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ዕለት/Date: Feb. 05, 2022

To: **the African Union**
Addis Ababa,

Subject: Urging you to play your role in stopping the ongoing Genocide and Siege on Tigrai

It goes without saying that the Ethiopian government, along with other internal and external forces, has been committing atrocities beyond anyone's imagination following what it called the "Law Enforcement Operation" on Tigrai since November 2020. The forces and countries that have been directly taking part, in what in reality turned out to be a genocidal war, are the Amhara militia and vigilante group, the special forces of the federal states of the country, the Eritrean defense forces, as well as, the Somali troops (based on recent reports about 10,000). Moreover, countries like Turkey, UAE, China, Russia, and Iran have been openly arming Abiy Ahmed with drones and other latest military equipment as well as providing with logistical and financial support. One can only imagine the unparalleled devastation and the subsequent toll on humanity in general. When the said forces forged an alliance and began attacking Tigrai, the northernmost regional state of Ethiopia, the international community, including the African Union, had been alerted. To the dismay of Tigraians, the response of the Union was not just silence.

During the first eight-month all-out war (Nov. 2020–June 2021) almost on every part of Tigrai, the forces kept on committing despicable crimes, including gang raping women and girls as young as nine years and as old as 80 years of age, looting private and public property, vandalizing public infrastructure, and killing of thousands of civilians. In some places, they encircled and massacred hundreds of people who were just attending religious ceremonies. Elsewhere in Ethiopia, citizens of Tigrayan origin have been harassed, arrested, sent to prisons, and killed.

While the said atrocities were being committed, the African Union which, following the "Never Again" principle, adopted the Constitutive Act which allows intervention of the Union, in a Member State, chose to be silent partly because of misinformation and disinformation campaigns from Addis Ababa, the very city where the AU Headquarters is found. Given the simmering tensions between Addis and Tigrai prior to November 2020, a conflict, if not of this magnitude, seemed imminent.

Another seven-month period of a complete siege (since July 2021) has just passed by and the People of Tigrai are in a very dire situation. With no social services and, of course, subsequently the man-made famine, life in Tigrai has literally become near hell. Then there are the deadly drones hovering on the skies of Tigrai and oftentimes dropping lethal weapons on civilians. Then there is the non-stop warmongering and warnings for more devastation and killing of Tigraians by the Ethiopian officials, top advisors, and the Amahra elite, who, via their toxic media outlets, keep on adding hate, rage and fuel to an already deadly scenario which seems to have no end. All these are maneuvered by the Ethiopian officials in the city where the AU often meets and meets to champion the dreams of Africans, but is short of attempting to take a single step to end the dire situation in the Horn of Africa.

Thus, the Tigray Universities Scholars Association (TUSA) strongly urges the African Union to play its role to stop the genocide, the siege, and the man-made famine that are taking place in Tigrai. The Association urges all the leaders to exert concerted efforts so that Tigraians would have unimpeded access to the fundamental services and concomitantly to make an all-inclusive peace dialogue a reality.

Cordially,

Tigray Universities Scholars Association (TUSA)
Mekelle, Tigrai

