

提格雷战争: 主要事件概要

特别摘要 No. 4, 2021 年 3 月 10 日

附件于情势报告 100 - EEPA HORN

1. 介绍

EEPA 于 2020 年 11 月 17 日最早开始发布情势报告。在此之前，EEPA 已经发布了内部每日更新。由于媒体和通信的全面封锁，我们认为有必要提供信息，因此开始发布情势报告。这些报告（几乎）每天更新。今天，即 2021 年 3 月 10 日，EEPA 出版了第 100 期情势报告，该小组对迄今所报告的情况进行了分析。我们感谢每一个帮助收集和核实信息以及分发信息的人。下面的报告是根据迄今为止发表的情势报告撰写的。完整的情势报告清单可在[这里](#)找到。信息和更正请求可发送至：info@eepea.be。

2. 行动的开始

2020 年 11 月 3 日，当厄立特里亚部队在宣布开展“法律和秩序行动”之前从北方进入提格雷地区时，首先爆发了战斗。与此同时，2020 年 11 月 3 日，埃塞俄比亚联邦政府以运输钞票为借口，派出一架载有特种部队的货机前往该地区州府默克莱。

据新当选的提格雷州政府称，有情报称特种部队奉命逮捕正在默克莱开会的提格雷州政府领导人。

埃塞俄比亚联邦政府认为，在提格雷举行的选举是非法的，而提格雷政府则坚持认为，联邦政府的任务只是看守政府，因为联邦选举已因 COVID-19 而推迟。该地区政府表示反对联邦政府试图重新部署驻扎在提格雷的埃塞俄比亚国防军北方指挥部，局势因此非常紧张。亚的斯在冲突前几天派往默克莱的一名将军被派回。

提格雷地区州政府认为，北方司令部的重新部署不在总理阿比的宪法权力范围内，该权力已于 2020 年 10 月 5 日结束。联邦特种部队对聚集在星球酒店的提格雷州政府成员的逮捕失败。目前在受迫的情况下，提格雷州政府试图控制北方指挥部。

提格雷地区部队迅速对埃塞俄比亚国防军在提格雷的基地进行攻击。在这些袭击之后，埃塞俄比亚联邦政府宣布迅速开展“法律和秩序行动”，并于 11 月 4 日开始入侵提格雷。一些师转而支持提格雷地区部队；在某些情况下，埃塞俄比亚国防军人员在经过短短 10 天的围攻后投降。来自苏丹的证据表明，在“法律和秩序行动”开始之前，埃塞俄比亚和苏丹之间已达成协议。协议规定，苏丹将部署部队用以阻止提格雷/埃塞俄比亚与苏丹边界上的人员流动。

3. 关于战争开始的不同叙述

此后，关于冲突的开始出现了不同的说法。尚不清楚冲突是以何种方式开始的以及不同的参与者是如何被卷入其中的。可以预料的是，不同的交战方对 11 月 4 日冲突的爆发有不同的说法。一方面，埃塞俄比亚联邦政府声称，提格雷地区政府是非法选举产生的，政府党提格雷人民解放阵线及其所谓的支持者“对埃塞俄比亚国防军北方司令部进行了无端攻击。该指挥部是埃塞

俄比亚提供、训练和武装最好的指挥部之一，其任务是保护北部边界不受厄立特里亚侵犯。由于对北方指挥部的这些攻击，阿比-艾哈迈德总理和埃塞俄比亚联邦政府宣布采取“法律和秩序行动”，并在提格雷开始行动。

另一方面，提格雷人声称他们有证据表明埃塞俄比亚联邦政府当时正准备发动攻击，以推翻当选的地区政府，并且提格雷部队先发制人地攻击北方指挥部基地以挫败这一“阴谋”。提格雷地区民选总统德布雷西翁-格布雷迈克尔说，他的“部队挫败了联邦军队利用驻扎在那里的大炮和武器攻击该地区的计划”。随着提格雷人民解放阵线与联邦政府之间的关系日益紧张，并感觉到他们正在受到系统性的迫害，提格雷人民解放阵线希望保持对驻扎在其领土上强大的埃塞俄比亚国防军北方指挥部的控制权。当他们得知联邦政府要派埃塞俄比亚军队进驻时，他们决定先下手为强，以便完全控制重型装备，防止其被埃塞俄比亚联邦政府部署并针对提格雷地区的本国公民。

4. 厄立特里亚的参与

许多不同的消息来源都报道了厄立特里亚部队在提格雷的存在。美国、外国外交官和联合国安全小组都独立地表示，厄立特里亚部队在提格雷活动。此外，弗拉芒公共广播电台（VRT）、《每日电讯报》、《纽约时报》等不同的新闻来源和我们自己的消息来源都证实了这一点。越来越多的厄立特里亚士兵的照片出现在提格雷。有些甚至在埃塞俄比亚的新闻镜头中被发现，当时正宣布逮捕提格雷领导人。厄立特里亚车辆的车牌号已被确认。厄立特里亚士兵的身份是通过他们的制服和他们所说的方言来确定的；有些身穿埃塞俄比亚制服的厄立特里亚士兵被发现是因为可以通过他们典型的鞋类来识别，这种鞋类使厄立特里亚部队能够快速行动（轻型塑料凉鞋，即“congos”）。

