

Éthiopie : persécution des personnes d'origine tigréenne

Renseignement de l'analyse-pays de l'OSAR

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Ce rapport repose sur des renseignements d'expert-e-s et sur les propres recherches de l'Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés (OSAR). Conformément aux standards COI, l'OSAR fonde ses recherches sur des sources accessibles publiquement. Lorsque les informations obtenues dans le temps imparti sont insuffisantes, elle fait appel à des expert-e-s. L'OSAR documente ses sources de manière transparente et traçable, mais peut toutefois décider de les anonymiser, afin de garantir la protection de ses contacts.

1 Introduction

Les questions suivantes sont tirées d'une demande adressée à l'analyse-pays de l'OSAR :

1. La situation au Tigré est-elle considérée comme un nettoyage ethnique, respectivement un génocide par des organisations internationales, instances internationales et/ou des pays tiers ?
2. En cas de retour, dans la région du Tigré, une requérante d'asile déboutée d'origine tigréenne avec un bébé a-t-elle une crainte fondée de persécution pertinente en matière d'asile ?
3. Une fuite interne est-elle possible pour une personne d'ethnie tigréenne ?

L'analyse-pays de l'OSAR observe les développements en Éthiopie depuis plusieurs années.¹ Sur la base de ses propres recherches ainsi que de renseignements transmis par des experts externes, elle apporte les réponses suivantes aux questions ci-dessus.

2 Situation dans la région du Tigré

Reprise des combats entre les forces tigréennes et le gouvernement ainsi que ses alliés dans la région du Tigré et les régions adjacentes depuis fin août 2022. *Al-Jazeera* rapporte qu'après près de cinq mois de cessez-le-feu, les combats ont repris fin août 2022 entre les forces tigréennes du *Front de libération du peuple du Tigré* (FLPT) et les forces de sécurité du gouvernement éthiopien autour de la ville de Kobo, située dans la région d'Amhara, adjacente de la région du Tigré. Des témoins ont rapporté avoir vu des forces spéciales Amhara et des miliciens du groupe paramilitaire Fano se joindre aux forces de sécurité éthiopiennes (*Al-Jazeera*, 24 août 2022). Début septembre 2022, la BBC confirmait que la guerre avait repris de plus belle. Outre des bombardements de la capitale du Tigré, Mekele, par les forces éthiopiennes fin août 2022, des combats ont également été signalés dans la région ouest du Tigré, proche de la frontière soudanaise (BBC, 1^{er} septembre 2022). *Al-Jazeera* rapportait, le 20 septembre 2022, des propos du porte-parole du FLTP, selon qui les forces érythréennes, qui se battent aux côtés des forces fédérales éthiopiennes, avaient lancé une offensive majeure le long de la frontière, marquant ainsi une escalade supplémentaire de la reprise du conflit (*Al-Jazeera*, 20 septembre 2022).

Grave crise humanitaire dans le Tigré et campagne de violences ethniques ciblée qui auraient coûté la vie à un demi-million de Tigréens. Près de 4,6 millions de Tigréen-ne-s en situation d'insécurité alimentaire. Selon la BBC, depuis novembre 2020, la guerre a entraîné une famine massive qui a décimé les Tigréen-ne-s. Citant une enquête d'une équipe universitaire belge, la BBC indique que près d'un demi-million de Tigréen-ne-s auraient péri de faim et de causes connexes depuis le début de la guerre en novembre 2020 (BBC, 1^{er} septembre 2022). Le journaliste *Martin Plaut* précise que selon cette enquête, entre 150 000

¹ www.osar.ch/publications/rapports-sur-les-pays-dorigine

et 200 000 personnes sont mortes de faim et entre 50 000 et 100 000 personnes ont été victimes d'assassinats. Plus de 100 000 décès supplémentaires sont dus au manque de soins de santé (*Martin Plaut*, 13 mars 2022). Dans un rapport conjoint, *Human Right Watch* (HRW) et *Amnesty International* (AI) indiquent que depuis novembre 2020, des centaines de milliers de Tigréen-ne-s ont été forcé-e-s de fuir leurs maisons dans l'ouest du Tigré. Ceux-ci ont fui les menaces, les intimidations et une campagne de violences et de déplacement forcé (HRW & AI, 6 avril 2022). La BBC indique que la région reste fermée aux observateurs internationaux et seule une équipe française de télévision de la chaîne ARTE a pu visiter la région depuis sa reprise en main par le PLPTFLPT en juin 2021. La BBC rajoute que les opérations d'aide humanitaire, déjà limitées, sont à l'arrêt et que la crise humanitaire s'aggravera probablement davantage avec la reprise des combats (BBC, 1^{er} septembre 2022). En janvier 2022, le *Programme alimentaire mondial* (PAM) tirait la sonnette d'alarme face à la situation humanitaire catastrophique dans la région du Tigré où 83 pourcents des ménages, représentant 4,6 millions de personnes, étaient en situation d'insécurité alimentaire. Sur ce chiffre, plus de deux millions de personnes faisaient face à une insécurité alimentaire sévère (PAM, janvier 2022).

3 Traitement des personnes d'origine tigréenne dans la région du Tigré

3.1 Campagne de « nettoyage ethnique » contre le peuple tigréen

Autorités et milices Amhara accusées de « nettoyage ethnique » contre les Tigréen-ne-s dans l'ouest du Tigré. Expulsions massives, meurtres, arrestations et imposition de restrictions linguistiques. L'*Agence de l'Union européenne pour l'asile* (AUEA), qui se base notamment sur des rapports de HRW et AI indique que les autorités et les milices de la région d'Amhara ont procédé à un « nettoyage ethnique » dans l'ouest du Tigré, notamment via des expulsions massives, des meurtres et des arrestations, mais également en imposant des restrictions linguistiques et en refusant de délivrer des cartes d'identité ou en délivrant des cartes qui n'indiquaient pas l'origine ethnique tigréenne. HRW, cité par l'AUEA, indique que les autorités du Tigré occidental ont contraint les Tigréen-ne-s à partir, notamment en restreignant l'accès à l'aide humanitaire, aux terres agricoles et en limitant la pratique de la langue tigrinya. Les forces de sécurité d'Amhara et parfois les forces érythréennes, ont pillé les biens des Tigréen-ne-s pour les priver de moyens de survie. Dans leur rapport conjoint, publié en avril 2022, HRW et AI ont constaté qu'un « nettoyage ethnique » à l'encontre des Tigréen-ne-s a été perpétré dans l'ouest du Tigré par les autorités régionales d'Amhara, les forces spéciales et les milices régionales, avec la complicité des forces de sécurité éthiopiennes. L'AUEA cite également le *US Congressional Research Service*, pour qui les forces de sécurité éthiopiennes sont également responsables d'actes de « nettoyage ethnique » dans un contexte de multiplication des discours de haine contre les Tigréen-ne-s (AUEA, 8 avril 2022). Dans une interview accordée à *France 24*, Jean-Baptiste Gallopin, chercheur pour AI qui a participé au rapport conjoint avec HRW, a indiqué que des hauts responsables d'Amhara ont profité du conflit pour prendre le contrôle d'une zone dans la région ouest du Tigré, lieu d'un conflit territorial vieux de plusieurs décennies et pour procéder à un « nettoyage ethnique ». Parmi les moyens employés, le chercheur cite des meurtres, des arrestations et détentions

arbitraires massives, des violences sexuelles, des pillages et des restrictions qui ciblaient les Tigréen-ne-s (*France 24*, 7 avril 2022).

Arrestations massives et détentions arbitraires de Tigréen-ne-s. Dans leur rapport conjoint, HRW et AI indiquent qu'en plus du pillage généralisé des récoltes et autres moyens de subsistance, d'exécutions extrajudiciaires, de viols et violences sexuelles, les Tigréen-ne-s ont également été victimes d'arrestations massives et de détentions arbitraires prolongées. Ces détenu-e-s ont souvent été maltraité-e-s, torturé-e-s et tué-e-s (HRW & AI, 6 avril 2022).

Violences sexuelles et sexistes généralisées dans la région du Tigré. Utilisation du viol comme arme de guerre et pour terroriser et « purifier » les femmes et filles tigréennes. Dans un rapport publié en août 2021, AI indiquait que les forces de sécurité éthiopiennes et leurs alliés, notamment des forces régulières érythréennes, des forces spéciales amhara et de la milice amhara Fano, étaient responsables de viols généralisés contre des femmes et des filles d'origine tigréenne. Ces violences se sont accompagnées de graves abus tels que des passages à tabac, des menaces de mort et des insultes à caractère ethnique. Dans son rapport, AI a recensé 1 288 cas de violences sexuelles qui ont eu lieu entre février et avril 2021 (AI, août 2021). Le Département d'État américain (USDOS) confirme que de nombreux rapports indiquent que les parties au conflit dans la partie nord du pays se sont livrées à des violences sexuelles et sexistes généralisées (USDOS, 12 avril 2022). Selon l'AUEA, qui cite diverses sources, le viol, y compris le viol collectif, a été utilisé comme arme de guerre contre la population ethnique tigréenne, notamment par les forces militaires éthiopiennes et ses alliés comme les forces érythréennes, les forces spéciales amhara et la milice Fano. Ces viols s'accompagnaient d'humiliations à caractère ethnique, certaines victimes étant menacées de « purification » de leur lignée (AUEA, 8 avril 2022). Citant un rapport conjoint de la Commission éthiopienne des droits de l'homme (EHRC) et du Bureau du Haut-Commissaire des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme (HCDH), le *Global Protection Cluster* (GPC) rapporte que les femmes et filles au Tigré ont subi des viols, des viols collectifs et la transmission intentionnelle du VIH, commises par toutes les parties impliquées dans le conflit. Dans certains cas, des proches auraient été forcés d'être témoins des abus sexuels (GPC, juin 2022). Pour USDOS, l'impunité reste un problème majeur. Les procureurs militaires ont inculpé 25 soldats pour avoir commis des actes de violences sexuelles, mais qu'à la fin de l'année 2021, seuls trois soldats avaient été condamnés (USDOS, 12 avril 2022).

