

Äthiopien: Verfolgung von Tigray

Auskunft der SFH-Länderanalyse

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Dieser Bericht basiert auf Auskünften von Expertinnen und Experten und auf eigenen Recherchen. Entsprechend den COI-Standards verwendet die SFH öffentlich zugängliche Quellen. Lassen sich im zeitlich begrenzten Rahmen der Recherche keine Informationen finden, werden Expertinnen und Experten beigezogen. Die SFH dokumentiert ihre Quellen transparent und nachvollziehbar. Aus Gründen des Quellenschutzes können Kontaktpersonen anonymisiert werden.

1 Einleitung

Einer Anfrage an die SFH-Länderanalyse sind die folgenden Fragen entnommen:

1. Stufen internationale Organisationen, internationale Instanzen und/oder Drittländer die Situation in Tigray als ethnische Säuberung bzw. Völkermord ein?
2. Hat eine abgewiesene Asylsuchende tigrinischer Herkunft mit einem Baby im Falle einer Rückkehr in die Region Tigray eine begründete Furcht vor asylrelevanter Verfolgung?
3. Gibt es eine interne Fluchtalternative für eine Tigray?

Die Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe (SFH) beobachtet die Entwicklungen in Äthiopien seit mehreren Jahren.¹ Aufgrund von Auskünften von Expertinnen und Experten und eigenen Recherchen nimmt die SFH zu den Fragen wie folgt Stellung:

2 Situation in der Region Tigray

Seit August 2022 Wiederauffalmen der Kämpfe zwischen Tigray-Streitkräften und der Regierung sowie den Alliierten in der Region Tigray und den angrenzenden Regionen. *Al-Jazeera* berichtet, dass rund um die Stadt Kobo in der Region Amhara im Grenzgebiet zur Region Tigray nach 5-monatiger Feuerpause die Kämpfe Ende August 2022 zwischen den Tigray-Streitkräften der *Volksbefreiungsfront der Tigray* (TPLF) und den Sicherheitskräften der äthiopischen Regierung wiederaufgeflammt seien. Zeug*innen haben berichtet, die Spezialkräfte von Amhara und Milizsoldaten der paramilitärischen Gruppe Fano hätten sich den äthiopischen Sicherheitskräften angeschlossen (*Al-Jazeera*, 24. August 2022). Anfang September 2022 bestätigte BBC, dass der Krieg wieder aufgeflammt war. Neben der Bombardierung von Mekele, der Hauptstadt von Tigray, durch äthiopische Streitkräfte Ende August 2022 seien auch Kämpfe in der westlichen Region der Tigray Region nahe der sudanesischen Grenze gemeldet worden (BBC, 1. September 2022). Ein Sprecher der TPLF berichtete am 20. September 2022 gegenüber *Al-Jazeera*, dass die eritreischen Streitkräfte, die an der Seite der äthiopischen Staatstruppen kämpfen, eine Grossoffensive entlang der Grenze gestartet hätten. Das bedeute eine weitere Eskalation der Auseinandersetzung (*Al-Jazeera*, 20. September 2022).

Schwere humanitäre Krise in Tigray und eine Kampagne gezielter ethnischer Gewalt, wodurch eine halbe Million Tigray ums Leben gekommen seien. Etwa 4.6 Millionen Tigray leiden unter Ernährungsunsicherheit. Laut BBC hat der Krieg seit November 2020 zu einer massiven Hungersnot geführt und viele Tigray seien gestorben. Laut einer von BBC zitierten Untersuchung eines belgischen Hochschulteams sind seit Beginn des Krieges im November 2020 fast eine halbe Million Tigray an Hunger und damit zusammenhängenden Ursachen gestorben (BBC, 1. September 2022). Der Journalist *Martin Plaut* erklärt, dass laut

¹ www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/publikationen/herkunftslanderberichte.

