned also by reports indicating the participation of Eritrean troops exacerbating the conflict in the Tigray region and by allegations of their involvement in cases of serious human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian and refugee law,**Deeply concerned further about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Tigray region, the food crisis and the serious conditions of famine, and also about the insecurity that continues to hamper humanitarian access, while deeply deploring the killings of humanitarian and medical workers and strongly condemning all acts of violence, attacks and threats against humanitarian and medical workers, and attacks on critical infrastructure, including hospitals and medical facilities,*

Reiterating the responsibility of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and to protect their populations, in line with their commitments under international human rights law and international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to engage and cooperate with the United Nations and its mechanisms in the field of human rights, and underscoring the importance of the continued involvement of the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development,

Acknowledging resolution 482 adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on 12 May 2021 establishing a commission of inquiry into the situation in the Tigray region,

Acknowledging also the continuing efforts by the Government of Ethiopia to provide humanitarian assistance and to provide increased humanitarian access, while recognizing that rapid, sustained and unimpeded access is still urgently needed throughout the Tigray region,

Taking note of the press statement of the Security Council on 22 April 2021 on the situation in Ethiopia,¹

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the reports of serious human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law and international refugee law allegedly committed by all parties in the Tigray region since the start of the conflict on 4 November 2020;

2. *Calls for* an immediate halt to all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law and for the strict observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Also calls for* the swift and verifiable withdrawal of Eritrean troops from the Tigray region;

4. *Underscores* the need to hold accountable all those responsible for human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of the Tigray conflict, and recognizes in this regard the importance of preserving and analysing evidence with a view to advancing accountability;

5. *Recognizes* the steps that have been taken to date by the Government of Ethiopia within the established domestic process to advance accountability for alleged violations;

6. *Welcomes* the recent announcement of the Government of Ethiopia to ensure accountability for violations, and calls upon the Government to continue to create the conditions necessary to carry out full, unhindered and independent investigations, to prosecute and to render judgments efficiently, transparently and independently, to bring to justice perpetrators of crimes involving human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, and to protect victims and at-risk persons against reprisals of any form;

7. *Also welcomes* the joint investigation undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission into these violations and abuses;

8. *Commends* the Government of Ethiopia for accepting the joint investigation and agreeing to allow unfettered access to the locations where the investigation will be undertaken and to provide security protection and cooperate with the investigation team throughout the entire process;

9. *Welcomes* the public commitment made by the Government of Ethiopia to consider the findings and implement the recommendations of the joint investigation;

10. *Expresses deep concern* at the dire humanitarian and security situation in the Tigray region, calls for a scaled-up humanitarian response, including in the context of the food security situation and the ongoing protection crisis, and a continuation of international

¹ See www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14501.doc.htm.

relief efforts, and calls upon the international community to redouble efforts to address the challenges in the Tigray region;

11. *Urges* all parties to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect all civilians, including humanitarian personnel and civilian objects, and all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and to take all steps required to allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unimpeded access of humanitarian actors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all persons in need, while respecting humanitarian principles and applicable international law;

12. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to provide, in consultation with the Government of Ethiopia, advice and technical assistance in order to strengthen the capacity of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the criminal justice system, and accountability and reconciliation processes in general;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the resources necessary to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to provide such administrative, technical and logistical support as necessary to implement the provisions of the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the High Commissioner to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session during an enhanced interactive dialogue, and at its forty-ninth session during an interactive dialogue, on the situation of human rights in the Tigray region and on progress made in the context of the joint investigation.

*36th meeting
13 July 2021*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 20 to 14, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Fiji, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay

Against:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, India, Namibia, Philippines, Russian Federation, Somalia, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining:

Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Gabon, Indonesia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan and Uzbekistan]