3.2 Crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité

Des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité, qui ne constituent toutefois pas en soi un génocide. La possibilité d'un génocide n'est pas complètement exclue. Pour HRW et AI, les nombreux abus graves commis par les autorités civiles et les forces de sécurité de la région d'Amhara, avec la complicité des forces de sécurité éthiopiennes, dans le cadre d'une attaque généralisée et systématique contre les Tigréen-ne-s et d'une campagne de « nettoyage ethnique » constituent des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité (HRW & AI, 6 avril 2022). Dans un article qui a accompagné la publication du rapport conjoint avec AI, HRW a souligné que sur la base des informations recueillies, les deux organisations n'ont pas conclu au crime de génocide dans la région du Tigré occidental. Toutefois, elles n'excluaient pas cette possibilité. HRW précise que si la mise en œuvre d'une campagne de « nettoyage ethnique » peut constituer une preuve d'actes génocidaires, elle ne démontre pas, en soi, une intention génocidaire (HRW, 6 avril 2022). Dans une interview accordée à

Radio France Internationale (RFI) en novembre 2021, Françoise Mianda, responsable de la région de l'Afrique de l'Est au sein du HCDH, indique que le rapport conjoint de la EHRC et du HCHD publié en novembre 2021, n'est pas arrivé à la conclusion qu'un génocide a été perpétré. Toutefois, cette possibilité restait ouverte et plus d'investigations étaient nécessaires. Françoise Mianda évoque notamment le fait que l'enquête de EHRC/HCDH était limitée dans le temps, que l'équipe n'avait pas pu accéder à toutes les zones voulues et qu'elle avait rencontré des problèmes de sécurité (RFI, 4 novembre 2021).

Le Département d'État américain et des médias évoquent un possible génocide en Éthiopie. De multiples signes avant-coureurs alarmants. Selon *ABC News*, en juin 2021, le diplomate américain le plus haut placé pour l'Afrique, Robert Godec, déclarait au Congrès que le département d'État procédait à un examen de la situation au Tigré en vue de la détermination d'un génocide. En novembre 2021, le Département d'État annonçait qu'il avait préparé une déclaration selon laquelle les atrocités commises par le gouvernement éthiopien à l'encontre des Tigréen-ne-s constituaient un génocide, mais qu'Antony Blinken, le secrétaire d'État américain, ne l'avait pas signé (*ABC News*, 3 novembre 2021). En novembre 2021, CNN estimait que la situation au Tigré portait, selon de nombreux témoignages, « les marques d'un génocide » (CNN, 5 novembre 2021). Pour *Helen Clark*, ancienne administratrice du Programme des Nations unies pour le développement (PNUD), parmi les signes annonciateurs d'un possible génocide on trouve le fait que des personnalités du gouvernement éthiopien et leurs alliés ont encouragé les discours de haine contre le peuple tigréen en tant que groupe ethnique. Celui-ci a été désigné comme l'ennemi, un « cancer », de la « mauvaise herbe », des « rats » ou encore des « terroristes ». Autre signe inquiétant, la mobilisation de milices et de groupes d'auto-défense, organisés sur une base ethnique et armés par le gouvernement. Le gouvernement a également réduit au silence les voix indépendantes et critiques et les personnes qui tentent de protéger les Tigréen-ne-s sont attaquées (*Helen Clark et al.*, 26 novembre 2021). En décembre 2021, le *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (USHMM) s'alarmait également de la présence de multiples signes avant-coureurs d'un génocide potentiel contre le peuple du Tigré, notamment des massacres et assassinats ciblés de personnes civiles tigréennes, des discours de haine qui déshumanisent ce groupe ethnique et encouragent la violence, des arrestations massives et détentions arbitraires et l'utilisation de mesures pour affamer la population et comme punition collective (USHMM, 22 décembre 2021).

4 Traitement de personnes d'origine tigréenne en dehors de la région du Tigré

Plusieurs vagues d'arrestations et de détentions arbitraires de civils tigréens à Addis-Abeba et dans d'autres régions du pays depuis le début du conflit. Tigréen-ne-s harcelé-e-s, profilé-e-s ethniquement, maisons fouillées. Selon le *Commissariat général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides de Belgique* (CGRA), le conflit dans la région du Tigré s'est accompagné de vagues de répressions et d'arrestations de Tigréen-ne-s dans le reste du pays, notamment dans la capitale Addis-Abeba. Lors de la première vague, dès novembre 2020, ce sont surtout des milliers de militaires tigréens qui ont été arrêtés, accusés de trahison et placés dans des centres de détention (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14 juillet 2022). Laetitia Bader, directrice de la Corne de l'Afrique chez HRW, citée par *The New Humanitarian* (TNH), indiquait en décembre 2020 que son organisation avait reçu des informations selon lesquelles des

Tigréen-ne-s vivant en dehors de la région du nord étaient harcelé-e-s dans la rue, faisaient l'objet d'un profilage dans les aéroports et les cafés, et voyaient leurs maisons arbitrairement fouillées par les forces de sécurité éthiopiennes. William Davison, analyste de l'*International Crisis Group* (ICG), également cité par TNH, estimait que le profilage ethnique démontrait que le conflit avait également un impact négatif beaucoup plus large sur les Tigréen-ne-s en dehors du Tigré (TNH, 26 décembre 2020).

Augmentation du profilage ethnique contre les Tigréen-ne-s dès juin 2021. Arrestations massives et détentions arbitraires. Arrestations dans la rue, dans les cafés, à leur domicile ou au travail. Selon la CGRA, dès fin juin 2021, on a observé une augmentation du profilage ethnique, des détentions arbitraires et des disparitions forcées de Tigré par les autorités éthiopiennes d'Addis-Abeba. En juillet 2021, après la reprise de Mekele, la capitale du Tigré, par le FLPT, ce sont des milliers de Tigréen-ne-s qui ont été arbitrairement détenu-e-s par les autorités éthiopiennes dans tout le pays et transféré-e-s dans des lieux secrets. Les autorités ont également fermé des dizaines d'entreprises, de magasins et de bars tigréens à Addis-Abeba. Sont venus s'ajouter des milliers de Tigréen-ne-s déporté-e-s d'Arabie Saoudite et détenu-e-s arbitrairement (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14 juillet 2022). Selon l'AUEA, dès juin 2021, plusieurs rapports ont fait état d'arrestations arbitraires massives de Tigréen-ne-s par les forces éthiopiennes à Addis-Abeba. Ces arrestations étaient, selon l'AUEA, motivées par des considérations ethniques. L'AUEA cite notamment HRW qui rapporte que les forces de sécurité de la capitale ont arrêté des Tigréen-ne-s dans la rue, dans les cafés et autres lieux publics, ainsi qu'à leur domicile et sur leur lieu de travail, souvent lors de fouilles sans mandat. Les personnes arrêtées et mises en détention l'étaient souvent sur la base de leur carte d'identité. D'autres rapports cités par l'AUEA font état de fermeture d'entreprises appartenant à des Tigréen-ne-s à Addis-Abeba entre juillet et septembre 2021 (AUEA, 8 avril 2022).

Nouvelle vague d'arrestations dès octobre 2021 et après la déclaration de l'état d'urgence en novembre 2021. Perquisitions de maison en maison. Entre 15 000 et 30 000 Tigréens arrêtés. Selon la CGRA, la troisième vague de répression date d'octobre 2021, lorsque le FLPT est parvenu à pénétrer davantage dans la région d'Amhara et à menacer la capitale Addis-Abeba. Les arrestations de Tigréen-ne-s ont à nouveau augmenté. Dès novembre 2021 et l'instauration de l'état d'urgence, les forces de sécurité de la capitale ont arrêté des Tigréen-ne-s au hasard dans le cadre d'une répression croissante et répressive à l'encontre de ce groupe ethnique. Les arrestations ont eu lieu lors de visites de porte à porte par les forces de sécurité, soutenues par des vigiles qui vérifiaient les cartes d'identité des personnes dans la rue. La plupart des personnes détenues l'ont été sans inculpation et sans accès à un avocat ou à leur famille (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14 juillet 2022). Selon l'AUEA, qui cite AI, avec la déclaration de l'état d'urgence en novembre 2021 et des gains territoriaux importants pour le FLPT, notamment dans la région d'Ahmara, les arrestations de Tigréen-ne-s dans la capitale se sont intensifiées. Ces arrestations ont été effectuées lors de perquisitions de maison en maison par les forces de sécurité, avec le soutien de groupes d'autodéfense qui vérifient l'identité des personnes dans la rue. L'AUEA cite également un article du *Guardian* du 26 novembre 2021, selon lequel ce sont 30 000 civils d'origine tigréenne qui auraient été arrêtés à Addis-Abeba dans les semaines précédentes et un nombre inconnu hors de la capitale. Pour la Haut-Commissaire des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme, Michelle Bachelet, les autorités ont procédé à plus de 15 000 arrestations et détentions arbitraires en lien avec l'état d'urgence. La majorité des personnes arrêtées sont des citoyens ordinaires d'origine tigréenne (AUEA, 8 avril 2022).