dieser Untersuchung zwischen 150'000 und 200'000 Menschen verhungert sind und zwischen 50'000 und 100'000 Menschen ermordet wurden. Mehr als 100'000 weitere Todesfälle seien auf die mangelnde Gesundheitsversorgung zurückzuführen (*Martin Plaut*, 13. März 2022). In einem gemeinsamen Bericht von *Human Right Watch* (HRW) und *Amnesty International* (AI) heisst es, dass seit November 2020 Hunderttausende Tigray gezwungen worden seien, aus ihren Häusern in West-Tigray zu fliehen. Sie seien vor Drohungen, Einschüchterungen und einer Kampagne der Gewalt und Vertreibung geflohen (HRW & AI, 6. April 2022). BBC berichtet, dass die Region für internationale Beobachter*innen weiterhin geschlossen bleibt. Nur ein französisches Fernseherteam des Senders ARTE konnte die Region besuchen, seit sie im Juni 2021 unter die Kontrolle der TPLF kam. BBC fügt hinzu, dass die ohnehin schon beschränkten humanitären Hilfsmassnahmen zum Erliegen gekommen seien und dass sich die humanitäre Krise mit dem Wiederaufflammen der Kämpfe wahrscheinlich noch weiter verschärfen wird (BBC, 1. September 2022). Im Januar 2022 schlug das *Welternährungsprogramm* (WFP) angesichts der katastrophalen humanitären Lage in der Region Tigray Alarm, wo 83 Prozent der Haushalte mit insgesamt 4,6 Millionen Menschen von Ernährungsunsicherheit betroffen waren. Davon waren mehr als zwei Millionen Menschen von schwerer Ernährungsunsicherheit betroffen (WFP, Januar 2022).

3 Behandlung von Menschen mit tigrinischer Herkunft in der Region Tigray

3.1 Kampagne der «Ethnischen Säuberung» gegen das Volk der Tigray

Behörden und Milizen aus Amhara wird «ethnischen Säuberung» gegen das Volk der Tigray im Westen von Tigray vorgeworfen. Massenvertreibungen, Ermordungen, Verhaftungen und Sprachbeschränkungen. Die *Asylagentur der Europäischen Union* (EUAA), die sich unter anderem auf Berichte von HRW und AI stützt, gibt an, dass die Behörden und Milizen der Region Amhara in West-Tigray «ethnische Säuberungen» durchgeführt haben, unter anderem durch Massenvertreibungen, Morde und Verhaftungen, aber auch durch Sprachbeschränkungen und die Verweigerung von Personalausweisen oder die Ausstellung von Ausweisen, die nicht auf die ethnische Herkunft der Tigray hinweisen. Sich stützend auf einen Bericht von HRW berichtet EUAA, dass die Behörden in West-Tigray die Tigray zur Ausreise zwangen, indem sie unter anderem den Zugang zu humanitärer Hilfe und landwirtschaftlichen Flächen und die Ausübung der Tigrinya-Sprache einschränkten. Die Sicherheitskräfte von Amhara und teilweise auch eritreische Sicherheitskräfte hätten die Häuser der Tigray geplündert, um ihnen ihre Lebensgrundlage zu nehmen. In ihrem gemeinsamen Bericht vom April 2022 stellten HRW und AI fest, dass in West-Tigray von den regionalen Amhara-Behörden, Sondereinheiten und regionalen Milizen mit Duldung der äthiopischen Sicherheitskräfte eine «ethnische Säuberung» gegen die Tigray durchgeführt werde. EUAA zitiert auch den *US Congressional Research Service*, der die äthiopischen Sicherheitskräfte für «ethnische Säuberungen» verantwortlich macht, da Hassreden gegen Tigray zunehmen (EUAA, 8. April 2022). In einem Interview gegenüber France 24 sagte Jean-Baptiste Gallopin, ein Researcher für AI, der an dem gemeinsamen Bericht mit HRW beteiligt war, dass hochrangige Amhara-Beamte den Konflikt ausgenutzt hätten, um die Kontrolle über ein Gebiet in der westlichen Tigray-Region, in dem sich schon seit Jahrzehnten ein Territorialkonflikt abspielt, zu

übernehmen und «ethnische Säuberungen» durchzuführen. Er sagt, es komme zu Morden, willkürlichen Massenverhaftungen und Inhaftierungen, sexueller Gewalt, Plünderungen und Einschränkungen gegen Tigray (*France 24*, 7. April 2022).