厄立特里亚在与提格雷的冲突中发挥了重要作用。它提供了后勤和直接军事支持。虽然厄立特里亚部署的部队人数不清楚，但有许多迹象表明，这支特遣队人数众多。从厄立特里亚国内的人那里收到的一些报告说，政府正在积极征召更多的人加入武装部队，以补充部队的不足。由于不知道厄立特里亚到底有多少士兵，因此很难估计埃塞俄比亚境内的厄立特里亚部队人数。美国中央情报局（CIA）估计，厄立特里亚部队大约有 20 万人。这包括被征召为无限期国民兵役的士兵，联合国称这种征兵形式为奴隶制。11 月 22 日，EEPA 报告说，多达 20 个厄立特里亚营参与了各条战线的战斗。同时，厄立特里亚前国防部长 Mesfin Hagos 声称，有 17 个师参与了打击提格雷人民解放阵线的行动。在冲突开始时，提格雷总统说他们有 16 个师参与战斗。

虽然无法可靠地评估其军事贡献的规模，但厄立特里亚军队显然向埃塞俄比亚国防军提供了重要支持。提格雷西部的大部分地区是在厄立特里亚的支持下沦陷的。许多难民和目击者说，与提格雷交界处的埃塞俄比亚城镇胡曼达遭到来自厄立特里亚的炮击。据报道，在提格雷大多数主要城镇附近的战斗中也有厄立特里亚的存在。在胡曼达、因达塞拉西、阿克苏姆、阿杜瓦、阿迪格拉特和默克莱等地都发现了厄立特里亚部队。一些分析家认为，厄立特里亚军队有可能在提格雷的战斗中首当其冲，随后埃塞俄比亚国防军在激烈的战斗中崩溃。结果，埃塞俄比亚国防军只控制了默克莱和南部地区周围的一条狭窄走廊。提格雷的其他地区仍由与提格雷结盟的部队、厄立特里亚部队和阿姆哈拉民兵控制。

厄立特里亚还帮助部署埃塞俄比亚士兵。许多士兵被空运到厄立特里亚，以便建立更多的反提格雷战线。一些报告指出，这种空运甚至在冲突开始之前就开始了。有图片显示，埃塞俄比亚士兵排着长队登上飞机，大概是前往厄立特里亚。此外，也有可能是阿比总理和伊萨亚斯总统在冲突开始前会晤，制定行动战略，伊萨亚斯总统获准视察埃塞俄比亚的关键军事能力。虽然这一点没有得到证实，但阿姆哈拉警察局长最近的评论表明，在冲突开始之前，部队就在提格雷边境一带驻扎，增加了这一理论的份量。阿姆哈拉警察局长在新书发行会议上说，阿姆哈拉民兵和特种部队已将埃塞俄比亚国防军部队引到提格雷边境，为入侵做准备。此外，苏丹最高委员会主席布尔汉透露：

“在事件发生前不久，我访问了埃塞俄比亚，并且我们与埃塞俄比亚总理商定，苏丹武装部队将关闭苏丹边界，以防止武装派别向苏丹和从苏丹渗透。（..）事实上，这就是（苏丹）武装部队为确保国际边界的安全而采取的行动，并已在那里停止了”（《苏丹论坛报》，17-02-2021）

这进一步表明，战争的准备工作已扩大到邻国。在冲突开始后的几天里，从厄立特里亚向提格雷州迅速发动了进攻。在冲突开始时，提格雷州州长声称，埃塞俄比亚联邦部队奉命撤入厄立特里亚。埃塞俄比亚国防军的一名将军感谢厄立特里亚在这些初步行动中提供的支持和援助。

此外，埃塞俄比亚及其联邦部队的行动严重依赖厄立特里亚的设施。厄立特里亚在帮助埃塞俄比亚军队从战场上撤离伤兵方面发挥了重要作用。数百名埃塞俄比亚国防军士兵被送往厄立特里亚医院接受初步治疗。这些士兵随后被送往亚的斯亚贝巴。阿比总理在埃塞俄比亚议会的发言中承认，厄立特里亚发挥了“有限的”作用，比如为撤退的士兵提供食物和衣服，然后将他们送回提格雷作战。最近的报告还表明，随着苏丹和埃塞俄比亚之间紧张局势的加剧，厄立特里亚开始在该地区发挥更重要的作用。据一些目击者说，埃塞俄比亚国防军已从提格雷北部撤退，并将控制权移交给厄立特里亚士兵。厄立特里亚的电信服务已开始在这些地区运行。