Diminution des arrestations arbitraires dès février 2022. Près de 9 000 Tigréen-ne-s toujours en détention, souvent dans des conditions difficiles. Prisons et installations surpeuplées, sales et sans accès aux soins de santé. Au moins 17 Tigréens morts en détention. Selon HRW, cité par le CGRA, il y a eu une diminution des arrestations arbitraires de Tigréen-ne-s à partir de février 2022 (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14 juillet 2022). En juin 2022, *Reuters* a publié un rapport détaillé sur les arrestations massives de Tigréen-ne-s par les autorités et leurs conditions de détention. Selon *Reuters*, ce sont près de 18 000 Tigréen-ne-s qui ont été arrêté-e-s depuis le début du conflit. Les arrestations et détentions arbitraires de Tigréen-ne-s, souvent sur la base d'un profilage ethnique, se sont également produites dans la région d'Afar où, d'après plusieurs témoins, ce serait près de 12 000 Tigréen-ne-s qui auraient été arrêté-e-s et chargé-e-s dans des bus. En juin 2022, près de 9 000 étaient toujours en détention. La plupart, dont des femmes et des enfants, ont été entassés dans des installations de fortune, notamment un ancien cinéma, des campus universitaires, une ancienne usine de poulets, un parc industriel, un chantier de construction et une prison inachevée qui était destinée à détenir des criminels condamnés. *Reuters* souligne que la plupart des installations étaient surpeuplées et sales et que les passages à tabac étaient fréquents. Certains prisonniers malades se sont vu refuser tout traitement médical pendant des semaines, tandis que d'autres ont été contraints de soudoyer des gardiens pour obtenir des médicaments. Au moins 17 détenu-e-s tigréen-ne-s sont mort-e-s en prison (*Reuters*, 17 juin 2022).

Violences sexuelles et sexistes généralisées dans les régions de l'Afar et de l'Amhara. Le *Global Protection Cluster* (GPC) des Nations-Unies indique que les violences sexuelles liées au conflit a également été rapportée dans les régions adjacentes d'Afar et d'Amhara également touchées par les combats (GPC, juin 2022).

5 Risques au retour pour des demandeurs-euses d'asile tigréen-ne-s débouté-e-s

Peu d'informations sur la situation des personnes qui retournent en Éthiopie. Les autorités éthiopiennes procèdent probablement à des évaluations de sécurité des Éthiopiens-ne-s qui rentrent au pays. Le *Danish Immigration Service* (DIS) indique dans un récent rapport sur la situation des droits humains en Éthiopie qu'il n'y a que très peu d'informations sur le traitement par les autorités éthiopiennes de personnes qui reviennent de l'étranger. Selon DIS, il est probable que celles-ci continuent de procéder à des évaluations de sécurité des migrant-e-s qui rentrent en Éthiopie (DIS, septembre 2022).

Les autorités éthiopiennes ont arrêté et détenu arbitrairement dans diverses régions du pays des milliers de personnes d'origine tigréenne expulsées d'Arabie Saoudite. Mauvais traitements, torture, disparitions forcées, travail forcé et conditions de détention très difficiles. Dans un rapport publié en janvier 2022, HRW révèle que des milliers de personnes d'origine tigréenne, expulsées d'Arabie Saoudite vers l'Éthiopie depuis novembre 2020, ont été détenues arbitrairement et maltraitées par les autorités éthiopiennes. Certaines ont également été disparues de force. Alors que certaines ont été transférées vers de centres d'accueil à Addis-Abeba et détenues illégalement, d'autres ont été arrêtées à des postes de contrôle alors qu'elles tentaient de rentrer au Tigré par la route, ou à l'aéroport de Semera,

dans la région d'Afar, et transférées dans des centres de détention de la région ou dans le sud du pays. La plupart des personnes rapatriées l'ont été entre fin juin et mi-juillet 2021, à une période qui coïncidait avec une augmentation du profilage, des détentions arbitraires et des disparitions forcées de Tigréen-ne-s par les autorités éthiopiennes à Addis-Abeba. Certain-e-s Tigréen-ne-s interrogé-e-s par HRW ont rapporté avoir été battu par des forces de police régionale d'Afar et des forces de police fédérales avec des tiges en caoutchouc ou en bois. La plupart ont également indiqué ne pas avoir été en mesure de communiquer avec des membres de leur famille et ne pas avoir reçu de justifications légales de la part de la police fédérale pour leur arrestation (HRW, 5 janvier 2022). Les deux personnes de contact consultées par DIS ont confirmé que des Tigréen-ne-s ont été arrêté-e-s à leur retour au pays et placé-e-s dans des centres de détention à Addis-Abeba, dans la région d'Afar ou dans d'autres régions du pays. Ces personnes ont subi des mauvais traitements et vivent dans des conditions de détention très difficiles en raison de l'insalubrité et la surpopulation. Certain-e-s détenu-e-s sont mort-e-s en détention, alors que d'autres ont été victimes de disparition forcée ou encore de torture. Une des sources consultées par DIS indique que les personnes d'origine tigréenne rapatriées depuis l'Arabie Saoudite sont considérées par les autorités comme un problème de sécurité (DIS, septembre 2022). Dans son dernier rapport sur la traite des êtres humains en Éthiopie, USDOS rapporte que des observateurs ont signalé que des fonctionnaires éthiopiens ont soumis des personnes rapatriées d'origine tigréenne à des abus, à des disparitions forcées et du travail forcé à leur retour en Éthiopie (USDOS, 29 juillet 2022).

6 Sources:

ABC News, 3 novembre 2021:

« The State Department has also prepared a declaration that the Ethiopian government's atrocities against Tigrayans constitute a genocide, both sources said, although it's unclear whether Secretary of State Antony Blinken will sign it and when.

A State Department spokesperson declined to speak to a possible genocide declaration, but told ABC News they are "deeply alarmed by the continuing violence in northern Ethiopia" and "undertaking a review of available facts to assess whether atrocity crimes have been committed." [...]

That delicate balance -- calling out each side without appearing to take sides -- may have hampered the U.S. response to this fast-evolving conflict. In June, the **then-top U.S. diplomat for Africa, Robert Godec, told Congress the State Department was conducting a review for a genocide determination.**

"We have this fact and law-based review underway. We have pushed it at a very accelerated pace, and it is far advanced. The Secretary needs to make a decision, and when he's ready, I'm sure that will happen," acting Assistant Secretary Godec told the House Foreign Affairs Committee in a statement.

Since then, however, there has been no determination. That's in part, according to one source, because of U.S. concerns about Tigrayan Defense Forces' atrocities since it

launched counter-offensives in June -- and about a perception in Addis that the U.S. supports the group over the federal government. [...] » Source: ABC News, After ending Ethiopia's trade status, US weighs sanctions, genocide designation over Tigray war, 3 novembre 2021: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/ending-ethiopias-trade-status-us-weighs-sanctions-genocide/story?id=80928248>.

Al-Jazeera, 20 septembre 2022:

« Forces in Ethiopia's Tigray region say Eritrea has launched a full-scale offensive and heavy fighting was taking place in several areas along the border in what appears to be an escalation of last month's renewal of fighting.

The Eritreans are fighting alongside Ethiopian federal forces, including commando units, as well as allied militias, said Getachew Reda, spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), on Tuesday.

"Eritrea is deploying its entire army as well as reservists. Our forces are heroically defending their positions," Reda wrote on Twitter.

There was no immediate comment from authorities in Ethiopia or Eritrea, which lies north of Tigray.

Two aid workers reported intense fighting along the border, including shelling into a camp for displaced persons, the Reuters news agency reported. They did not say whether Eritrean troops were on the ground in Tigray.

A humanitarian worker in the northern Ethiopian town of Adigrat told The Associated Press that Eritrean forces were shelling the surrounding areas.

The US special envoy for the Horn of Africa said the United States was aware of Eritrean troops crossing into Ethiopia's Tigray region.

"We have been tracking Eritrean troops' movement across the border ... and we condemn it," Mike Hammer told reporters in a briefing after a trip to Ethiopia to help facilitate African Union-led peace talks between the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan forces.

"All external foreign actors should respect Ethiopia's territorial integrity and avoid fuelling the conflict," he said.

If confirmed, the participation of Eritrean troops would mark an escalation in a conflict that was reignited last month after the collapse of a ceasefire in place since March. »

Source: Al-Jazeera, Tigrayan forces accuse Eritrea of launching offensive, 20 septembre 2022: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/20/tigrayan-forces-accused-eritrea-starting-offensive-in-ethiopia.

Al-Jazeera, 24 août 2022:

« Fighting has erupted between forces from Ethiopia's rebellious northern region of Tigray and central government forces around the town of Kobo, residents and the spokesman for the Tigrayan forces said on Wednesday, ending a months-long ceasefire.

