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Urgent Call for Action from International Community: Human Rights Crisis in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia

We, supporters of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) living abroad, are reaching out to the international social justice supporters and promoters with a pressing concern that demands immediate attention and action from the international community.

The Ethiopian political history has been marred by a dark reality when it comes to civil, political and human rights, of which the last five years being the worst. In the past six months alone, the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia has escalated a campaign of terror in the Amhara region, employing measures that have led to widespread atrocities under the guise of a state of emergency.

The Amhara people, known for its peaceful protests and legitimate demands for rights and representation, have been met with unprecedented violence rather than dialogue. The response from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has been devastatingly cruel and contrary to the principles of humanity and the international law.

In the past five years, the government's actions of terror have forcibly displaced hundreds of thousands Ethiopians, Gedeo, Amharas and many others from the Oromia region, rendering them refugees within their own country. The strategic blockade of the main road from the Amhara region to Addis Ababa has severely disrupted the lives and livelihoods of countless citizens.

In last six months, horrifying escalation of violence have been witnessed in several areas. Deployment of military forces, equipped with drones and fighter planes, against civilians has led to the massacre of tens of thousands of innocent people. The large-scale operation, ostensibly to quell opposition, is in violation of fundamental human rights and international humanitarian law.

Despite the apparent failure of its military campaign to suppress the legitimate aspirations of the Ethiopian people, the government extended the state of emergency in Amhara region, further entrenching its oppressive regime. Most recently, on Monday, February 5, 2024 the Ethiopian Defense forces were unleashed in the city of Marawi in the Amhara region, resulting in the brutal murdering of at least 180 civilians, including a six-month-old baby, a pregnant woman on the verge of giving birth, and a 75-year-old man who relies on a cane for mobility.

These actions constitute an apparent genocide devoid of any justification. The deliberate targeting of civilians and the use of excessive force are reprehensible. They must be condemned in the strongest terms by all peace-loving members of the global community and human rights organizations.

Ethiopia, a country known for its diverse cultural heritage and extensive history, is currently grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis that has largely escaped global attention. It is disturbing that there is a prevalence of hunger among the populace, particularly in the northern regions of Tigray, Amhara, and Guji region of Oromia. This famine-like situation cannot be solely attributed to natural calamities or food shortages; rather, it is deeply intertwined with human-induced factors such as conflicts, wrong policies, and ongoing hostilities that have severely disrupted daily life, economic activities, and access to vital resources. This grim reality sheds light on the devastating impact of armed conflicts on civilian populations, where the deliberate withholding of food has emerged as a cruel tactic of warfare.

We kindly request that you voice your condemnation of these atrocities and also take concrete actions to pressure the Ethiopian government to halt its campaign of terror against its citizens in general and the Amhara people in particular. We must stand in solidarity with the victims of human rights violations and work together to ensure accountability, justice, and restoration of peace and security in the region.

We appeal to your sense of justice and humanity to advocate for the immediate cessation of violence, the initiation of an independent investigation into the atrocities committed, and the establishment of a dialogue between the government and the Amhara people to address the underlying issues.

Your prompt attention and action can save lives and restore hope to a population that has endured immense suffering. We count on your support and cooperation to end this crisis and uphold the principles of human rights and international law.

Stop killing innocent people of Ethiopia!

February 15, 2024