Massenverhaftungen und willkürliche Inhaftierungen von Tigray. In ihrem gemeinsamen Bericht stellen HRW und AI fest, dass es nicht nur zu weit verbreiteten Plünderung von Ernten und anderen Lebensgrundlagen der Tigray komme, sondern auch zu aussergerichtlichen Hinrichtungen, Vergewaltigungen und sexueller Gewalt sowie Massenverhaftungen und längeren willkürlichen Inhaftierungen. Die Inhaftierten würden oft misshandelt, gefoltert und getötet (HRW & AI, 6. April 2022).

Weit verbreitete sexuelle und geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt in der Region Tigray. Vergewaltigung wird als Kriegswaffe eingesetzt und um die tigrinischen Frauen und Mädchen zu «reinigen». In einem im August 2021 veröffentlichten Bericht stellte AI fest, dass äthiopische Sicherheitskräfte und ihre Verbündeten, darunter reguläre eritreische Streitkräfte, Amhara-Spezialeinheiten und die Amhara-Miliz Fano, für weit verbreitete Vergewaltigungen von tigrinischen Frauen und Mädchen verantwortlich waren. Diese Gewalttaten würden mit schweren Misshandlungen wie Schlägen, Todesdrohungen und ethnisch motivierten Beleidigungen einhergehen. In ihrem Bericht registrierte AI 1288 Fälle von geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt, die zwischen Februar und April 2021 begangen worden waren (AI, August 2021). Das *US-Aussenministerium* (USDOS) bestätigt, dass zahlreiche Berichte darauf hindeuten, dass es zwischen den Konfliktparteien im nördlichen Teil des Landes zu weit verbreiteten sexuellen und geschlechtsspezifischen Gewalttaten gekommen sei (USDOS, 12. April 2022). Laut der EUAA, die sich auf verschiedene Quellen beruft, wurde insbesondere von den äthiopischen Streitkräften und ihren Verbündeten wie den eritreischen Streitkräften, den Amhara-Spezialeinheiten und der Fano-Miliz Vergewaltigung einschliesslich Gruppenvergewaltigung als Kriegswaffe gegen die ethnischen Tigray eingesetzt. Die Vergewaltigungen seien mit ethnisch motivierten Demütigungen einhergegangen, wobei einigen Opfern mit der «Säuberung» ihrer Blutlinie gedroht wurde (EUAA, 8. April 2022). Unter Berufung auf einen gemeinsamen Bericht der äthiopischen Menschenrechtskommission (EHRC) und des UN-Hochkommissariats für Menschenrechte (OHCHR) berichtet das *Global Protection Cluster* (GPC), dass Frauen und Mädchen in Tigray durch alle am Konflikt beteiligten Parteien Opfer von Vergewaltigungen und Gruppenvergewaltigungen sowie der absichtlichen Übertragung von HIV wurden. In einigen Fällen seien die Verwandten dazu gezwungen worden, bei der sexuellen Gewalt zuzusehen (GPC, Juni 2022). Laut USDOS bleibt die Straflosigkeit ein grosses Problem. So hätten Militärstaatsanwälte zwar 25 Soldaten wegen sexueller Gewalt angeklagt, aber bis Ende 2021 seien nur drei Soldaten verurteilt worden (USDOS, 12. April 2022).

3.2 Kriegsverbrechen und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit

Kriegsverbrechen und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit, die aber an sich noch keinen Völkermord bedeuten. Die Möglichkeit eines Völkermords wird nicht völlig ausgeschlossen. Für HRW und AI stellen die zahlreichen schweren Gewalttaten, die von zivilen Behörden und Sicherheitskräften in der Region Amhara begangen und von den äthiopischen Sicherheitskräften im Zusammenhang mit einem weit verbreiteten und systematischen Angriff