"I am hearing sound of heavy weapons starting from this morning," a farmer in the Kobo area who did not wish to be named, told Reuters news agency. "Last week, I saw Amhara special forces and Fano [volunteer militia] heading to the front by bus."

A second resident said he also heard heavy weapons and confirmed that in the past two days there had been major movement of Fano militia and special forces from the neighbouring Amhara region to the area.

Ethiopian government spokesman Legesse Tulu, military spokesman Colonel Getnet Adane and prime minister's spokeswoman Billene Seyoum did not respond to requests for comment.

Tigray Television, a media outlet controlled by the Tigray state, reported on Wednesday: "The Ethiopian forces along with Amhara special forces and Amhara militias started a large-scale attack around 5am."

The fighting marks the end of a ceasefire observed since March and comes as a big blow to attempts to start peace talks between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, the party that controls Tigray.

The fighting has displaced millions of people, pushed parts of the region into famine and killed thousands of civilians.

Earlier this month, the government said it wanted talks "with no preconditions", while Tigray's government has called for the restoration of services to civilians first.

Tigray has been without banking and telephone services since the federal military pulled out at the end of June. Imports of fuel are restricted, limiting the distribution of aid. » Source: Al-Jazeera, Fighting resumes in Ethiopia despite truce – Tigray forces, 24 août 2022: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/24/fighting-resumes-in-ethiopia-despite-truce-tigray-forces.

AI, août 2021:

« During the conflict that began on 4 November 2020 in Tigray — Ethiopia's northernmost region — troops fighting in support of the federal government have committed widespread rape against ethnic Tigrayan women and girls. The perpetrators include members of the Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF), the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), the Amhara Regional Police Special Forces (ASF), and Fano, an informal Amhara militia group. Given the context, scale, and gravity of the sexual violence committed against women and girls in Tigray, the violations amount to war crimes and may amount to crimes against humanity.

In this report, Amnesty International sets out the **overwhelming evidence it has collected showing that Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers and members of allied militia are responsible for a pattern of rape and other forms of sexual violence in Tigray**. The organization is calling on the secretary-general of the United Nations to urgently send his Team of Experts on

the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict to the Tigray region — as provided for in UN Security Council resolution 1888.

The sexual violence that Amnesty International has documented has been accompanied by shocking levels of brutality, including beatings, death threats, and ethnic slurs. Some of the victims were held in captivity by the perpetrators for days and weeks, in circumstances constituting sexual slavery; others were raped in front of their children and other family members.

The prevalence of rape is hard to estimate, given that sexual violence is generally under-reported due to fear and stigma, and that the Ethiopian government has not granted international non-governmental human rights organizations access to the Tigray region to investigate these crimes. While many, possibly most, survivors of sexual violence have not been able to access medical care during the conflict, health facilities in Tigray registered 1,288 cases of sexual violence from February to April 2021, with doctors indicating that this is higher than in previous years and, in the overwhelming majority of cases, conflict related. Just one of these facilities recorded 376 cases of rape committed from the beginning of the conflict to 9 June 2021. Yet many of the survivors Amnesty International interviewed had not visited any health facilities at all, suggesting that these figures are likely to represent a small fraction of the total number of rapes committed. » Source: Amnesty International (AI), "I don't know if they realized I was a person", Rape and sexual violence in the conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia, août 2021: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2058045/AFR2545692021ENGLISH.PDF.

AUEA, 8 avril 2022:

« *Situation inside the Tigray region*

Various sources reported that rape has been used as a weapon of war against ethnic Tigrayan population. Survivors of rape described being assaulted by Ethiopian military forces, as well as Eritrean forces, Amhara Special Forces, and Fano militias. Survivors described being subjected to gang rape, in various settings, or during held in captivity for long time.

Tigrayan rape survivors have further claimed that they were verbally abused and humiliated for their ethnicity during the attacks, while some described being threatened that their bloodlines would be 'cleansed'. Amnesty International specifically noted that apart from rape, soldiers often subjected Tigrayan women and girls to 'brutal additional acts of torture and practices', including 'beatings, insults, threats, demeaning comments and ethnic slurs' that 'clearly aimed at terrorizing and humiliating their victims'.

There have been further reports about acts of 'ethnic cleansing' of Tigrayans by Amhara regional authorities and militias in western Tigray region, including mass expulsions, killings and arrests, language restrictions and denial of identification cards. Some Tigrayans reported that the new identification cards were written in Amharic and did not indicate their Tigrayan ethnic origin. Human Rights Watch noted that the authorities in Western Tigray 'imposed restrictions on movement, humanitarian assistance, speaking the Tigrinya language, and access to farmland to coerce Tigrayans to leave. Amhara security forces, and in some places Eritrean forces present in Western Tigray, looted

crops, livestock, and equipment, depriving Tigrayans of their means of survival.' Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, conducted 427 interviews and other research between December 2020 and March 2022 and found that 'Amhara regional officials and regional special forces and militias, with federal forces' complicity, are responsible for the ethnic cleansing of Tigrayans from Western Tigray'.

The U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) has also cited reports indicating that 'ethnic Tigrayans have been targeted based on their ethnicity, and hate speech and dehumanizing language are rising' and that 'Ethiopian security forces have committed acts of ethnic cleansing'.

Lawyers acting for Tigrayan civilians have filed a complaint to African Union's human rights commission over alleged human rights violations by federal forces since the conflict erupted in Tigray, in November 2020.

Situation outside the Tigray region

Following the recapture of the Tigray region's capital, Mekelle, by the TPLF on 28 June 2021, there were several reports of ethnically motivated, mass arbitrary arrests of Tigrayan civilians by the Ethiopian forces in Addis Ababa. Human Rights Watch noted that:

'Witnesses said that security forces [in Addis Ababa] stopped and arrested Tigrayans on the streets and in cafés and other public places, and in their homes and workplaces, often during warrantless searches. In many cases, security forces checked people's identification cards to confirm their identity before taking them to a police station or other detention facility'.

The joint investigation by EHRC and OHCHR covering human rights violations that occurred between November 2020 and June 2021 noted, regarding the mass arrest of Tigrayan civilians in Addis Ababa, that the Federal Attorney General 'confirmed that around 1 000 Tigrayans were initially detained on the basis of reasonable suspicion that they were providing at least financial support to the TPLF' and that 'the detainees were brought before a court of law within 48 hours and most of them were released on bail'.

There have been also various reports of closure of Tigrayan-owned businesses in Addis Ababa, between July and September 2021. On 2 November 2021 the government declared a six-month state of emergency, which allowed 'the authorities to arrest and detain anyone without a warrant if there is reasonable suspicion of cooperation with terrorist groups, and to detain them without judicial review for as long as the proclamation is in place'. On 12 November 2021, Amnesty International noted that 10 days after the declared state of emergency :

'the arrests have intensified as fighters from the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) took control of strategic towns in Amhara region some 400 km from Addis Ababa. Arrests are conducted through house-to-house searches by security forces with support from vigilante groups who check the IDs of people on the street. Detainees, including civil servants, Orthodox priests and a lawyer are being held in youth centres and other informal detention centres across Addis Ababa because police stations are overflowing'.

The Guardian reported on 26 November 2021 that 'in recent weeks it [the government] has interned more than 30,000 ethnic Tigrayan civilians in Addis Ababa and unknown numbers elsewhere'. In her oral update, covering the period between 22 November 2021 and 28 February 2022, Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, highlighted that 'OHCHR recorded more than 15 000 arbitrary arrests and detentions in connection with the state of emergency decreed by the Government. Most appeared to be ordinary citizens of Tigrayan ethnicity'.

With regard to the attacks in Abala, a town in the Afar region, Al Jazeera interviewed survivors and witnesses who alleged that the Ethiopian allied forces 'went door to door for five days straight [in December 2021], targeting Tigrayans'. One of the witnesses stated that 'they [soldiers] protected civilians of other ethnicities and erased the Tigrayans. They killed, gangraped, looted and arrested every Tigrayan they found in the town. Only if you knew an Afar to either hide you or help you escape, could you be saved'. Al Jazeera further noted that 'Fifteen survivors also recounted how Afar militiamen and Eritrean troops went from house to house, seeking Tigrayans out in a killing campaign that continued over five consecutive days'. Source: Agence de l'Union européenne pour l'asile (AUEA), Ethiopia; Security situation in Tigray region, 8 avril 2022. p.21-24 : www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2071043/2022_03_Q19_EUAA_COI_Query_Response_Ethiopia_Sec_Sit.pdf.

BBC, 1er septembre 2022:

« The war in Ethiopia, between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), has resumed at full scale. The route back to negotiations is uncertain at best.

The two sides agree that the first shots were fired in the early morning of 24 August on the southern borders of Tigray, where it adjoins the neighbouring Amhara state at the town of Kobo. Each side blames the other for firing those shots.

What is clear - from information obtained from Western diplomats - is that the Ethiopian National Defence Force and its allied Amhara militia, known as the Fano, had mobilized a huge force to that location over prior weeks.

Meanwhile, mass conscription by the TPLF had swelled its ranks and it had devoted much of its resources to training and rearming, although it has denied forced recruitment.

It captured a huge arsenal from the federal army in last year's fighting, and there are rumours that it had also bought new weapons from abroad. [...]

