Date

XXXXX, M.P.

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada K1A 0A6

Dear XXXX,

As concerned Canadian citizens, we are appealing to the Government of Canada to take decisive action concerning the ongoing conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia.

What started as a political dispute in Tigray, Ethiopia has erupted into a devastating genocidal war. Over the past 17 months, the region has been held siege by the federal government and ravaged by Ethiopian and Eritrean invading forces. Tigray is suffering from a total blackout: telecommunications, internet, electricity, water, food, and medicine have all been cut off. It is estimated that up to 500,000 have perished since the beginning of the conflict. Thousands of women and girls have been become victims of gender-based violence. Aid has been obstructed, leaving over 75% of the population resorting to extreme coping strategies to feed themselves and their families. It is estimated that half a million children are lacking food in Tigray, including 115,000 who are severely malnourished.

Two leading human rights groups, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, recently issued a joint report. They found that Amhara militia forces carried out a campaign of ethnic cleansing in Western Tigray, forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes using threats, killings, and sexual violence, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The report confirmed that Ethiopian forces were complicit in the alleged crimes. The US State Department has acknowledged the ethnically motivated atrocities committed against Tigrayans, urging for a cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Tigray, and for credible investigations into atrocities.

Western countries responded swiftly to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine with crippling sanctions to dissuade Vladimir Putin from continuing his unlawful military operation. Canada has provided almost $250M in humanitarian aid to Ukraine and has expedited immigration applications from Ukraine. Unfortunately, the world has failed to react in kind to the Tigray conflict.

We urge the Government of Canada to hold Ethiopia, a diplomatic partner, to account for its gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. Specifically, we call on the Government of Canada to:

* Call for an end to the blockade and restoration of telecommunications, electricity, and water
* Impose sanctions against the actors responsible for human rights violations in Tigray
* Create an expedited refugee resettlement process for Tigrayans

As your constituents, we would like to meet to share and address our concerns with the Government of Canada. We look forward to discussing this further in the near future.

Regards,

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