auf Tigray und einer Kampagne der «ethnischen Säuberung» geduldet wurden, Kriegsverbrechen und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit dar (HRW & AI, 6. April 2022). In einem Artikel zur Veröffentlichung des gemeinsamen Berichts mit AI betonte HRW, dass die beiden Organisationen aufgrund der gesammelten Informationen nicht zu dem Schluss gekommen seien, dass in der Region West-Tigray ein Völkermord begangen wurde. Doch würden sie die Möglichkeit nicht ausschliessen. HRW präzisiert, dass die Durchführung einer Kampagne zur «ethnischen Säuberung» zwar einen Beweis für Handlungen im Sinne eines Völkermordes darstellen könnten, sie aber nicht per se die Absicht eines Völkermordes beweisen würden (HRW, 6. April 2022). In einem Interview mit *Radio France Internationale* (RFI) im November 2021 erklärt Françoise Mianda, Leiterin der Region Ostafrika beim OHCHR, dass der im November 2021 veröffentlichte gemeinsame Bericht von EHRC und OHCHR nicht zu dem Schluss gekommen sei, dass ein Völkermord begangen worden sei. Dennoch wäre er möglich, und weitere Untersuchungen seien erforderlich. Françoise Mianda erwähnt insbesondere die Tatsache, dass die Untersuchung von EHRC/ OHCHR zeitlich begrenzt gewesen sei, dass das Team nicht zu allen gewünschten Gebieten Zugang gehabt hätte und es Sicherheitsprobleme gegeben habe (RFI, 4. November 2021).

Das US-Aussenministerium und die Medien berichten über einen möglichen Völkermord in Äthiopien. Zahlreiche alarmierende Warnsignale. Laut ABC News erklärte Robert Godec, der ranghöchste US-Diplomat für Afrika, im Juni 2021 vor dem Kongress, dass das Aussenministerium die Lage in Tigray im Hinblick auf die Feststellung eines Völkermordes überprüfe. Im November 2021 gab das Aussenministerium bekannt, dass es eine Erklärung vorbereitet habe, derzufolge die Gräueltaten der äthiopischen Regierung an den Tigray einen Völkermord darstellten. Der US-Aussenminister Antony Blinken hätte sie jedoch nicht unterzeichnet (ABC News, 3. November 2021). In einem Artikel von CNN im November 2021 steht, dass die Lage in Tigray laut zahlreichen Zeugenaussagen «die Zeichen eines Völkermords» trage (CNN, 5. November 2021). Laut Helen Clark, eine ehemalige Mitarbeiterin des Entwicklungsprogramms der Vereinten Nationen (UNDP), ist eines der möglichen Anzeichen für einen Völkermord die Förderung von Hassreden von führenden Persönlichkeiten der äthiopischen Regierung und ihrer Verbündeten gegen die Tigray als ethnische Gruppe. Sie seien als Feinde bezeichnet worden, als «Krebsgeschwür», «Unkraut», «Ratten» oder «Terroristen». Ein weiteres beunruhigendes Zeichen sei die Mobilisierung von ethnischen Milizen und Selbstverteidigungsgruppen, die von der Regierung bewaffnet werden. Die Regierung habe auch unabhängige und kritische Stimmen zum Schweigen gebracht, und Menschen, die versuchen, Tigray zu schützen, würden angegriffen (*Helen Clark et al.*, 26. November 2021). Im Dezember 2021 zeigte sich auch das *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (USHMM) alarmiert und erklärte, dass es viele Vorboten eines potenziellen Völkermords an der Bevölkerung der Tigray gebe, darunter gezielte Massaker und Tötungen von tigrinischen Zivilpersonen, Hassreden, die diese ethnische Gruppe entmenschlichen und Gewalt fördern, Massenverhaftungen und willkürliche Inhaftierungen sowie die Anwendung von Massnahmen zum Aushungern der Bevölkerung und als Kollektivstrafe (USHMM, 22. Dezember 2021).

4 Behandlung von Menschen mit tigrinischer Herkunft ausserhalb der Region Tigray

Seit Beginn des Konflikts mehrere Wellen willkürlicher Verhaftungen und Inhaftierungen der tigrinischen Zivilbevölkerung in Addis Abeba und anderen Landesteilen. Tigray