Mass starvation is decimating the Tigrayans. No-one knows how many have perished but an investigation by a Belgian-led academic team earlier this year estimated that as many as 500,000 Tigrayans had died of hunger and related causes since the war began in November 2020 following a massive fall-out between the TPLF-controlled regional government and Mr Abiy's federal administration.

With the sole exception of a French TV crew from the channel ARTE, there's been no foreign news correspondent in Tigray since the TPLF regained control of most of the region in June 2021.

The few aid workers permitted to enter have not been able to collect basic data on child deaths, with the WFP spokeswoman conceding that "we just don't know", whether there was a famine or not.

In the short term, the humanitarian disaster can only deepen. Those limited aid operations are now at a halt. The first meagre crops won't be harvested for more than a month and fighting will cause further devastation.

The Ethiopian air force bombed Mekelle last week, hitting a kindergarten and killing seven, including three children, according to medical staff. The government denied the account and insisted it targeted military sites only. A second air strike was reported on Mekelle on Tuesday night. [...]

Fighting has also been reported in western Tigray towards the border with Sudan.

Through the fog of war, the news filtering out is that the battle for Kobo was huge. Tigrayan sources report a decisive victory against a massive force of 20 divisions, in which an enormous arsenal was captured. There's no independent confirmation of this.

The Ethiopian government denies that it has suffered losses. It has also instructed the media to "carefully manage their reporting and access to information in times of crisis in order to reflect the country's national interest".

It said it had evacuated Kobo, and reports from the city of Woldia, 50km (30 miles) to the south, indicate that the army is nowhere to be seen.

So far, the TPLF has not moved its forces south, saying that it has no intent of repeating last year's advance that reached within 200 km of the capital. In fact its spokesman made a point of denying reports that it had captured Woldia. » Source: BBC, Ethiopia civil war: Why fighting has resumed in Tigray and Amhara, 1er septembre 2022: www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62717070?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA.

CGRS-CEDOCA, 14 juillet 2022:

« De vijandelijkheden in het noorden van het land gaan gepaard met repressie en arrestaties van Tigray in de rest van het land. Antipathie voor het TPLF, die binnen de EPRDF Ethiopië met ijzeren vuist regeerde van 1991 tot 2019, is wijdverbreid in de hoofdstad en elders in het land. De arrestaties van Tigray is in golven gebeurd.

De eerste golf valt samen met de start van de vijandelijkheden en volgt op de aanval van het TPLF op een militaire basis van de ENDF op 4 november 2020. Duizenden Tigray, voornamelijk militair personeel, zijn opgepakt en ondergebracht in detentiecentra in het hele land op beschuldiging van verraad. Een jaar in de oorlog is er geen duidelijkheid over hun lot. Begin mei 2022 sterft een Tigraygeneraal en voormalige commandant van de missie van de Afrikaanse Unie in Somalië in hechtenis.

Een tweede golf arrestaties begint in juli 2021. Nadat de TDF eind juni 2021 de regionale hoofdstad Mekelle heroveren, zijn duizenden Tigray willekeurig vastgehouden door Ethiopische autoriteiten in het hele land en overgebracht naar geheime locaties. De autoriteiten sluiten ook tientallen bedrijven, winkels en bars van Tigray in Addis Abeba.

Ook duizenden Tigray die vanuit Saoedi-Arabië zijn gedeporteerd, samen met andere Ethiopiërs die er al jaren in moeilijke omstandigheden overleefden, zijn in deze periode willekeurig gearresteerd en mishandeld. Het aantal repatriëringen vanuit Saoedi-Arabië neemt in de periode van eind juni tot half juli 2021 aanzienlijk toe en valt zo samen met een toename van etnische profilering, willekeurige detenties en gedwongen verdwijningen van Tigray door de Ethiopische autoriteiten in Addis Abeba.

Naarmate de TDF erin slagen verder door te dringen in de regio Amhara in oktober 2021, en de hoofdstad Addis Abeba bedreigen, nemen de arrestaties van Tigray een derde keer toe. Een aantal dagen na de invoering van de noodtoestand op 4 november 2021, arresteren veiligheidsdiensten in de hoofdstad willekeurig Tigray als onderdeel van een escalerend en repressief optreden tegen de etnische groep. De arrestaties gebeuren via huis-aan-huis bezoeken door veiligheidstroepen, met steun van burgerwachten die de identiteitsbewijzen van mensen op straat controleren. De meeste gedetineerden werden vastgehouden zonder aanklacht en zonder toegang tot een advocaat of familie.

Vrijlatingen lijken net zo willekeurig te zijn als de arrestaties. Er is daarnaast sprake van systematische afpersing door Ethiopische veiligheidsagenten van Tigray die zonder aanklacht worden vastgehouden. Volgens HRW is sprake van een afname van willekeurige arrestaties van Tigray in februari 2022.

In de eerste twee weken van november 2021 zijn naar schatting 1.000 Tigray gearresteerd. Tussen november 2021 en februari 2022 zijn 18.000 Tigray opgepakt. Zo'n 9.000 Tigray zitten begin juli 2022 nog steeds in hechtenis in een twaalfstal locaties verspreid over het land.

Naast de vele arrestaties is eveneens sprake van wraakaanvallen op Tigray-burgers in gebieden in Amhara en Afar die door de TDF waren ingenomen en bij de terugtrekking naar Tigray in december 2021 opnieuw werden verlaten. » Source: Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (Belgium), COI unit (CGRS-CEDOCA), Ethiopie: Veiligheidssituatie in Tigray, 14 July 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2077506/coi_focus_ethiopie_veiligheidssituatie_in_tigray.pdf.

CNN, 5 novembre 2021:

« When Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, he was lauded as a regional peacemaker. Now, he is presiding over a protracted civil war that by many accounts bears the hallmarks of genocide.

In November 2020, Abiy ordered a military offensive in the northern Tigray region and promised that the conflict would be resolved quickly. One year on, the fighting has left thousands dead, displaced more than 2 million people from their homes, fueled famine and given rise to a wave of atrocities. » Source: CNN, Ethiopia is at war with itself. Here's what you need to know about

the conflict, 5 novembre 2021: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/03/africa/ethiopia-tigray-ex-plainer-2-intl/index.html>.

DIS, septembre 2022:

« There is limited information regarding Tigrayans returning from abroad. The ethnic Tigrayans repatriated from Saudi Arabia in January were arrested upon return and placed in detention centres in Addis Ababa. Besides, it is likely that Ethiopian authorities still undertake security assessments of migrants returning to Ethiopia. [...]

Two sources consulted for this report did not have information regarding ethnic Tigrayans who have returned from abroad, besides the Ethiopian nationals who were repatriated from Saudi Arabia in January 2022, including ethnic Tigrayans. According to both sources, federal authorities arrested Tigrayans upon return and placed them in detention centres in Addis Ababa, Afar and other locations across Ethiopia. The Ethiopian authorities kept detainees under overcrowded and unhygienic conditions and abused them.

Some detainees were subjected to forced disappearances, and an unknown number of detainees died. This account is echoed in several written sources emphasizing that detained Tigrayans were subjected to beatings, torture and inadequate access to food, water and medical care. According to HRW, 40 percent of 40,000 repatriated Ethiopian nationals were Tigrayans, and the persecution and detention pertained to returnees with Tigrayan ethnicity. An interviewed source noted that the federal government perceives returned Tigrayans from Saudi Arabia as a security treat. Landinfo writes in their latest report from August 2022 that it is likely that Ethiopian authorities still undertake security assessments of migrants returning to Ethiopia.

In spite of limited evidence on conditions for returned Tigrayans, it is documented that up to 550 Ethiopian peacekeepers with Tigrayan ethnicity working in Sudan have sought asylum rather than returning home to Ethiopia, based on fear of being persecuted due to their Tigrayan ethnicity, as already mentioned.

Moreover, Tigrayan diplomats were dismissed or suspended from their postings after refusing summons to return to Ethiopia. » Source: Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Ethiopia - An update on the security and human rights situation since February 2022, septembre 2022, p.1, 23-24: https://us.dk/media/10545/ethiopia_an-update-on-the-security-and-human-rights-situation-since-february-2022.pdf.

France 24, 7 avril 2022:

« Deux grandes organisations de défense des droits de l'Homme ont accusé mercredi les forces armées de la région d'Amhara, en Ethiopie, de mener une campagne de nettoyage ethnique contre les Tigréens au cours d'une guerre qui a tué des milliers de civils et déplacé plus d'un million de personnes. Amnesty International et Human Rights Watch (HRW) ont déclaré dans un rapport conjoint que les abus commis par des hauts responsables de la région d'Amhara, des forces spéciales régionales et des milices lors des combats dans l'ouest du Tigré constituaient des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité. Elles ont également accusé l'armée éthiopienne de complicité dans ces actes. FRANCE 24 reçoit Jean-Baptiste Gallopin, Chercheur pour Amnesty International.

