



ቤት ፅሕፈት ዝምድናታት ትግራይ
Tigray External Affairs Office

Ref: TEAO- 020/2021

Date: 19 November 2021

Press Statement on the need to expedite distribution of humanitarian Aid

It is a matter of public record that the Abiy regime has imposed what the UN calls “*a de facto humanitarian blockade*” on Tigray, which consists of the aggressive obstruction of humanitarian aid delivery to Tigray, among other cruel things. By contrast, in areas outside of Tigray that Tigray Armed Forces have brought under their control, the Government of Tigray has done its best to fulfil its humanitarian obligations to local residents.

In the city of Kombolcha in the South Wollo zone of the Amhara Region, which came under the control of our forces in recent weeks, various aid agencies have a massive stock of aid pending distribution. The Government of Tigray and high-level UN officials have had an understanding on the need to distribute this aid to local residents as well as to the people of Tigray. Meanwhile, the Government of Tigray continues to provide around-the-clock security to prevent the looting of aid warehouses. The Tigrayan fighters guarding these warehouses have done so with incredible discipline and unflinching professionalism in the face of the criminal Abiy regime condemning their families and fellow Tigrayans to death by starvation.

Yet, UN aid agencies, in particular the World Food Program, are now dragging their feet and failing to live up to their end of our mutual understanding to distribute food aid to the needy. This foot-dragging is all the more remarkable given our unreserved efforts to facilitate humanitarian operations in areas under our control. It should be noted that continuing failure to proceed with the distribution of aid in a prompt manner will only add to the suffering of locals. Under these conditions, the Government of Tigray cannot assume responsibility for what happens next. Locals in desperate need of emergency aid may resort to looting.

The Government of Tigray calls upon aid agencies to desist from further foot-dragging and live up to their humanitarian ideals by serving the needy.