werden schikaniert, ethnische Profile erstellt und Häuser durchsucht. Laut des *belgischen Generalkommissariats für Flüchtlinge und staatenlose Personen* (CGRA) wurde der Konflikt in der Tigray-Region von Wellen der Unterdrückung und Verhaftungen von Tigray im Rest des Landes begleitet, insbesondere in der Hauptstadt Addis Abeba. Während der ersten Welle ab November 2020 wurden vor allem Tausende tigrinische Militärangehörige festgenommen, des Verrats beschuldigt und in Haftzentren gebracht (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14. Juli 2022). Laetitia Bader, HRW-Direktorin für das Horn von Afrika, berichtete gegenüber *The New Humanitarian* (TNH) im Dezember 2020, dass ihre Organisation Informationen erhalten habe, wonach Tigray, die ausserhalb der Tigray Region lebten, auf der Strasse belästigt würden, an Flughäfen und in Cafés ethnisches «Profiling» betrieben und ihre Häuser von äthiopischen Sicherheitskräften willkürlich durchsucht würden. William Davison, ein Analyst der *International Crisis Group* (ICG), der ebenfalls von TNH zitiert wurde, war der Ansicht, dass das ethnische «Profiling» zeige, dass der Konflikt auch starke negative Auswirkungen auf Tigray ausserhalb der Region Tigray habe (TNH, 26. Dezember 2020).

Seit Juni 2021 Zunahme des ethnischen «Profiling» gegenüber Tigray. Massenverhaftungen und willkürliche Inhaftierungen. Verhaftungen auf der Strasse, in Cafés, zu Hause oder am Arbeitsplatz. Nach Angaben der CGRA konnte man ab Ende Juni 2021 ein Anstieg des ethnischen «Profiling», der willkürlichen Verhaftungen und des Verschwindenlassens von Tigray durch die äthiopischen Behörden in Addis Abeba beobachten. Nachdem die TPLF im Juli 2021 Mekele, die Hauptstadt von Tigray, zurückerobert hatte, seien Tausende Tigray im ganzen Land willkürlich von den äthiopischen Behörden inhaftiert und an geheime Orte gebracht worden. Die Behörden hätten auch Dutzende von tigrinischen Unternehmen, Geschäften und Bars in Addis Abeba geschlossen. Ausserdem seien Tausende von Tigray aus Saudi-Arabien verschleppt und willkürlich inhaftiert worden (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14. Juli 2022). Laut EUAA gibt es seit Juni 2021 mehrere Berichte von willkürlichen Massenverhaftungen von Tigray durch die äthiopischen Sicherheitskräfte in Addis Abeba. Die Verhaftungen seien ethnisch motiviert gewesen. Die EUAA zitiert insbesondere HRW, die berichtet, dass die Sicherheitskräfte in der Hauptstadt Tigray auf der Strasse, in Cafés und anderen öffentlichen Plätzen sowie zu Hause und an ihren Arbeitsplätzen verhaftet hätten. Vorausgegangen seien ihnen häufig unerlaubte Hausdurchsuchungen. Die Menschen seien oft aufgrund ihrer Identitätskarten verhaftet und inhaftiert worden. In anderen von EUAA zitierten Berichten ist von Schliessungen von tigrinischen Unternehmen zwischen Juli und September 2021 in Addis Abeba die Rede (EUAA, 8. April 2022).

Seit Oktober 2021 und nach der Verhängung des Ausnahmezustands im November 2021 neue Welle der Verhaftungen. Häuser wurden der Reihe nach durchsucht. Zwischen 15'000 und 30'000 Tigray verhaftet. Laut CGRA kam es im Oktober 2021 zur dritten Welle, als es der TPLF gelang, weiter in die Amhara-Region vorzudringen und die Hauptstadt Addis Abeba zu bedrohen. Die Verhaftungen von Tigray hätten erneut zugenommen. Ab November 2021 nach der Verhängung des Ausnahmezustands hätten die Sicherheitskräfte in der Hauptstadt im Rahmen eines zunehmenden und repressiven Vorgehens gegen die ethnische Gruppe der Tigray wahllos Tigray festgenommen. Die Festnahmen seien bei Tür-zu-Tür-Besuchen der Sicherheitskräfte erfolgt. Sie seien von Sicherheitsleuten unterstützt worden, welche die Ausweise der Menschen auf der Strasse überprüften. Gegen die meisten der Festgenommenen seien keine Beschuldigungen vorgebracht worden und sie hätten keinen Zugang zu Rechtsbeistand oder zu ihren Familien erhalten (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14. Juli 2022). Sich stützend auf einen Bericht von AI erklärte die EUAA, dass mit der Verhängung des Ausnahmezustands im November 2021 und den insbesondere in der Region Amhara erheblichen

