



SOLIDARITY OF TIGRAYANS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY (STIL)

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Opposition to the Forcible Incorporation of Tigrayan Lands into the Amhara Region

To: The Government of Ethiopia, the African Union (AU), and the International Community

From: Solidarity of Tigrayans for Independence and Liberty (STIL)

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Solidarity of Tigrayans for Independence and Liberty vehemently opposes any attempt by the Ethiopian government to incorporate Tigrayan lands into the Amhara region as was recently done in the educational sector of Ethiopia. This was done by the Amhara Regional Administration, with complete silence of the Federal Government of Ethiopia. Such action/inaction by the Ethiopian government constitutes a blatant violation of the Pretoria Agreement, a critical cornerstone for peace in Ethiopia negotiated by the African Union.

Undermining the Fragile Peace Process

The Pretoria Agreement, signed in November 2022, established a fragile ceasefire. A core principle of the agreement is the respect for the "territorial integrity" of Ethiopia's federal regions.

Forcibly incorporating Tigrayan lands into the Amhara region directly contradicts this commitment, jeopardizing the entire peace process.

This action would have devastating consequences. It would further exacerbate tensions in the already war-torn region, stoking the flames of ethnic animosity and further jeopardizing the safety and security of the Tigrayan people. Moreover, it disregards the right of the Tigrayan people to self-determination within the Ethiopian federation, a right enshrined in the Ethiopian constitution.

A Call for Good Faith and Dialogue

The Ethiopian government must demonstrate good faith and a commitment to peace by:

- **Upholding the Pretoria Agreement:** Respecting the territorial integrity of the Tigray region is not only a legal obligation but also a critical step towards rebuilding trust with the Tigrayan people. A return to hostilities would have disastrous humanitarian consequences and derail any hope of lasting peace.

- **Engaging in Genuine Dialogue:** Constructive dialogue with Tigrayan leaders is essential to address legitimate grievances, pave the way for Tigray's reconstruction, and achieve a lasting political solution. The path forward lies in finding common ground, not through territorial annexation. This dialogue should be facilitated by a neutral third party acceptable to all sides.

The Role of the International Community

The AU, which played a role in brokering the Pretoria Agreement, must unequivocally condemn any attempt to unilaterally redraw regional boundaries. This action undermines the authority of the AU and its commitment to peaceful conflict resolution.

The international community also has a critical role to play:

- **Public Condemnation:**

Public condemnation from key international actors sends a strong message to the Ethiopian government and underscores the importance of adhering to the terms of the Pretoria Agreement.

- **Support for Implementation:** The AU and the international community must increase pressure on the Ethiopian government to adhere to the terms of the agreement, including respect for regional boundaries.

A Sustainable Path to Peace

The path to peace in Ethiopia is arduous, but it is not insurmountable. It demands a genuine commitment from all parties involved: respecting the rule of law, upholding the principles enshrined in the Pretoria Agreement, and prioritizing dialogue over confrontation.

The forcible incorporation of Tigrayan lands is a dangerous step backward that jeopardizes the fragile peace process. We urge all actors to work towards a peaceful resolution that respects the rights of all Ethiopians, upholds the principles of federalism, and allows for the reconstruction and healing of a nation deeply wounded by war.

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