埃塞俄比亚直到最近才否认厄立特里亚部队的存在。本周（2021年3月初），联邦发言人首次发表评论，承认厄立特里亚部队可能驻扎在提格雷。尽管如此，政府已改变其官方立场，表示由于提格雷人早期对埃塞俄比亚国防军北方指挥部的袭击，军方无法阻止厄立特里亚部队进入。由于边境部队被削弱，厄立特里亚士兵得以越境。据接近提格雷人民解放阵线的一个消息来源说，实际情况并非如此：

“联邦政府与厄立特里亚政府密切合作，一直在进行军事准备，以便对提格雷发动攻击。联邦政府已经调动了一些师向贡达、阿法尔和拉亚进发，分别从提格雷的西部、东部和南部地区进攻提格雷。（..）提格雷政府在10月最后一个星期收到了关于即将发动攻击的情报。除此之外，联邦政府一直在秘密组织北方司令部，用于在默克莱的领导人因开会或其他目的聚会的时候，突然发动秘密行动并刺杀他们。地区政府掌握了这一情报信息。”（《情势报告100》，09-03-2021）

还有报告说，厄立特里亚部队在宣布“法律和秩序行动”以及在提格雷区域部队攻击北方指挥部之前就已经进入提格雷。尽管发生了这一据称的入侵事件，埃塞俄比亚政府仍坚持认为，冲突仍是内部事务。而且据我们所知，它迄今尚未公开要求厄立特里亚部队离开提格雷。

5. 战争冲突中的阿联酋无人机

早期有人声称，阿拉伯联合酋长国（以下简称阿联酋）从其在厄立特里亚阿萨布的基地派遣无人机进行打击。但从来没有确凿的证据表明确实发生了无人机袭击。在查看了卫星图像后，Bellingcat得出结论，阿联酋无人机“有可能”被用于冲突。在泄露的Zoom会议视频中，一名埃塞俄比亚将军也谈到了在提格雷战争中使用武装无人机的话题：

“当战争在前线发生时，我们在后方用无人机攻击/轰炸他们，我们不知道谁死谁活”，将军说道。（《情势报告52》，12-01-2021）

据悉，该基地在1月底被阿联酋关闭。研究员亚历克斯-德瓦尔说，自那之后，提格雷上空再也没有听到无人机的声音。在阿联酋离开阿萨布港后，EEPA也没有任何无人机袭击事件的报告。

阿联酋一直在寻求增加进入非洲之角的机会，因为它与吉布提的协议已于2015年被取消。阿联酋被逐出吉布提港后，厄立特里亚总统伊萨亚斯就与沙特会面并与海湾国家签订了《安全与军事伙伴协议》，允许他们在厄立特里亚拥有基地权，但是厄立特里亚在也门战争中推翻了联盟。阿联酋对厄立特里亚的地缘政治很感兴趣，因为新发现了有利可图的原材料，包括钾盐，可能的石油和天然气。而全球对进入非洲大陆的基础设施的竞争日益激烈，特别是随着中国的“一带一路”项目。

随着提格雷人民解放阵线在亚的斯亚贝巴联邦一级的中央权力被削弱，阿比-艾哈迈德总理就职并与阿联酋促成了一项交易，向厄立特里亚和埃塞俄比亚各提供30亿美元的贷款和投资。阿联酋签署了一份有权使用阿萨布港的租约，其租期为30年。它在那里建立了一个军事基地，包括一个无人机基地，随之扩大了其在北非的影响力，包括埃塞俄比亚、苏丹和利比亚。阿联

酋出于商业目的从埃塞俄比亚收购了亚的斯亚贝巴的土地，因此通过陆路连接阿萨布和亚的斯亚贝巴的基础设施成为优先事项。然而，尽管有租赁协议，阿联酋现在似乎已经腾出了港口。

6. 侵犯人权行为

很难得到关于提格雷战斗中死亡和流离失所者的确切数字。由于媒体封锁和无法上网，很难与该地区的任何人联系并核实各种说法。因此，关于伤亡人数和需要紧急援助人数的估计不尽相同。人道协调厅估计，冲突前该地区有 95 万人需要援助。其中 10 万人是住在四个难民营的厄立特里亚难民。据联合国人道主义事务协调厅称，自冲突开始以来需要援助的人数至少增加了 130 万。据提格雷反对党称，已取代提格雷地区政府的提格雷临时行政当局估计，提格雷有 220 多万境内流离失所者，估计总共有 250 万人流离失所。据估计，有 450 万人需要紧急粮食援助。超过 6.2 万名难民已抵达苏丹。

“可能构成战争罪的侵犯人权行为”