Gebietsgewinnen für die TPLF die Verhaftungen von Tigray in der Hauptstadt zugenommen hätten. Die Festnahmen seien bei Hausdurchsuchungen durch die Sicherheitskräfte erfolgt. Diese seien von Selbstverteidigungsgruppen unterstützt worden, die die Identität von Personen auf der Strasse überprüft hätten. Die EUAA zitiert auch einen Artikel von *The Guardian* vom 26. November 2021, demzufolge in Addis Abeba in den vorangegangenen Wochen 30'000 sowie eine unbekannte Zahl tigrinischer Zivilist*innen ausserhalb der Hauptstadt festgenommen worden sein sollen. Nach Angaben der ehemaligen UN-Hochkommissarin für Menschenrechte, Michelle Bachelet, haben die Behörden im Zusammenhang mit dem Ausnahmezustand mehr als 15'000 willkürliche Verhaftungen und Festnahmen vorgenommen. Die Mehrheit von ihnen seien gewöhnliche Bürger tigrinischer Herkunft gewesen (EUAA, 8. April 2022).

Abnahme der willkürlichen Verhaftungen seit Februar 2022. Etwa 9'000 Tigray weiterhin inhaftiert, häufig unter schwierigen Bedingungen. Gefängnisse und Einrichtungen überbelegt, dreckig und ohne Zugang zu Gesundheitsversorgung. Mindestens 17 Tigray in Haft gestorben. Laut HRW, die vom CGRA zitiert wurde, gingen ab Februar 2022 die willkürlichen Verhaftungen von Tigray zurück (CGRS-CEDOCA, 14. Juli 2022). Im Juni 2022 veröffentlichte *Reuters* einen ausführlichen Bericht über die staatlichen Massenverhaftungen von Tigray und über die Haftbedingungen. Seit Beginn des Konflikts seien demnach etwa 18'000 Tigray verhaftet worden. Auch in der Region Afar sei es zu ethnisch bedingten willkürlichen Festnahmen und Inhaftierungen von Tigray gekommen. Nach Angaben mehrerer Zeug*innen seien bis zu 12'000 Tigray festgenommen und in Busse verladen worden. Im Juli 2022 seien etwa 9'000 immer noch in Haft gewesen. Die meisten, darunter Frauen und Kinder, wurden in behelfsmässigen Einrichtungen zusammengepfercht, darunter ein altes Kino, verschiedene Universitätsgelände, eine ehemalige Hühnerfabrik, ein Industriepark, eine Baustelle und ein unfertiges Gefängnis, das für die Inhaftierung verurteilter Straftäter vorgesehen war. *Reuters* weist darauf hin, dass die meisten Einrichtungen überfüllt und schmutzig waren und dass die Menschen häufig geschlagen wurden. Einigen kranken Gefangenen sei wochenlang jegliche medizinische Versorgung verweigert worden. Andere hätten Wärter bestechen müssen, um Medikamente zu erhalten. Mindestens 17 Tigray seien in Haft gestorben (*Reuters*, 17. Juni 2022).

Weit verbreitete sexuelle und geschlechtsspezifische Gewalt in den Regionen Afar und Amhara. Das *Global Protection Cluster* (GPC) der Vereinten Nationen berichtet, dass auch aus den ebenfalls von den Kämpfen betroffenen angrenzenden Regionen Afar und Amhara sexuelle Gewalt im Zusammenhang mit den Konflikten gemeldet worden sei (GPC, Juni 2022).

5 Risiken bei der Rückkehr für abgelehnte tigrinische Asylsuchende

Wenige Informationen über die Lage von Personen, die nach Äthiopien zurückkehren. Wahrscheinlich werden für zurückkehrende Äthiopier*innen von den äthiopischen Behörden Sicherheitsüberprüfungen durchgeführt. Der *Danish Immigration Service* (DIS) weist in einem kürzlich erschienenen Bericht über die Menschenrechtssituation in Äthiopien darauf hin, dass es nur sehr wenige Informationen darüber gibt, wie die äthiopischen Behörden Personen behandeln, die aus dem Ausland zurückkehren. Laut DIS ist es wahrscheinlich,

dass sie Sicherheitsüberprüfungen für Migrant*innen durchführen, die nach Äthiopien zurückkehren (DIS, September 2022).

