



Press Release: Sensationalized Reporting Costing Lives in Ethiopia

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Since the start of Ethiopia's law enforcement operation in Tigray and subsequent conflict with remnants of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), countless numbers of serious allegations are being leveled. While many of the allegations are being spread via social media, others are being reproduced and given credibility by international organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Methodology & Fact Checking Failures

The allegations which remain unverified and absent of a thorough and meticulous process of collecting evidence on the ground, witness testimony of those at the scene, unbiased assessment of counterclaims and transparency, make it difficult to take at face value or to reach a clear position on who the perpetrators are.

Discounting Calls For Objectivity

We remain deeply concerned that the reports issued by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and disseminated via major global news outlets (CNN, The Guardian, The Economist etc...) never mention that the TPLF produced Eritrean uniforms at Tigray's Almeda Textiles Factory (reported as early as November 4th 2020) and destroyed Tigray's electricity services at the onset of the conflict in November 2020. These major omissions cloud and distort the full picture of the recent events that have transpired in the region.

Revenge Killings

We are therefore very alarmed by reports of killings of at least 350 Eritreans at the Hinxax, May Ayni, Shmelba and Adi Hageray refugee camps supposedly as revenge for alleged atrocities in Axum & Maryam Dengelat which CNN, Amnesty International & Human Rights Watch are squarely blaming on Eritrean soldiers purely on supposed witness testimonies. Some of these witness testimonies have already been debunked by videos showing witnesses being coached to give false accounts accusing Eritrean soldiers. However these revelations have not received equal media attention by international news outlets.

We urgently call on all international organizations and media outlets **to immediately refrain from endangering the lives of Eritreans residing in Ethiopia and especially in refugee camps in Tigray.** We call on the relevant authorities in Ethiopia and with applicable international partners where appropriate, to fully investigate all allegations and seek justice for all victims!