在冲突中被杀害的人数也很难估计。该地区有许多关于大屠杀的报道，其中有些被广泛报道，而许多在较小村庄的大屠杀则较少引起注意。在马伊-卡德拉，2020 年 11 月 9 日晚有 600 人被杀。在阿克苏姆，11 月 28 日和 29 日有 800 多人被杀，但可能超过 1000 人。在 Humera、Edaga Hamus、Mariam Dengelat 和 Adigrat 还发生了进一步的屠杀。据了解，还有许多其他屠杀发生在偏僻的村庄和城镇。由于这些杀戮事件的分散性，没有确切的数字。提格雷三个反对党的联合报告显示，该地区有 52,000 多人被杀。

国际特赦组织和人权观察社都发表了非常详细的报告用以介绍在阿克苏姆发生的屠杀事件，其分别采访了 61 人和 28 人。它们都对 11 月 19 日至 29 日期间发生的事件提供了类似的时间线。首先是厄立特里亚和埃塞俄比亚部队在提格雷部队撤出阿克苏姆后炮击该城。这造成了人员伤亡。随后，厄立特里亚部队进入该市并在该市进行了一周的抢劫。28 日上午，提格雷人民解放阵线的士兵袭击了该市附近一座山上的厄立特里亚前哨。许多年轻人也加入了他们的行列，因为他们对前一周发生的事件感到愤怒。攻击遭到抵抗，厄立特里亚士兵开始在街上开枪杀人，包括妇女、儿童和在教堂避难的人。他们还对房屋进行搜查并寻找可立即处决的年轻人。国际特赦组织表示这次屠杀可能构成危害人类罪。

冲突各方都被指控实施了暴行。必须指出，许多屠杀事件仍在发生。提格雷亚部队与厄立特里亚、阿姆哈拉和埃塞俄比亚部队之间的战斗仍在进行。最近的一份报告称厄立特里亚部队威胁说，如果提格雷区域部队返回并得到支持，就会杀死和砍掉当地人的手。

“在提格雷进行有系统的种族清洗运动”

与此同时，有人声称在西提格雷发生了种族清洗。这些情况在 1 月初开始出现。阿姆哈拉民兵正在迫使提格雷人离开该地区，并将他们驱逐到提格雷中部。任何不认同阿姆哈拉族身份的人都会被送走。在某些情况下，那些拒绝的人被杀害，以儆效尤。同时，阿姆哈拉族官员正在敦促阿姆哈拉族农民迁往西提格雷，以接管空旷的农场。这些说法得到了《纽约时报》报道的一份美国政府报告的证实。还为提格雷设立了一个新的行政区；该区由阿姆哈拉州政府控制。

联合国人权事务负责人米歇尔-巴切莱特说，他们已经并不断收到可靠的报告称，“冲突中的多个行为者可能犯下了严重违反国际法的行为，可能构成战争罪和危害人类罪”。因此，她要求埃塞俄比亚允许联合国和其他组织进入，对这些报告进行独立调查。

7. 2 万名难民失踪

冲突前在提格雷的十万厄立特里亚难民的情况也令人关切。在冲突开始时，他们生活在四个难民营中。然而，在那之后许多人下落不明。媒体的封锁阻止了信息的传播，各组织也无法进入这些营地。这些营地在冲突期间一再遭到袭击。据报道，厄立特里亚士兵访问了阿迪-哈鲁和希萨特难民营。在这两起事件中，他们都杀害了一些人并强迫其他难民乘坐卡车返回厄立特里亚。联合国表示，它已收到可靠的报告证实这些难民被迫返回，并对这种情况极为关注。此后，埃塞俄比亚政府关闭了希萨特和希梅尔巴难民营。联合国表示，它还没有找到被安置在这两个难

民营的 2 万名难民。许多人分散在提格雷地区，而其他的人则试图到达其他地区。然而，埃塞俄比亚当局迫使那些抵达亚的斯亚贝巴的难民返回难民营。

最后，在提格雷发生了大规模的抢劫事件。厄立特里亚、埃塞俄比亚和阿姆哈拉部队被指控在许多地方进行抢劫。特别是厄立特里亚人一直在大肆抢劫工厂、医院、大学和私人住宅。许多重型机械和工业机械被从提格雷运到厄立特里亚。实验室、医疗设备和用品以及文物都被从提格雷掠夺和运走。此外，私人财产也遭到广泛掠夺。据报道，士兵们拿走了一切可以移动的东西。床垫、家具，还有锅和餐具都被抢走。

8. 1 万名妇女：这是对提格雷州强奸受害者人数的保守估计。

根据 EEPA 收到的有关妇女和女孩遭受攻击、性暴力和强奸的资料，其程度和残忍程度令人不寒而栗。其中许多事件没有被报道。当地现在仍然没有互联网，记者在三个月内无法进入该地区。只有一份来自提格雷少数几个保健诊所的确诊病例清单，其中发现有 138 名妇女被强奸。情况远不止如此。自战争开始以来仅在阿迪格拉特，公立医院就接收了超过 174 名强奸幸存者（德国之声，2021 年）。据德迪比提媒体报道，仅在默克莱就有 750 名妇女被强奸并被送进阿耶德勒医院（德迪比提，2021 年 1 月 29 日）。甚至有多份关于轮奸的报告。有一个记录在案的事件涉及十多名士兵强奸一名受害者。受害者包括年仅 10 岁的女孩和年迈的祖母。