Son enquête conjointe avec Human Rights Watch, qui a duré 15 mois, a mis au jour des attaques ethniques généralisées et systématiques commises par des hauts responsables et des forces de sécurité de la région d'Amhara. Selon M. Gallopin, **le rapport a conclu que "ces fonctionnaires ont procédé à un nettoyage ethnique contre la population civile de l'ouest du Tigré", situé dans le nord-ouest de l'Éthiopie, "lieu d'un conflit territorial vieux de plusieurs décennies".** Lorsque le conflit a éclaté, "la région Amhara a pris le contrôle de cette zone", explique M. Gallopin, "et, en l'espace de deux semaines, les autorités ont commencé à mener leur nettoyage ethnique : meurtres, détentions massives et arbitraires, pillages, violences sexuelles, refus de l'aide humanitaire, ainsi qu'un régime de restrictions ethniquement ciblées". » Source: France 24, Des ONG accusent les forces régionales éthiopiennes de nettoyage ethnique au Tigré, 7 avril 2022: www.france24.com/fr/vid%C3%A9o/20220407-des-ong-accusent-les-forces-r%C3%A9gionales-%C3%A9thiopiennes-de-nettoyage-ethnique-au-tigr%C3%A9.

Freedom House, 24 février 2022:

« A joint investigation into human rights abuses in Tigray conducted by the UN Human Rights Office and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) confirmed several violations that took place between November 2020 and June 2021, concluding that some "may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes." While most reported civilian attacks in Tigray were perpetrated by EDF and ENDF members, one of the earliest and most deadly, in the town of Mai-Kadra, is believed to have been perpetrated by Tigrayan forces against Amhara civilians. The scope of the joint UN-EHRC investigation did not cover areas outside of Tigray in Amhara and Afar during the months during which the TDF took the offensive southward. Several recent reports of TDF fighters indiscriminately killing civilians and perpetrating sexual abuse have emerged from the Amhara and Afar regions. In early 2021, the United Nations warned of alarming accounts of rape and sexual violence occurring in Tigray during the conflict. While the government convicted 3 soldiers of rape and brought charges against another 53, witness accounts from the region suggest the abuse is more widespread than what the government has acknowledged. [...]

Women face discrimination in education. A gender gap persists in many aspects of economic life including women's wages relative to their male counterparts in similar positions; according to the World Bank's Gender Innovation Lab, women have far lower wage incomes (44 percent lower) and business sales (79 percent lower) than do men. [...]

Legislation protects women's rights, but these rights are routinely violated in practice. Enforcement of laws against rape and domestic abuse is inconsistent, and cases routinely stall in the courts. » Source: Freedom House: Freedom in the World 2022 - Ehtiopia, 24 février 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/document/2068729.html.

GPC, juin 2022:

« Gender-based violence, specifically conflict-related sexual violence, has been reported in the context of the Tigray conflict in November 2020 and subsequent fighting in Amhara and Afar. The EHRC/OHCHR joint investigation has documented different forms of sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, gang rape and intentional transmission of HIV, committed in Tigray by all parties involved in the conflict. Women and girls were targeted on the basis of their alleged or actual association – usually family ties –

with members of the opposing armed forces. In some cases, family members witnessed, or were forced to witness, the sexual abuse. [...]

The conflicts in Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and SNNP regions significantly increased GBV risks, especially for women and girls. According to the Health Cluster, 16,698 survivors of GBV accessed or were referred to medical services in 2021, with women and girls accounting for the majority of survivors. The actual number of GBV cases is probably higher given under-reporting of GBV both at the national and sub-national levels, mainly due to stigma and fear of retaliation.

*Not everyone targeted with conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survives. Those that do, specifically **women and children, are highly vulnerable during movements and displacement, in particular when they also suffered the loss of the breadwinner or head of household.** The limited access to basic services, together with the general inadequacy of shelters and housing facilities, increases exposure to GBV, exploitation and to negative coping mechanisms, such as sex work or early marriage. **In Tigray, protection monitoring recorded cases of survival sex due to lack of food and cash among female IDPs and refugees, particularly single women heading households.** [...]* » Source: Global Protection Cluster (GPC), Protection Analysis Update, juin 2022, Ethiopia, juin 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2074818/PAU_Ethiopia_FINAL-17.6.2022.pdf.

HRW & AI, 6 avril 2022:

*« Since the outbreak of armed conflict on November 4, 2020, - pitting forces aligned with Ethiopia's federal government against those affiliated with Tigray's regional government led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) - **hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans living in Western Tigray have been displaced from their homes through threats, intimidation, and a campaign of violence and forcible removal.***

In communities across the region, Amhara security forces acting under newly appointed Amhara and Walqayte officials have been responsible for extrajudicial executions, rape and other acts of sexual violence. The widespread pillage of crops and livestock, and the looting and occupation of Tigrayan homes, destroyed sources of livelihood. Tigrayans have faced mass arrest and prolonged arbitrary detention in formal and informal detention sites where detainees were killed, tortured, and ill-treated. Regional authorities have also imposed discriminatory rules that deny Tigrayans basic services and access to humanitarian aid, and measures that seem designed to suppress their rights and presence from the area. Tigrayans endured ethnic-based slurs that targeted their Tigrayan identity and were banned from speaking their language, Tigrinya. People with disabilities and older people have been especially affected. [...]

*The organizations found that **since November 2020 in Western Tigray, civilian authorities, and Amhara regional security forces, with the acquiescence and possible participation of Ethiopian federal forces, committed numerous grave abuses as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the Tigrayan civilian population that amount to crimes against humanity as well as war crimes. These crimes include murder, enforced disappearances, torture, deportation or forcible transfer, rape, sexual slavery and other sexual violence, persecution, unlawful imprisonment, possible extermination, and other inhumane acts.***

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch found that Amhara regional officials and regional special forces and militias, with federal forces' complicity, are responsible for the ethnic cleansing of Tigrayans from Western Tigray. Although not a formal legal term or a recognized crime under international law, "ethnic cleansing" was defined by the final report of the United Nations Commission of Experts on the former Yugoslavia as a purposeful policy by an ethnic or religious group to remove, by violent and terror-inspiring means, the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas. As this report makes clear, **the campaign of ethnic cleansing in Western Tigray was conducted through resort to serious human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity.**

Simmering tensions in Western Tigray and rights abuses over many years, mainly by Tigray regional security forces against ethnic Amharas and Walqaytes (Tigrinya and Amharic-speaking people historically inhabiting the highland areas of Western Tigray) served as a backdrop for the eventual physical violence and expulsion of Tigrayan communities from the area. The takeover by Amhara regional officials of Western Tigray Zone - an administrative area bordering Sudan to the west, Eritrea to the north, and neighboring Amhara region to the south - represents a violent reversal of changes to Ethiopia's contested internal boundaries enacted by the TPLF-led Ethiopian federal government in 1992.

At that time, Ethiopia's internal boundaries were redrawn following the recommendations of a government boundary commission, and the districts that make up Western Tigray, which previously fell under the administrative authority of the former Begemdir province, were incorporated into the Tigray regional state. Ever since, Amhara activists living in the Western Tigray Zone, and in the Amhara region, resisted the government decision. In response, the government suppressed, at times through violence and force, those attempting to assert their Amhara identity in the territory and raise their claims with the regional and federal government. **The outbreak of conflict, in November 2020, brought these longstanding and unaddressed grievances to the fore: Amhara regional forces, along with Ethiopian federal forces, seized these territories and displaced Tigrayan civilians in a brutal ethnic cleansing campaign.** [...] » Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW) & Amnesty International (AI), "We Will Erase You from This Land" - Crimes Against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing in Ethiopia's Western Tigray Zone, 6 avril 2022: www.hrw.org/report/2022/04/06/we-will-erase-you-land/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopia.

HRW, 6 avril 2022:

« **Why didn't you characterize the abuses as genocide — haven't they met that definition?**

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have not found the crime of genocide in Western Tigray based on the evidence we collected, but our organizations do not exclude the possibility. We also note that there is no formal hierarchy of crimes under international law: war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide are all considered the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.

The crime of genocide, as defined in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the Genocide Convention), covers a number of unlawful acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial,

or religious group. The forcible displacement of a particular group does not, in itself, fall within that definition. And, while the implementation of a policy to carry out an ethnic cleansing campaign may be evidence of genocidal acts, it does not, in itself, demonstrate genocidal intent. [...] » Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW), Crimes against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing in Ethiopia's Western Tigray Zone, Q&A on New Report: "We Will Erase You from This Land", 6 avril 2022: https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/06/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopia-western-tigray-zone#_Toc100057530.

HRW, 5 janvier 2022:

« Ethiopian authorities have arbitrarily detained, mistreated, and forcibly disappeared thousands of ethnic Tigrayans recently deported from Saudi Arabia, Human Rights Watch said today. Saudi Arabia should stop holding Tigrayans in abhorrent conditions and deporting them to Ethiopia, and instead help the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide them with international protection.

Ethiopian authorities have transferred Tigrayan deportees from Saudi Arabia to reception centers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, where some were being unlawfully held. The Ethiopian authorities have also apprehended Tigrayan deportees at checkpoints on the roads to Tigray or at the Semera airport in the Afar region and transferred them to detention facilities in Afar or southern Ethiopia.

"Tigrayan migrants who have experienced horrific abuse in Saudi custody are being locked up in detention facilities upon returning to Ethiopia," said Nadia Hardman, refugee and migrant rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. "Saudi Arabia should offer protection to Tigrayans at risk, while Ethiopia should release all arbitrarily detained Tigrayan deportees."

Various factors, including unemployment and other economic difficulties, drought, and human rights abuses, have driven hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians to migrate over the past decade, traveling by boat across the Red Sea and then by land through Yemen to Saudi Arabia.

In January 2021, the Ethiopian government announced it would cooperate in the repatriation of 40,000 of its nationals detained in Saudi Arabia, beginning with a 1,000 a week. Forty percent of the returnees from Saudi Arabia between November 2020 and June 2021 were Tigrayan.