In verschiedenen Landesteilen verhafteten und inhaftierten die äthiopischen Behörden willkürlich Tausende Menschen tigrinischer Abstammung, die aus Saudi-Arabien ausgewiesen worden waren. Misshandlungen, Folter, Verschwindenlassen, Zwangsarbeit und sehr schwierige Haftbedingungen. In einem im Januar 2022 veröffentlichten Bericht deckt HRW auf, dass Tausende Menschen tigrinischer Herkunft, die seit November 2020 von Saudi-Arabien nach Äthiopien abgeschoben worden waren, von den äthiopischen Behörden willkürlich inhaftiert und misshandelt wurden. Einige seien auch verschwunden worden. Während einige in Aufnahmezentren in Addis Abeba gebracht und dort illegal festgehalten worden seien, seien andere bei dem Versuch, auf dem Landweg nach Tigray zurückzukehren, an Kontrollpunkten oder am Flughafen von Semera in der Region Afar festgenommen und in Haftanstalten in der Region oder im Süden des Landes gebracht worden. Die meisten Personen wurden zwischen Ende Juni und Mitte Juli 2021 zurückgeführt. In dieser Zeit nahm das Profiling, willkürliche Verhaftungen und das Verschwindenlassen von Tigray durch die äthiopischen Behörden in Addis Abeba zu. Einige von HRW befragte Tigray berichteten, dass sie von der regionalen Afar-Polizei und der Bundespolizei mit Gummi- oder Holzknüppeln geschlagen worden seien. Die meisten gaben ausserdem an, dass sie nicht mit Familienmitgliedern kommunizieren konnten und dass sie von der Bundespolizei keine rechtlichen Begründungen für ihre Festnahme erhalten hätten (HRW, 5. Januar 2022). Die beiden vom DIS befragten Kontaktpersonen bestätigten, dass Tigray bei ihrer Rückkehr in ihr Heimatland festgenommen und in Haftanstalten in Addis Abeba, der Afar-Region oder anderen Teilen des Landes untergebracht worden seien. Sie seien misshandelt worden und würden unter sehr schwierigen Haftbedingungen aufgrund des Drecks und der Überbelegung leben. Einige Inhaftierte seien in der Haft gestorben, während andere Opfer von Verschwindenlassen oder Folter wurden. Eine der von DIS befragten Quellen berichtet, dass aus Saudi-Arabien zurückgeführte Personen tigrinischer Herkunft von den Behörden als Sicherheitsproblem angesehen werden (DIS, September 2022). In seinem jüngsten Bericht über Menschenhandel in Äthiopien berichtet USDOS von Beobachter*innen, die berichtet haben, dass Rückkehrer*innen tigrinischer Herkunft bei ihrer Rückkehr nach Äthiopien von äthiopischen Beamten missbraucht, verschleppt und zu Zwangsarbeit gezwungen worden waren (USDOS, 29. Juli 2022).

6 Quellen

ABC News, 3. November 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. [...] » Quelle: ABC News, After ending Ethiopia's trade status, US weighs sanctions, genocide designation over Tigray war, 3. November 2021: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/ending-ethiopias-trade-status-us-weighs-sanctions-genocide/story?id=80928248>.

Al-Jazeera, 20. September 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. »

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

Al-Jazeera, 24. August 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. » Quelle: Al-Jazeera, Fighting resumes in Ethiopia despite truce – Tigray forces, 24. August 2022: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/24/fighting-resumes-in-ethiopia-despite-truce-tigray-forces.

AI, August 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. »
Quelle: Amnesty International, "I dont know if they realized I was a person", Rape and sexual violence in the conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia, August 2021: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2058045/AFR2545692021ENGLISH.PDF.

EUAA, 8. April 2022:

« Situation inside the Tigray region

Various sources reported that rape has been used 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’.» Quelle: Agence de l’Union européenne pour l’asile (EUAA), Ethiopia; Security situation in Tigray region, 8. April 2022. S. 21-24 : www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2071043/2022_03_Q19_EUAA_COI_Query_Response_Ethiopia_Sec_Sit.pdf.