许多事件没有被报告，因为妇女经常仅为同乡的多名受害者女性同胞发言。还有许多其他因素进一步减少了报告的数量，如沟通障碍、禁忌和恐惧。只有最严重的案件往往在受害者前来寻求紧急医疗帮助时才会被报告。然而，90%的诊所和医院已被摧毁且不再被使用，另外卫生工作者也已逃离。当证词被报告时，它们讲述了令人痛心的故事。从祖父被迫强奸孙辈到长达一周的轮奸，导致悲剧不断涌现。

9. 埃塞俄比亚的遗产受到攻击

12 月 15 日左右，虽然有些消息来源说是在 11 月 30 日左右，al-Negash 附近的清真寺遭到了炮击，结果遭到严重破坏。直到几周后，网上才出现了第一张清真寺受损的照片。根据当地的说法，该遗址是非洲最古老的清真寺，建于 7 世纪，对该地区的人民具有特别重要的意义。最近在土耳其政府的资助下进行了翻修。

对 al-Negash 的炮击强调了已经发生的事情。也就是说，在提格雷的残酷的新冲突中，宗教场所和人民没有幸免于难。破坏宗教场所和掠夺文物的行为正在肆无忌惮地进行。早在报道炮击 Negash 之前就有报道称，于 12 月 17 日和 19 日，13 名牧师在坦宾和扎兰贝萨被杀害。他们被杀的情况仍不清楚。同时于 12 月 19 日，首次有报道称在 Mariam Dengelat 发生了大屠杀。80 多名在寺院中避难的人被杀。被控实施大屠杀的厄立特里亚士兵还抢劫了该地的重要文物和记录。据报道称在 1 月，阿克苏姆发生了大屠杀。阿克苏姆是提格雷的圣城之一，他们声称在那里有约柜。

10. 媒体和新闻自由

媒体进入提格雷仍然很困难。由于该地区的封锁和最近在提格雷的全面禁止媒体传播，对正在发生的事件进行报道一直很困难。因此很难获得关于冲突的准确信息。不仅是记者难以进入该地区，而且援助人员也难以进入。那些在冲突开始前就在提格雷的人报告说，他们面临额外的检查以确定他们是否是记者并受到士兵的恐吓。

在冲突的头 10 天内，无国界记者组织报告说有 6 名记者被捕。随后，路透社的一名摄影师于 1 月底被捕并被关押了 10 天。最后，在埃塞俄比亚允许 7 个主要新闻组织进入后不久，英国广播公司的一名记者和其他三名媒体工作者被逮捕。

记者们还报告说恐吓和威胁有所增加。他们报告说，一些没有穿制服的人拜访他们并要求他们停止报道与提格雷战争有关的问题。如果他们不停止写作，就有可能被杀害。政府还威胁要监禁任何“向国际媒体提供虚假信息”的人。这些各种形式的恐吓导致一些记者和援助人员停止

报道提格雷的局势。它还压制了国际组织的声音，因为这些组织担心如果他们过多地批评政府，就会被踢出局并最终无法帮助任何人。

11. 结论

厄立特里亚部队和其他部队参与提格雷战争的证据已不再有争议。还有越来越多的证据表明，其他区域行为体也参与了这场战争。据称自阿联酋离开后，阿拉伯联合酋长国从厄立特里亚阿萨布基地发动的无人机袭击也已经停止。

阿姆哈拉的官员说，他们在 11 月 4 日之前一直在准备入侵提格雷，这进一步证实了战争是提前准备的观点。厄立特里亚部队在宣布“法律和秩序行动”之前就入侵了该地区的州。苏丹证实它在 11 月 4 日之前参与了军事规划。

虽然埃塞俄比亚联邦政府坚持认为“法律和秩序行动”纯粹是国内和内部事务。但通过分析事件的一连串过程，浮现出一种观点即全部事实指向一个不同的结论：从一开始，战争就是区域性且有计划的。

战争的结果是毁灭性的。数字说明了战争对提格雷平民的影响：

- 2 万厄立特里亚难民“失踪”
- 超过 6.2 万名难民已抵达苏丹
- 1 万名妇女成为强奸或基于性别的暴力受害者
- 5.2 万人被杀害
- 250 万人流离失所
- 450 万人需要紧急粮食援助

