



EFF STATEMENT ON CONTINUED MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN ETHIOPIAN REGION OF TIGRAY

Tuesday, 16 February 2021

The EFF condemns the continued military confrontation in the Ethiopian region of Tigray, which has continued unabated since November 2020 to date. We have taken note of the United Nation and African Union reports on the humanitarian crisis, ranging from massive starvation and displacement of civilians, rape of women and abuse of children and a refugee crisis for nations bordering Ethiopia.

We call on all parties involved in the conflict to conduct themselves with maximum restraint, lest they all be found responsible for genocide and war crimes. We view the conflict in the Tigray region as a manifestation of an uncontrollable appetite for further balkanization and partitioning of Africa by reactionary forces with no political and ideological objective other than narrow nationalism which is premised on tribalism and ethnicity.

We reiterate the words in the speeches of the founding summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), when those leaders of a post-independent Africa identified tribalism and ethnicity as a major threat to African unity and prosperity. The indiscriminate pounding of artillery with impunity on residential places of civilians, and the use of civilians as human shields should be exposed for what it is, war crimes and human rights violations.

We consider these conflicts in Tigray, in the horn of Africa and many others in the rest of Africa as evident in Mali, Cameroon, the Northern States of Nigeria, the Northern Region of Mozambique and Darfur in Sudan as indicative of the impotency of African Union leadership.

The wars and military confrontations ravaging Africa are a stark indication that the 2020 agenda of silencing the guns by the African Union is an utter and dismal failure.

The African Union continues to be a barrier against efforts to unite the continent, by their continued recognition of secession states that fuels and incentivizes insurgence and bandits to wage wars against established nations. This is done by granting membership and sovereignty status to communities that are a product of tribalist secessions wars.

We call on the African Union and United Nations to stop recognizing secessionists, and instead opt to foster peace and development in African regions. All those involved in the rape and abuse of women and children must not be granted amnesty and face the full might of international law, as these are despicable and unforgivable crimes.

We further call on all parties involved in the conflict to unconditionally allow international humanitarian aid and access to internally displaced persons and cease and desist from destroying the infrastructure of the country.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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