



Plenary sitting

B9-0495/2021

4.10.2021

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the humanitarian situation in Tigray
(2021/2902(RSP))

Beata Kempa, Anna Fotyga, Ryszard Czarnecki, Jan Zahradil, Valdemar Tomaševski, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Angel Dzhambazki, Bogdan Rzońca, Adam Bielan, Elżbieta Rafalska, Witold Jan Waszczykowski, Assita Kanko, Ladislav Ilčić, Emmanouil Fragkos, Eugen Jurzyca
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the humanitarian situation in Tigray
(2021/2902(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Ethiopia,
- having regard to the joint statements by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the Commissioner for Crisis Management of 12 November 2020, 26 February 2021, 14 May 2021 and 24 June 2021,
- having regard to the joint statement by the VP/HR, the Commissioner for International Partnerships and the Commissioner for Crisis Management of 8 February 2021,
- having regard to the statement of the Commissioner for Crisis Management of 25 November 2020,
- having regard to the statements of the VP/HR of 2 and 9 November 2020,
- having regard to UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks to the UN Security Council meeting on Ethiopia of 26 August 2021,
- having regard to the statements of the UN Secretary-General of 4 November 2020 and 30 September 2021,
- having regard to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
- having regard to the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 3 November 2020 the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) carried out coordinated attacks on Ethiopian National Defence Force bases in the Tigray region, thereby capturing vast amounts of military equipment, which effectively incapacitated the northern command of the national army based in Tigray;
- B. whereas on 4 November 2020, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed authorised military operations in Tigray against the TPLF; whereas the Government of Ethiopia has designated the TPLF as a terrorist group, while the TPLF regard themselves as the legitimate government of Tigray;

- C. whereas as a result of the conflict, civilian structures in towns in Tigray, including hospitals, schools, factories and businesses, have been shelled, looted and destroyed by Ethiopian federal forces, regional militias, the TPLF, and Eritrean armed forces; whereas massacres and a large amount of sexual violence have been reported by the UN; whereas all sides of the conflict have been accused by human rights organisations of having committed war crimes;
 - D. whereas the 11-month armed conflict has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties and caused more than two million people to flee their homes, including thousands who have fled to Sudan; whereas since the beginning of the summer of 2021, the conflict has spread to neighbouring regions, particularly Amhara and Afar;
 - E. whereas the fighting and continued restrictions on humanitarian access have pushed hundreds of thousands of people into conditions of famine; whereas more than five million people are estimated to be critically food insecure and in need of sustained life-saving assistance to prevent them from suffering from famine; whereas in July 2021 UNICEF warned that 100 000 children would face life-threatening severe acute malnutrition over the next 12 months; whereas the capacity to respond is severely constrained by insecurity, delays and a host of restrictions on the work of humanitarian organisations;
 - F. whereas at the end of June 2021, the Ethiopian Government imposed a blockade on Tigray; whereas the suspension of communications with and access to Tigray greatly hampers the ability to provide humanitarian assistance to civilians and those most in need and to monitor the situation on the ground;
 - G. whereas since November 2020 there has been an ongoing campaign of arrests, intimidation and obstruction targeting independent journalists and media freedom; whereas the government frequently imposes connectivity restrictions on the internet, often for political reasons and with little transparency; whereas the online environment has featured increased manipulation by government actors, widespread misinformation, online campaigns, and an escalation of online harassment and hate speech; whereas the blockade and restrictions on access to information has enabled broad disinformation campaigns by each side of the conflict;
 - H. whereas on 30 September 2021 the Government of Ethiopia declared seven UN officials, including senior UN humanitarian officials, as *personae non gratae*; whereas the expulsion of UN officials threatens to further exacerbate the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Tigray region;
1. Expresses deep concern about the worsening humanitarian situation in the Tigray region, including increased food insecurity, displacement and the disruption of livelihoods in the region; deplores the fact that the delivery of humanitarian supplies remains heavily constrained and calls on the Ethiopian Government to give humanitarian organisations immediate and unrestricted access to the conflict areas and to provide humanitarian access to those in need;
 2. Deplores the loss of life and extrajudicial killings and expresses its solidarity with the victims of the families affected; deplores, furthermore, the use of sexual violence against innocent civilians and calls for those responsible to be urgently held to account;

3. Calls for immediate measures by all parties concerned to de-escalate the conflict, restore peace, protect civilians and desist from disinformation campaigns, to resolve their differences peacefully by engaging in a genuine, inclusive and credible dialogue, and to commit to a democratic process built on free, fair and transparent elections; calls on all actors to strictly follow a human-centred security approach;
4. Expresses grave concern about the accusations of war crimes committed during the conflict; calls, therefore, for an international, independent and transparent investigation into the reported war crimes; reminds all parties of their international commitments and international law, including the imperative need to protect civilians during conflict; calls on the forces on both sides to ensure access to basic services for civilians at all times;
5. Calls on the Ethiopian federal and regional state governments to take steps to facilitate the safe repatriation of Ethiopian refugees; recalls that the Ethiopian Government is responsible for the safety and security of the refugees and internally displaced persons on its territory; supports the appeals of the international community and humanitarian organisations for increased assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the region;
6. Calls on the Ethiopian Government to fully respect the freedoms of expression, association and the press, and to release unjustly detained journalists and bloggers;
7. Calls on the EU to support African-led mediation efforts for a ceasefire and the creation of conditions for dialogue;
8. Condemns the decision by the Ethiopian Government to declare seven UN officials as *personae non gratae* and strongly calls on the Ethiopian Government to immediately allow the UN officials, including the humanitarian officials concerned, to continue their valuable and important work;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the European External Action Service, the Federal Government and House of Federation of Ethiopia, the Tigrayan authorities, the Government of the Republic of the Sudan, the governments of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and its Member States, the Pan-African Parliament, and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.