战争的持续升级将进一步危及平民的生命。保护平民的生命和所有人的尊严应该是摆脱战争的核心。

Previously reported by the Situation Report of EEPA

Briefing EEPA Horn of Africa No 2: Ethiopia PM Abiy claims that the regional government of Tigray state is undermining the central authority of Addis Ababa, by carrying out elections in September 2020, which were not recognised by Addis Ababa. National elections had been postponed due to the COVID-situation. Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) won a new mandate, it claims, through the elections it held. It claims that PM Abiy was in cahoot with Eritrean Pres Isayas to undermine Tigray. PM Abiy ordered a reorganisation of the Northern command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF). This constitutes an important part of the ENDF, stationed in Tigray region due to the earlier conflict with Eritrea. This conflict ended with an agreement between Abiy and Afwerki in July 2018. Abiy ordered the split of the Northern command. After PM Abiy sent a general to carry out the division of the Northern command, the TPLF sent him back to Addis Ababa. In a next move, PM Abiy sent troops in a cargo plane on 3 November to the Tigray capital 默克莱. The TPLF ordered the arrest of the troops. Details on what happened with them are missing and contradictory. Shooting from the main camp of the Northern Command in Qwiha/默克莱 was reported starting from ca. 10 pm. Different sources claim that some members of the ENDF had sided with Tigray Defense Forces (TDF) and other parts of the ENDF resisted, which led to bloodshed. Similar events are reported from other military posts in Tigray around the same time. Sources from inside the TPLF, claimed that it was a pre-emptive strike due to preparations for an immediate attack by the federal government. PM Abiy called a law and order operation with the aim to restore his authority over the region. PM Abiy instated a temporary provisional government in Tigray to replace the elected TPLF regional government. He declared a six-month state of emergency in Tigray. Operations to get control over the Tigray capital 默克莱 started 28th of November. The TPLF withdrew from the capital and the ENDF took control of the capital. Eritrea participates in the war, by providing support to Ethiopian troops within Eritrea and by sending troops into Tigray. The latter is denied by both PM Abiy and Eritrea President Afewerki. However, the evidence from Tigray and Ethiopia is overwhelming. The US State Department declared Eritrea was engaged in the war after studying evidence. The report is available [here](#). (31 December 2020)

Situation Report No. 04: Bellingcat reports that the use of UAE drones from United Arab Emirates (UAE) from the harbour Assab (Eritrea) for attacks on Tigray is possible, based on research of the drones and their origin. The TPLF-leadership has made repeated claims of drone-attacks in the Tigray region. The report is available [here](#). (20 November 2020)

Situation Report No. 31: A report based on testimonials of three Egyptian officials and one European diplomat indicates that the UAE used its base in Assab (Eritrea) to launch drones strikes against Tigray. The investigative platform Bellingcat confirmed the presence of Chinese-produced drones at the UAE's military base in Assab, Eritrea. The report is available [here](#). (31 December 2020)

Situation Report No. 52: In the leaked zoom meeting video the Ethiopian general also talked about the use of armed drones in the war in Tigray. "While the war was happening in front we were attacking/bombing them behind the frontlines with drones and we don't know who is dead and alive", said the general. The report is available [here](#). (11 January 2021)

Situation Report No. 59: Sudan Tribune reported, the head of the Sudanese Sovereign Council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, disclosed that Sudanese troops were deployed on the border as per an agreement with the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, arranged prior to the beginning of the war. Al-Burhan told a gathering about the arrangements that were made in the planning of the military actions: "I visited Ethiopia shortly before the events, and we agreed with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia that the Sudanese armed forces would close the Sudanese borders to prevent border infiltration to and from Sudan by an armed party." Al-Burhan stated: "Actually, this is what the (Sudanese) armed forces have done to secure the international borders and have stopped there." His statement suggests that Abiy Ahmed spoke with him about the military plans before launching the military operation in Tigray. The report is available [here](#). (18 January 2021)

Situation Report No. 64: Report that Chinese Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), drones, were used in the war in Tigray, by the UAE deployed in Eritrea. The article reads (in translation): "According to a report by TASS on December 3, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) deployed UAVs in Eritrea recently and had a big success." Youuav