BBC, 1. September 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. » Quelle: BBC, Ethiopia civil war: Why fighting has resumed in Tigray and Amhara, 1. September 2022: www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62717070?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA.

CGRS-CEDOCA, 14. Juli 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 twaalftal 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. » Quelle: Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (Belgium), COI unit (CGRS-CEDOCA), Ethiopie: Veiligheidssituatie in Tigray, 14. Juli 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2077506/coi_focus_ethiopie_veiligheidssituatie_in_tigray.pdf.

CNN, 5. November 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. » Quelle: CNN, Ethiopia is at war with itself. Here's what you need to know about the conflict, 5. November 2021: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/03/africa/ethiopia-tigray-explainer-2-intl/index.html>.

DIS, September 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. » Quelle: Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Ethiopia - An update on the security and human rights situation since February 2022, September 2022, S. 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. April 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".** » Quelle: France 24, Des ONG accusent les forces régionales éthiopiennes de nettoyage ethnique au Tigré, 7. April 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. Februar 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. » Quelle: Freedom House: Freedom in the World 2022 - Ethiopia, 24. Februar 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/document/2068729.html.

GPC, Juni 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. [...] » Quelle: Global Protection Cluster (GPC), Protection Analysis Update, juin 2022, Ethiopia, Juni 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2074818/PAU_Ethiopia_FINAL-17.6.2022.pdf.

HRW & AI, 6. April 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 un-addressed 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. [...] » Quelle: 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. April 2022: www.hrw.org/report/2022/04/06/we-will-erase-you-land/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopia.

HRW, 6. April 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, ethnic, 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. [...] » Quelle: 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. April 2022: https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/06/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopia-western-tigray-zone#_Toc100057530.

HRW, 5. Januar 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.” [...] » Quelle: Human Rights Watch (HRW), Ethiopia: Returned Tigrayans Detained, Abused, 5. Januar 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/document/2066121.html.

Martin Plaut, 13. März 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.** » Quelle: Martin Plaut, BREAKING: Tigray war mortality: half a million people? Professor Jan Nyssen, Ghent*

University, 13. März 2022: <https://martinplaut.com/2022/03/13/breaking-tigray-war-mortality-half-a-million-people-ghent-university/>.

Reuters, 17. Juni 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. [...] » Quelle: Reuters, In Ethiopia's civil war, thousands of jailed Tigrayans endured squalor and disease, 17. Juni 2022: www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/ethiopia-conflict-prisoners.

RFI, 4. November 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. » Quelle: Radio France International (RFI), Rapport ONU sur le conflit au Tigré: «L'équipe n'est pas en mesure de conclure à un génocide», 4. November 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%A9no-cide.

TNH, 26. Dezember 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. [...]** »* Quelle: The New Humanitarian (TNH), Ethnic profiling of Tigrayans heightens tensions in Ethiopia, 16. Dezember 2020: www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2020/12/16/Ethnic-profiling-Tigraytensions-Ethiopia.

USDOS, 29. Juli 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.** » Quelle: US Department of State (USDOS, 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report: Ethiopia, 29. Juli 2022: www.ecoi.net/en/document/2077605.html.

USDOS, 12. April 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. [...]** » Quelle: 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. Dezember 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.** » Quelle: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Risk of Genocide and other Mass Atrocities in Ethiopia, 22. Dezember 2021: www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/blog/risk-of-genocide-ethiopia.

PAM, Januar 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. » Quelle: World Food Programme (WFP), Emergency Food Security Assessment: Tigray Region, Ethiopia - January 2022, Januar 2022, S. 5, 15:
www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2067222/WFP-0000136281.pdf.

Die Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe (SFH) setzt sich dafür ein, dass die Schweiz das in der Genfer Flüchtlingskonvention festgehaltene Recht auf Schutz vor Verfolgung einhält. Die SFH ist der parteipolitisch und konfessionell unabhängige nationale Dachverband der Flüchtlingshilfe-Organisationen. Ihre Arbeit finanziert sie durch Mandate des Bundes sowie über freiwillige Unterstützungen durch Privatpersonen, Stiftungen, Kantone und Gemeinden.

SFH-Publikationen zu Äthiopien und anderen Herkunftsländern von Asylsuchenden finden Sie unter www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/publikationen/herkunftslaenderberichte.

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