Deportations increased significantly between late June and mid-July, with over 30,000 reportedly deported. The surge in repatriations coincided with an increase in profiling, arbitrary detentions, and forcible disappearances of Tigrayans by Ethiopian authorities in Addis Ababa following the withdrawal of Ethiopian federal forces from the Tigray region and an expansion of the Tigray conflict.

Human Rights Watch interviewed 23 Tigrayans – 20 men and 3 women – who were deported from Saudi Arabia between December 2020 and September 2021, with the majority deported between June and August 2021, and subsequently detained in Ethiopia between April and September. Deportees were held in facilities throughout Ethiopia: in centers in Addis Ababa; in Semera, Afar region; in Shone, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region; and in Jimma, Oromia region. Human Rights Watch sent letters with queries to the Ethiopian National Disaster Risk Management Commission, the Federal

Police Commission, the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington, DC, the Saudi Arabian Human Rights Council, and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Interior, but has received no responses.

As Ethiopian authorities conducted mass sweeps and arrests of Tigrayans in Addis Ababa in July, some deportees interviewed said that after initially being allowed freedom of movement in the Addis centers they were not permitted to leave. Other deportees who tried to make their way home to Tigray were apprehended and forcibly disappeared at regional detention facilities where Federal and Afar regional police assaulted them or beat other Tigrayan deportees with rubber or wooden rods.

Deportees said that conditions became progressively more restrictive and abusive. In the Semera center in mid-September, a new Afar security force, wearing gray and black uniforms, arrived and beat deportees, purportedly because detainees spent too much time in the toilets. "Two days ago, they [Afar special police] came and beat many of us," said a 23-year-old deportee. "I am injured, and my leg and head are swollen. They beat us severely. They said, 'You belong to the TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front].'"

Most interviewees said they were unable to speak with family members to let them know where they were, and some believed their relatives still thought they were in Saudi Arabia. All said the federal police failed to provide any legal justification for their arrest and subsequent detention. [...]

"Ethiopian authorities are persecuting Tigrayans deported from Saudi Arabia by wrongfully detaining and forcibly disappearing them," Hardman said. "Saudi Arabia should stop contributing to this abuse by ending the forced return of Tigrayans to Ethiopia and allowing them to seek asylum or resettlement in third countries." [...] » Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW), Ethiopia: Returned Tigrayans Detained, Abused, 5 janvier 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/document/2066121.html.

Martin Plaut, 13 mars 2022:

« We often get questions on numbers of deaths due to this war. It is very difficult to know due to near-absence of communication as well as the blackmailing of NGOs who have a partial view of the situation, but do not speak out for fear of being banned from working in Ethiopia.

With the assistance of citizen scientist Tim Vanden Bempt, we made the assessment that so far there are between 150,000 and 200,000 starvation deaths, 50,000 to 100,000 victims of direct killings, and more than 100,000 additional deaths due to lack of health care.

The starvation deaths are based on the figures of the IPC – Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (400,000 people in famine, May/June 2021) and USAID (900,000 in famine, June 2021). The situation is probably much more extreme now than it was then, but humanitarian aid during the summer months and the autumn harvests have apparently provided a welcome respite. The WFP was able to do a fairly extensive study that is downright terrifying. The harvest would be exhausted by April and if the humanitarian blockade remains, up to 50% of the population could be left without access to food.

The number of deaths due to lack of health care is based on the excess mortality that it generates. In normal circumstances, an average of 6 people per 1000 inhabitants die in Ethiopia in a year, according to according to an instructive curve prepared by the World Bank.

During the conflict months of November 2020 to June 2021, we estimated that there were 20 deaths per 1000 people and starting with the total blockade 32 per 1000. Twenty out of 1000 was the rate of health-related deaths in 1984-85, before the improvements in the Ethiopian health system. According to Dr. Tony Magaña, this number has risen to 32 deaths per 1,000 since the blockade started. The excess mortality was then calculated, not on the entire population but on the total of 3.9 million people in need of medical care according to OCHA.

Of the number of soldiers killed we have no idea. The tallied number of civilian direct casualties is at least 10,000. Probably they amount to 50,000 – 100,000, as there are many reports of civilian corpses “seen along the way when fleeing”, without mentioning location, date, numbers,...

There is a possible partial overlap between the categories. Yet, in the worst-case scenario there would be half a million civilian deaths.

*The fact that the UN was not allowed to transport documentation material (USB drives, phones, cameras, etc.) from and to Tigray for a very long time (and even now), has meant that **the situation in Tigray is very poorly documented. Journalists who could report about the situation on the ground are not allowed to travel to Tigray.** » Source: Martin Plaut, BREAKING: Tigray war mortality: half a million people? Professor Jan Nyssen, Ghent University, 13 mars 2022: <https://martinplaut.com/2022/03/13/breaking-tigray-war-mortality-half-a-million-people-ghent-university/>.*

Reuters, 17 juin 2022:

« Tesfaye, 36, was one of nearly 3,000 ethnic Tigrayans who were crammed into 18 squalid cells in the southern town of Mizan Teferi. Across Ethiopia, Reuters has identified at least a dozen other locations where thousands more Tigrayans have been held without trial as the government battles a 19-month-old insurgency that began in the northern Tigray region.

The United Nations estimates that more than 15,000 Tigrayan civilians were arrested between November and February alone, when emergency laws were in force. Reuters reporting, including interviews with 17 current and former detainees and a review of satellite imagery, indicates that the total number of arrests is at least 3,000 higher than the U.N. estimate. A senior Tigrayan opposition figure, Hailu Kebede, told Reuters he estimates the figure is in the tens of thousands.

The reporting also reveals that some 9,000 Tigrayans are still in detention, contradicting government assertions that most have now been released.

They were crowded into makeshift facilities, including an old cinema, university campuses, a former chicken factory, an industrial park, a construction site and an unfinished prison that was intended to hold convicted criminals, the news agency's reporting demonstrates. The detainees included women and children.

Most facilities were crowded and dirty, said current and former detainees of a dozen different centres, lawyers and family members. Beatings were common. Some sick prisoners were denied medical treatment for weeks, these people said, while others were forced to bribe guards to get medicines. Reuters confirmed many aspects of the accounts of jail conditions with priests, medical workers, local officials and through satellite imagery. Some of the people interviewed declined to be identified for fear of retribution.

At least 17 Tigrayan detainees have died, Reuters reporting shows. Tesfaye is one of them. By the time he received treatment for malaria and meningitis in December he was too ill to respond, said a medic who cared for Tesfaye in hospital. [...]

Last November, as TPLF forces neared the capital, Abiy declared a state of emergency, allowing suspects to be held without trial. Emergency rule stayed in force until mid-February.

Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, has said most of the detentions appeared to be ordinary Tigrayans. In November, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission expressed concern that people were being arrested because of their ethnicity.

Many Tigrayans say they were held by police after speaking their native language or showing an identity card with a Tigrayan name, as Reuters previously reported. In a town called Abala in Afar region, which borders Tigray, three residents said the Tigrayan population was arrested en masse and loaded onto trucks. Two witnesses put the number of people arrested at around 12,000. Reuters couldn't independently verify the figure.

Ethiopia's government and police insist they only target suspected supporters of the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Hailu, the foreign affairs head of opposition party Salsay Weyane Tigray, accused the government of "rounding up Tigrayans solely based on their ethnicity," a view shared by the TPLF. [...]

Across Ethiopia, most Tigrayans were quietly released in January or February, after the Tigrayan forces retreated back into their region. Others were freed in March or April. But thousands remain in detention in Afar. [...] » Source: Reuters, In Ethiopia's civil war, thousands of jailed Tigrayans endured squalor and disease, 17 juin 2022: www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/ethiopia-conflict-prisoners.

RFI, 4 novembre 2021:

*« Qui des forces armées éthiopiennes, érythréennes, ou tigréennes a commis le plus de possibles crimes de guerre au Tigré ? **Peut-on parler d'un « génocide » à propos de ce conflit qui a débuté il y a un an et connaît une escalade depuis quelques jours** ? Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme a rendu son rapport très attendu sur le sujet mercredi 3 novembre. Françoise Mianda, chargée de l'Afrique de l'Est au sein du Haut-Commissariat, est l'invitée de RFI. [...]*

En réaction hier, le Premier ministre éthiopien Abiy Ahmed a estimé que votre rapport montrait que les accusations concernant un génocide au Tigré sont « fausses » et n'ont « absolument aucun fondement actuel ». Est-ce que c'est exact ?

Le rapport le dit clairement : le travail qui a été fait ne permet pas de conclure qu'il y a eu génocide. Mais le rapport ne ferme pas la porte. Les collègues ont bien pris comme information de la part des victimes le fait que certaines personnes ont été ciblées sur la base de leur appartenance ethnique. Il y a eu des arrestations de Tigréens notamment, il y a eu beaucoup de choses qui ont tourné autour de l'appartenance ethnique, y compris des massacres notamment à Maï-Kadra. Mais l'équipe n'est pas en mesure de conclure. Car pour conclure à un génocide, il y a vraiment beaucoup d'éléments constitutifs qu'il faut prendre en compte. Et pour cela -le rapport le dit- il faut plus d'investigations.

