

Question for written answer E-000951/2021

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: The current situation in Tigray

On 11 February 2021, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission report and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society published reports saying that the current situation in the Tigray region is complex.

The Ethiopian Red Cross said that more than 50 % of people in Tigray need humanitarian aid and that 80 % of the region has been cut off from humanitarian assistance.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission reported that internally displaced people in the region are exposed to human right abuses (108 rape cases have been reported) and highlighted the need for emergency assistance, medical supplies, health infrastructure and security.

The humanitarian activities carried out by the Government and people of Ethiopia, the UN and the World Food Programme are highly appreciated, but need to be scaled up with safe and unhindered access to all places.

1. What actions is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) taking to protect civilians from the aftermath of the war and to make individuals and/or groups accountable for their violations of human rights?
2. Is the VP/HR doing anything to encourage the Ethiopian authorities to approve the humanitarian missions of UN and non-governmental organisation staff who are already in Addis Ababa?