states: "Under the continuous bombing of drones the Tigray People's Army kept retreating. And there was no way to deal with it. The rebels couldn't support it and began to surrender. On December 1, the Ethiopian government states that senior officials of the Tigray People's Army had surrendered to the Ethiopia army. The official who surrendered was Kriya Ibrahim." The report states that "In the civil war in Ethiopia, the pterosaur drones undertook a 24-hour non-stop bombing mission and destroyed the rebels alive." The article explains that the deployment of the UAV's made a critical difference to Ethiopia winning the war: "Although the Ethiopian army is equipped with advanced weapons including AR-2 rockets, the battle remained a stalemate because the advantages of those weapons were not fully utilized. But when the pterosaur drones joined, the situation changed quickly. Death was hovering above the heads of the rebels for 24 hours (...). The drones made the rebels feel powerless, and the destruction in this period was terrible." The article confirms earlier reports published in the Situation Report EEPA. On 17 November, the Spokesperson for the Tigray government, Getachew Reda, claimed that the UAE was involved in attacks in Tigray through drones sent from Assab port in Eritrea. Africa Intelligence published earlier that: "Rebel forces in Tigray province claim that they have been bombed by Emirati combat drones, while Addis Ababa has been releasing images of its own drones, which are observation devices made by China's Zerotech." On 18 Nov Tigray President Debretsion wrote a letter to alert that "non-African actors" had provided UAVs to Eritrean and Ethiopian forces, while sources on the ground reported that UAE UAVs were carrying out attacks on 默克莱, Shire and Aksum. On 20/12 it was reported that Bellingcat confirmed the presence of "Chinese-produced drones" at the UAE's military base in Assab, Eritrea. Further drone attacks were reported on in Workeamba in which 85 people died (4/12 2020); Abi Adi where civilians were attacked indiscriminately (8/12); Central fronts in Tigray (13/12 2020); in Wukro and Tembien where hundreds of civilians died among others with bombardments carried out with drones ((15/12 2020); two journalists were killed by a drone attack reported 10/1 2021 and on 21/1 2021 it is reported that the son of Sebhat Nega is killed by a drone attack, driving in his car. A General of the Ethiopian army stated in a leaked zoom meeting video about the use of armed drones in the war in Tigray. "While the war was happening in front we were attacking/bombing them behind the frontlines with drones and we don't know who is dead and alive", said the general. Youuav explains that "the cost of a Chinese-made Pterosaur drone is only about US\$1 million". The report is available [here](#). (23 January 2021)

Situation Report. No 67: Aid workers report sadistic violence used against civilians, including rape: a young woman separated from relatives was given a choice to be killed or to be raped. Reuters reports that aid workers report multiple of such stories perpetrated allegedly by militia fighters from Ethiopia's Amhara region and Eritrean soldiers, both allied with Abiy's troops. There have been many such reports of soldiers forcing themselves on civilians or demanding sex in exchange for basic supplies. Eritrean refugees are high at risk. According to Reuters, medical centers in the area are under high pressure for emergency contraception and tests for sexually-transmitted diseases. The report is available [here](#). (26 January 2021)

Situation Report. No 69: The United States has made clear its position that all Eritrean troops need to leave Tigray immediately citing "Credible reports" had emerged of their involvement in human rights abuses, assaults in refugee camp, sexual violence and looting. The statement says there is "evidence of Eritrean soldiers forcibly returning Eritrean refugees from Tigray to Eritrea." The report is available [here](#). (28 January 2021)

Situation Report No 89: A witness has reported that on 4 November 2020 Eritrean soldiers already entered into the town of Gerhu-sernay, near the Ethiopia-Eritrea border, where it started killing civilians. The attack by Eritrean troops happened in the night. Therefore, it would appear to have been part of a pre-planned attack. The official reading by the Ethiopian Government is that it started a law and order operation after Tigray regional troops attacked the Northern Command on 4 November 2020. A spokesperson close to the Tigray regional government said that the war in Tigray effectively started on November 3, 2020. That day, Addis Ababa sent a cargo plane with special forces to 默克莱, under the pretext of transporting bank notes. According to the Tigray regional government, they had intelligence that the special forces were instructed to arrest the Tigray state government leaders while having a meeting in 默克莱. The tensions reportedly occurred in the context of the federal government seeking to redeploy the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), stationed in Tigray. The Tigray regional state government opposed redeployment of the Northern Command because the constitutional power of PM Abiy had ended on October 5 2020 and, as elections had been postponed, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Prime Minister was heading a care-taker government. The report is available [here](#). (22 February 2021)

Situation Report No. 91: According to a witness who was an Eritrean refugee in the Shemelba camp in Tigray Eritrean troops entered the camp on 17 November at 14:00 hours. In the previous days, from 15/11 to 17/11 people from the Hitsats refugee camp came to the Shemelba refugee camp. The witness says that the Eritrean fighters collected all the young refugees. They took us for a meeting and told us “we control 80% of Tigray. We fight to control 默克莱. Now we control this area.” The Eritrean troops that entered Shemelba stated on the 21st of November that “The Government of Eritrea forgives all of you and you can go back to your country.” They also told us not to leave the camp, because we would be shot, killed, says the witness: “anyone who goes outside will be our enemy and you must inform us if someone leaves the camp. Otherwise hard punishment will follow.” According to the report, refugees “remained silent” when asked if they would return to Eritrea. The Eritrean soldiers then went from house to house to ask each of the refugees. We told them “We do not want to go, if we are to go then the Red Cross can take us, not the Eritrean Government.” The members of the Shemelba Refugee Committee gave them this message, so they were blamed. The witness says that the chairman of the youth club was arrested; the chairman of the youth club disappeared or escaped. They arrested four women and their children: “We do not know why. In the evening seven children were arrested, and again we did not know why. They disappeared. “During this time from 28/11 - 17/12 nine children died. Six persons near zone 1 in Shemelba were killed and 5 refugees who had come from Hitsats were killed and one Tigrayan who was in the camp. “The six people that were killed were put in front of us”, says the witness, “They were together in one hole and they shot them from the back of their head. You could not recognize their faces. They had been kicked in their faces.” “On 17 December we were collected, the last group to leave Shemelba” the witness states, “we were more than 300, the last group to be arrested. They took us to Shiraro. We were there until 25 December. Then they took us to Badme, to take us to Eritrea. We were arrested before they told us, we will take you to Eritrea. The guards were very tough.” The report can be entered [here](#). (24 February 2021)

