



Plenary sitting

B9-0445/2022

4.10.2022

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the recent humanitarian and human rights situation in Tigray, Ethiopia,
notably that of children
(2022/2858(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on the recent humanitarian and human rights situation in Tigray, Ethiopia, notably that of children (2022/2858(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 7 October 2021 on the humanitarian situation in Tigray and its resolution of 26 November 2020 on the situation in Ethiopia,
 - having regard to the statement of 9 April 2022 by the spokesperson of the EEAS on the reports on human rights violations and abuses of civilians in Ethiopia/Tigray,
 - having regard to the statement of 14 September 2022 by the spokesperson of the EEAS on the latest developments in Ethiopia,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions of 11 March 2021 on Ethiopia,
 - having regard to the report of 19 September 2022 of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
 - having regard to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to the Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and its additional protocols of 1977 and 2005,
 - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas despite having declared a humanitarian truce in March 2022, the Ethiopian Federal Government did not fully lift the humanitarian siege of Tigray and shortages of essential supplies, including food, medicine and fuel, persist;
- B. whereas fighting resumed on 24 August 2022 and humanitarian aid to Tigray is blocked again;
- C. whereas an escalation in drone attacks employing explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas has been reported; whereas drone strikes on civilian structures including in the capital of Tigray, Mekelle and on Wukro town, eastern Tigray, and on Shire town in the northwest have hit a kindergarten, hospital, university campus and residential areas causing civilian casualties;

- D. whereas on 11 September 2022, Ethiopian New Year, the Government of Tigray stated its readiness to participate in an African Union-led peace process and to abide by an immediate and mutually agreed cessation of hostilities; whereas drone strikes that hit Mekelle on 13 and 14 September 2022 endanger the fragile hope for peace in Ethiopia;
- E. whereas Eritrean forces have recently entered Tigray which threatens and complicates any peace efforts between Tigrayan leaders and the Ethiopian Prime Minister; whereas since the beginning of war in November 2020 the Eritrean forces supporting the Ethiopian government have been committing serious human rights violations in Tigray;
- F. whereas the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia states in its September report that it has reasonable grounds to believe that the widespread denial and obstruction by the Federal Government and its allies of access to basic services, food, healthcare, and humanitarian assistance in Tigray amounts to crimes against humanity and that the Federal Government is committing the war crime of using starvation as a method of warfare;
- G. whereas based on figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the combined effect of these measures has left 90% of the population of Tigray in dire need of assistance, and most of the population in Tigray must now survive on limited and nutritionally inadequate diets; whereas Ethiopia is experiencing the worst drought on record since 1981, leaving an estimated 7.4 million people facing grave food insecurity;
- H. whereas the children of Tigray have been deeply affected by the suffering from famine, violence, lack of medical aid and education, family dislocation, forced transfers and constant trauma;
- I. whereas a worrying number of children have lost their homes and got separated from their families;
- J. whereas the children of Tigray have suffered from a shortage of medical supplies and food and haven't had any access to basic healthcare; whereas according to the UN more than 20 per cent of children under the age of five, and half of all pregnant and breastfeeding women are still suffering from malnutrition;
- K. whereas deadly childhood diseases such as measles, tetanus and whooping cough are on the rise in Tigray because the percentage of children in Tigray receiving routine vaccines has fallen below 10% this year due to the civil war;
- L. whereas a total of 1.39 million children in Tigray are missing out on education because of Ethiopia's civil war;
- M. whereas an increase in child marriages and child labour and human trafficking has been reported;
1. Urges the Ethiopian authorities to end the use of starvation as a method of warfare in the conflict in Tigray and to assure unfettered humanitarian access and full resumption of basic services in Tigray;

2. Requests all parties in the conflict to respect international humanitarian and human rights laws, especially to ensure that civilians and civilian objects are not targeted by shelling and aerial bombardments and to protect children and to support children's rights in Tigray;
3. Appeals to all parties to show real determination to engage in a peace process, including a negotiated ceasefire and accountability for atrocities committed by all parties;
4. Recognises that Eritrea's mass mobilization of reserve troops escalates hostilities in the region and calls on all actors to respect Ethiopia's territorial integrity;
5. Calls on the Eritrean Government to withdraw its forces immediately and permanently from Ethiopia; calls on neighbouring countries to refrain from all political and military interventions that could further fuel the conflict;
6. Asks the EU to fully engage with the African Union peace process and to continue to insist that the situation in Ethiopia is placed formally on the agenda of the UN Security Council;
7. Requests the EU and the Member States to support the extension of the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) by the UN Human Rights Council and requests the Ethiopian Federal Government to facilitate unfettered access for the ICHREE;
8. 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 African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.