Pour quelles raisons, les investigateurs n'ont pas pu conclure sur ce point ?

Déjà, l'investigation était limitée dans le temps. Il y a eu aussi un changement de dynamique dans le conflit. Avec la reprise de Mekele par les forces tigréennes, l'équipe ne pouvait plus accéder à certaines zones, parce que les forces tigréennes ont complètement rejeté l'investigation conjointe. Il y a eu aussi des difficultés de sécurité à certains endroits. Donc, l'équipe a conclu l'investigation à ce stade. Mais, ce rapport est juste un marche-pied, une étape, pour pouvoir continuer, et aller de l'avant avec les informations que nous avons à ce stade.

Est-ce qu'un groupe ethnique a été visé en particulier, je pense aux Tigréens, ou est-ce que cette dimension ethnique est présente parmi tous les acteurs du conflit ?

Il y a plus de prééminence par rapport aux Tigréens que les autres ethnies. Mais on sait en même temps que les forces tigréennes aussi ont commis des abus contre les non Tigréens, notamment les Amharas. » Source: Radio France International (RFI), Rapport ONU sur le conflit au Tigré: «L'équipe n'est pas en mesure de conclure à un génocide», 4 novembre 2021: www.rfi.fr/fr/podcasts/invit%C3%A9-afrique/20211104-rapport-onu-sur-le-conflit-au-tigr%C3%A9-l-%C3%A9quipe-n-est-pas-en-mesure-de-conclure-%C3%A0-un-g%C3%A9nocide.

TNH, 26 décembre 2020:

« Speaking with The New Humanitarian in a series of interviews over the past month, half a dozen Tigrayans living in the country's capital described ethnic profiling and growing harassment. Such abuse and discrimination by neighbours, strangers, and government officials could, analysts and others warn, widen the rift among Ethiopia's increasingly polarised ethnic groups, leading to renewed conflict. [...]

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, which is appointed by the state, said it was "gravely concerned" at reports of ethnic profiling of Tigrayans, "most notably manifested in forced leave from work and in stopping people from travelling overseas including on work missions, for medical treatment or studies". [...]

"The ethnic profiling demonstrates that despite the government's stated intention to target only the TPLF leadership, this conflict is also having a much broader negative impact on Tigrayans outside of Tigray," said William Davison, an analyst at the International Crisis Group. In an email interview with TNH, Laetitia Bader, the Horn of Africa director at Human Rights Watch, said her organisation has received reports of Tigrayans outside

of the northern region being harassed on the street, profiled at airports and cafes, and having their homes arbitrarily searched by Ethiopian security forces. [...]

The situation has worsened over the past month. Several of the Tigrayans said police officers have harassed them on the streets of Addis Ababa after checking their identity cards, which indicate their region of birth. [...] » Source: The New Humanitarian (TNH), Ethnic profiling of Tigrayans heightens tensions in Ethiopia, 16 décembre 2020: www.the-newhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2020/12/16/Ethnic-profiling-Tigraytensions-Ethiopia.

USDOS, 29 juillet 2022:

*« Since the Tigray conflict began in November 2020, international organizations reported armed actors, including Eritrean forces, regional forces, the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF), were reportedly responsible for committing human rights abuses and gender-based violence (GBV) in Tigray and other northern regions, including potential trafficking crimes. **Observers reported unspecified military personnel and other officials forced women to have sex in exchange for basic commodities and humanitarian assistance. Observers reported officials subjected detained Tigrayan returnees to abuse, forced disappearance, and forced labor upon their return to Ethiopia. [...]***

*An international organization assesses most traffickers are small local operators, often from the victims' own communities, but well-structured, hierarchical, organized crime groups also facilitate irregular migration flows and likely exploit individuals in forced labor or sex trafficking. International organizations report the number of Ethiopian returnees continues to significantly increase due to pandemic-related economic impacts; more than 155,000 Ethiopians returned in 2021, many of whom likely faced increased trafficking vulnerabilities in their destination country, along their route, and once back in Ethiopia. **Observers highlight concerns that officials subject detained Tigrayan returnees, who represented approximately 40 percent of all returnees in 2021, to abuse, forced disappearance, and forced labor upon their return to Ethiopia.** » Source: US Department of State (USDOS), 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report: Ethiopia, 29 juillet 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/document/2077605.html.*

USDOS, 12 avril 2022:

*« **There were numerous reports that parties to the conflict in the northern part of the country engaged in widespread sexual and gender-based violence (see section 1.g.). [...]***

*Impunity remained a problem, although some measures were taken to hold security forces accountable for human rights abuses. Lack of transparency regarding those being charged and tried in courts of law made it difficult to assess the government's accountability efforts. In May the federal attorney general's office released a summary report of its efforts to ensure accountability regarding violations of national and international law in Tigray. **Government investigators examined allegations that members of the ENDF engaged in killing of civilians, rape, and other forms of gender-based violence and looting and destruction of property. Military prosecutors charged 28 soldiers for killing civilians without military necessity, and 25 soldiers for committing acts of sexual violence including rape. As of year's end trials were underway. In addition, three soldiers were convicted and sentenced for rape, and one soldier was convicted and sentenced for killing a civilian. At year's end the military***

police were also investigating several other cases of alleged conflict-related crimes. Human rights groups criticized the military's accountability efforts for lacking transparency. [...]

Reports were widespread that parties to the conflict in the northern part of the country used rape as a weapon of war, with numerous allegations against the ENDF, EDF, and Amhara Regional Special Forces and associated militia groups. Amnesty International documented 1,288 cases of sexual violence attributed to government forces between February and April. In February the Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth recognized the widespread use of rape in Tigray, establishing a task force to investigate allegations and send a report to the Attorney General's Office. Women and girls in Tigray reported to local and international media that men in Ethiopian military uniforms subjected them to rape, gang rape, sexual slavery, sexual mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse, and other forms of gender-based violence. Survivors reported that pregnant women, women with disabilities, and young girls were targeted, and that in some cases rapists used ethnic slurs. One woman reported to Reuters that men dressed in Ethiopian military uniforms killed her 12-year-old son in Mekelle, then took her to a camp where she was held with other female captives and repeatedly raped for 10 days in mid- to late-February. In other similar reports survivors reported difficulty distinguishing whether their abusers were Ethiopian soldiers or Eritreans wearing Ethiopian uniforms. According to the OHCHR-EHRC report, there were reasonable grounds to believe that all parties to the conflict committed sexual and gender-based violence, with the ENDF, EDF, and TPLF implicated in multiple reports of gang rape. A November 9 report by Amnesty International documented more than a dozen reports of rapes committed by TPLF fighters. [...] » Source: US Department of State (USDOS): 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Ethiopia, 12 April 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/document/2071171.html

USHMM, 22 décembre 2021:

« Multiple warning signs of potential genocide against the Tigray people are present: reports of massacres and other targeted killings of Tigrayan civilians, dehumanization and hate speech encouraging violence against members of the group, mass arrests and arbitrary detention, and possible collective punishment in the form of a human-made famine in the Tigray region. » Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Risk of Genocide and other Mass Atrocities in Ethiopia, 22 décembre 2021: www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/blog/risk-of-genocide-ethiopia.

PAM, janvier 2022:

« The food security situation in the Tigray Region is worrisome, with 83 percent of households being food insecure – 4.6 million people. This represents a sharp increase compared with pre-crisis period in October 2020, when 0.4 million people were suffering from food insecurity.

Out of the total population, 47 percent are moderately food insecure (2.6 million people) and 37 percent are severely food insecure (2 million people). The administrative zones recording the highest food insecurity rates are the North western zone (93 percent), Eastern zone (86 percent) and Central zone (83 percent).

More urban households were found to be severely food insecure compared with their rural counterparts (41 vs 35 percent), likely due to a lower reliance on their own production as the main source of income or food. In addition, households in urban areas were found to be highly reliant on community support to make ends meet.

A higher proportion of female-headed households are food insecure compared to household headed by males (89 vs. 81 percent). This is driven by the limited economic capacities and/or opportunities for women to generate income. As a result, households headed by females have poorer diets compared to those headed by males (65 vs 53 percent, respectively). [...]

*Findings suggest that female-headed households were slightly more likely to rely on community support as their primary food source (29 percent as compared to 17 percent of their male-headed counterparts) as well as their primary income source (40 percent as compared to 28 percent of their male-headed counterparts). On the other hand, 23 percent of male-headed households reported selling their own produce as their main source of income compared to 12 percent of female-headed households, suggesting **female-headed households may be prone to economic vulnerability due to a higher dependency on less reliable food and income sources.** » Source: World Food Programme (WFP), Emergency Food Security Assessment: Tigray Region, Ethiopia - January 2022, janvier 2022, p.5, 15: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2067222/WFP-0000136281.pdf.*

L'Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés OSAR est l'association faîtière nationale des organisations suisses d'aide aux réfugiés. Neutre sur le plan politique et confessionnel, elle s'engage pour que la Suisse respecte ses engagements en matière de protection contre les persécutions conformément à la Convention de Genève relative au statut des réfugiés. Les activités de l'OSAR sont financées par des mandats de la Confédération et par des dons de particuliers, de fondations, de communes et de cantons.

Vous trouverez les publications de l'OSAR sur l'Éthiopie ainsi que sur d'autres pays d'origine de requérant-e-s d'asile sous www.osar.ch/publications/rapports-sur-les-pays-dorigine.

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