Situation Report No 100: A source close to the elected Regional Government of Tigray reports that preparations for war were ongoing prior to the 4th of Nov, as “Tigray was already surrounded by different forces including Eritrea which had been unusually moving close to Tigray, way before the election took place in Tigray. The conflict had been evolving since Abiy came to power and continually attacked Tigrayans and the TPLF. When differences widened, TPLF withdrew from the coalitions of EPRDF which was renamed as PP.” The source states: “The Tigray regional government officially took the position that postponement of national elections was unconstitutional and the Ethiopian federal government was a care-taking government after October 5. The regional government decided that it cannot continue ruling its own region without mandate from the people and accordingly conducted the regional election.” The source close to the Tigray regional government states that “The federal government, in close collaboration with the Eritrean government, has been making military preparations to launch an attack on Tigray. Already a number of divisions had been mobilized by the federal government towards Gondar, Afar, and Raya to attack Tigray, respectively from the West, East, and Southern parts of Tigray.” The source states: “The Tigray government received information on a pending attack in the last week of October. Apart from that, the Federal government had been secretly organizing the Northern Command to launch sudden secret operations and kill leaders in 默克莱 in times when they gather for meetings or other purposes. The regional government had this intelligence information.” The source states that “using its special forces in Northern Command, Abiy had planned to suddenly round and kill leaders off the TPLF ruling party leaders when they gather for meetings.” The source states that “Serious preparations had been taking place for more than two years and that Tigray was militarily surrounded prior to the start of the war.” He adds “the ruling party had a meeting four days before the clash with the Northern command, and the preparations of the Abiy and Eritrea were openly discussed.” A source from 默克莱 University stated that he had received a confidential briefing on the tensions arising prior to the 4th of November. The report is available [here](#). (9 March 2021)

Sources

<https://addisstandard.com/news-analysis-amhara-region-police-chief-reveals-how-regions-police-force-guided-federal-steel-clad-mechanized-forces-to-join-war-in-tigray/>
<https://bostonreview.net/global-justice/alex-de-waal-we-can-no-longer-deny-atrocities-ethiopia>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/02/26/africa/ethiopia-tigray-dengelat-massacre-intl/index.html>
<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-tigray-region-humanitarian-update-situation-report-8-march-2021>
<https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia/>
<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR2537302021ENGLISH.PDF>
<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/africasource/the-unintended-consequence-of-ethiopias-civil-war-might-be-a-border-war-with-sudan/>
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/05/ethiopia-eritrean-forces-massacre-tigray-civilians>
<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-02-11/i-reported-on-ethiopias-secretive-war-then-came-a-knock-at-my-door>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/26/world/middleeast/ethiopia-tigray-ethnic-cleansing.html>
<https://minbane.wordpress.com/2021/01/05/https-wp-me-p1xtjg-fz0/>
<https://eritreahub.org/pm-abiy-said-he-was-forced-into-war-on-4-november-well-perhaps>
<https://addisstandard.com/news-analysis-amhara-region-police-chief-reveals-how-regions-police-force-guided-federal-steel-clad-mechanized-forces-to-join-war-in-tigray/>
<https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article70344>

Europe External Programme with Africa is a Belgium-based Centre of Expertise with in-depth knowledge, publications, and networks, specialised in issues of peace building, refugee protection and resilience in the Horn of Africa. EEPA has published extensively on issues related to movement and/or human trafficking of refugees in the Horn of Africa and on the Central Mediterranean Route. It cooperates with a wide network of Universities, research organisations, civil society and experts from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda and across Africa. The situation reports can be found [here](#).

Disclaimer: All information in this situation report is presented as a fluid update report, as to the best knowledge and understanding of the authors at the moment of publication. EEPA does not claim that the information is correct but verifies to the best of ability within the circumstances. Publication is weighed on the basis of interest to understand potential impacts of events (or perceptions of these) on the situation. Check all information against updates and other media. EEPA does not take responsibility for the use of the information or impact thereof. All information reported originates from third parties and the content of all reported and linked information remains the sole responsibility of these third parties. Report to info@eepa.be any additional information and corrections.

In order to protect the safety and security of EEPA reporters, any initials of the names of the reporters have been anonymised