

Joint Statement

Organizations Decry the UN Abandonment of Ethiopia Human Rights Investigation

October 10, 2023

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has failed the people of Tigray and Ethiopia at large, as well as regressed in its mission to protect global human rights. In the strongest terms, we, the undersigned organizations, condemn the UNHRC Member States' decision not to extend the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) mandate, resulting in the Commission's expiration in December 2023. This inaction terminates the sole independent international investigation into the plight of weaponized starvation, abuse, and severe human rights violations in Ethiopia.

In a grave dereliction of duty, the UNHRC has disregarded the ongoing suffering of innocent civilians in Tigray, Oromia, Amhara, and other regions of Ethiopia. Their failure to act is highly irresponsible, given that [ICHREE's 2023 report](#) warns of imminent risk of further atrocities in Ethiopia, and, in addition to ICHREE, reputable organizations like [Physicians for Human Rights](#) (PHR), [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW), and [Amnesty International](#) have presented evidence of ongoing human rights abuses. Moreover, the alarming survivor testimonies in ICHREE's report clearly indicate that victims have no faith in Ethiopia's transitional justice process. As such, the process has no traction to achieve justice and should not be cited as a reason to withdraw international oversight and investigation.

By neglecting the evidence provided in ICHREE's report, the decision to allow ICHREE's mandate to expire directly undermines the principles of justice, accountability, and protection of human rights the United Nations pledges to uphold for all peoples globally. This failure is a deviation from the values and rights upon which the United Nations was founded and is obligated to uphold. It is also a profound miscarriage of justice. Abandoning the investigation begun by ICHREE at a time when conditions are worsening sets a precedent that will impact not just Ethiopia but also the future of justice and accountability globally.

Hence, we, the undersigned organizations, call for the UNHRC Member States to establish mechanisms to ensure that independent investigation and monitoring of human rights abuses in Ethiopia are carried forward. We reiterate the demands stated in '[Ethiopia: Premature End of UN Human Rights Commission Obstructs Justice and Elevates Risk of Further Atrocities](#)' (PHR, 2023) and assert that for an investigation to attain credibility, it must, at the very least, adhere to these minimum standards:

1. Undertake sustained, independent investigations into past and ongoing violations and abuses, including the collection and preservation of evidence, as a precondition for future accountability processes;
2. Monitor, assess, and publicly report on progress in the implementation of ICHREE's recommendations, including the minimum benchmarks to ensure that any future transitional justice policy meets international and regional standards; integrate a gender perspective and takes a survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach; and include scrutiny of violations taking place in all parts of the country; and
3. Publicly and regularly report to the UNHRC on the comprehensive, independent, timely, and gender-sensitive monitoring of the situation in all parts of Ethiopia.

In this pivotal moment in history, we firmly stand with the people of Ethiopia and communities worldwide that the United Nations has deprived both dignity and justice. In so doing, the UN has violated its core principles and purpose to uphold the rights of all peoples.

Affirmed by:

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| 1. Health Professionals Network for Tigray | 22. Omna Tigray |
| 2. Human Rights Forum | 23. Security and Justice for Tigrayans |
| 3. Dekna Foundation | 24. Tigray Action Committee |
| 4. Legacy Tigray | 25. Dallas Fort Worth Tigray Community |
| 5. Irob Anina Civil Society | 26. Campaign4Peace (Wefri Selam) |
| 6. Solidarity of Nations of Ethiopia | 27. Team Freedom |
| 7. Giving Back To Our Roots | 28. Logo Sarda |
| 8. Coalition of Oromo Advocacy and Human Rights Groups | 29. Congolese Sepoir |
| 9. Tigray Center for Information and Communication | 30. Progressive Tigrayan Solidarity |
| 10. Tigray Women Association in North America | 31. Ethiopian Canadians for Peace |
| 11. Felsi Selam | 32. Tigray Community Association of Seattle |
| 12. Yiakl | 33. United Tegarú Canada |
| 13. Friends of Tigray | 34. Association of Tigrayan Communities in Canada |
| 14. Eritrean Bright Future Movement | 35. Arbate Adi Belesa |
| 15. Mahber Selam Ethio-Eritrea | 36. Eritrea Free Media |
| 16. Foundation Human Rights for Eritreans | 37. Mahber Keskesé Mlash |
| 17. Mahber Akran | 38. Vereniging Selam Edir |
| 18. Mariam Drachten | 39. Tigreërs in Nederland |
| 19. Mahber Bet Metaa | 40. Oromo Legacy Leadership & Advocacy Association |
| 20. DW International in Nederland | |
| 21. Vereniging van Ethiopische | |