

Forum: Security Council(SC)

Issue: The Situation in Ethiopia

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Introduction

Ever since the establishment of the United Nations (UN), the fundamental principle of preserving human rights and maintaining international peace and security has always been its ultimate goal. The organization is given power and authority to take actions to promote peace and maintain Humanitarian assistance to those in need. The UN has been operating for approximately 70 years and has provided consistent peacekeeping efforts in various member states all around the world. Following article 24 of the UN Charter, the Security Council has the “primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.” Historically, methods such as negotiation, arbitration, sanctions, and even utilizing militaristic forces have been methods used to promote international peace.

Currently, the government of Ethiopia is undergoing a civil war against the Tigray's People Liberation Front (TPLF). Starting back in November 2020, the Ethiopian Prime Minister attacked the TPLF and the issue continues till today. Due to this civil war going on within the region, the civilians have all faced famines, and some were murdered deliberately by the collective force of Eritrean Troops and Ethiopian troops. Crimes against humanity have been conducted against civilians, with support from the UN continuously restricted by the involvement of the Ethiopian military force. The situation in Ethiopia continues to be increasingly more dire seeing as civilians are undergoing stages of starvation with the government contributing to the cause of the crisis. In July, the UN estimated about 400,000 civilians are experiencing famine and it's estimated that 1 million people have the potential to experience famine. The UN has repeatedly sent humanitarian aids and multiple governments have condemned the humanitarian crisis in the region. Out of 445 World Food Programme (WFP) contracted aid trucks, only 38 have successfully returned out of the country. Global efforts and cooperation within the UN are needed to alleviate the ongoing crisis.

Definition of Key Terms

Ethnic Cleansing

The definition of Ethnic Cleansing has never been properly settled upon within the UN, but it tends to revolve around the idea of purposefully using policies to remove one ethnic group through violent and terror-inspiring means from a certain geographic area. Currently, the sentiment of the Ethiopian government is representative of the ethnic cleansing process as the civilians in the Tigrayan region are continuously blocked from support. The TPLF party also proved to be increasingly detrimental to the Tigrayans as their involvement caused the main governmental party to target the Tigrayans out of suspicion. The new identification system also sought to remove all traces of Tigray ethnicity and many civilians were either driven out of the country or killed. All these serve as examples of ethnic cleansing done by the main governmental body.

Censorship

Censorship, with its denotative meaning, means of suppression of any information that's deemed politically unacceptable, obscene, or others by the dominant governmental parties. Ever since June of 2019, there's been a report in Ethiopia complaining that they cannot access information on the internet. Although the privilege has been given back a couple of days later, this exists as one of the many examples of the Ethiopian government's control of internet usage. The government further imposes telecommunication infrastructure control and has the power to restrict access to informational flows. It's listed as one of the most restrictive countries in terms of internet usage by Freedom House study, and in the current crisis, journalists from foreign countries are also restricted from entering the country. The Ethiopian governments' blockade of internet service has also substantially increased over recent years.

Foreign Intervention

Foreign intervention cannot only be understood in the context of militaristic force but also usage of rehabilitation and humanitarian aids. Oftentimes, this would go against the sovereignty of the nation and it'll be up to debate the severity of the issue that might call for actions done against the sovereign interests of the nation. Foreign intervention is instrumental to improving situations in crisis and to help alleviate the situation, as examples such as the Rwanda crisis exemplify the problems that could occur if actions are not taken to promote international peace within sovereign countries. Foreign intervention such as Peacekeeping, reconstruction, humanitarian assistance, and rehabilitation will all prove effective as a method to try to mitigate crises. However, some attempts in foreign intervention wouldn't necessarily end well within sovereign states. The cost of lives and damages to the economy from peacekeeping

operations can't be overlooked, and the success rate isn't necessarily high within war-torn countries. Precautions and necessary risks would need to be evaluated before condoning any actions utilizing foreign intervention.

Security Council

Within the UN, the Security Council is given executive authority and the responsibility to uphold international peace and security. They are capable of giving directions and granting usage of actions on the international ground. The decisions made within the Security Council are binding and can call upon different parties to assist with the situation. Methods such as sanctions, means of foreign intervention, and others all constitute peaceful means to improve the humanitarian help within nations suffering under governmental crises. The members of the Security Council can propose these actions to try to reduce the problems present in Ethiopia, seeing as the ruling governmental parties aren't assisting with the situation and have many reports on human rights violations.

Background Information

History of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)

Originally, a Socialist Ethiopian government called the Derg ruled Ethiopia and followed major Marxist ideals. Revolutionary parties, being the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) rose against the government due to the discontent within the establishment of the system and the socialist party initiated the Red Terror as a way to brutally suppress all opponents amongst the EPRP. Thousands upon thousands of educated civilians were killed during this time due to the government's fear of the civilians potentially risking the stability of the government. During this time, the Soviet Union further backed the development of a socialist Ethiopia and provided varying amounts of supplies to the government. They granted them arm shipments and helped assist the armies against Somalia's advancement into Ethiopia. In December 1987, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front broke through the front lines of Ethiopia and allied with the TPLF to reestablish the previously ethnically autonomous regions within the nation. After intense attacks and offenses to the Derg government, they evacuated into the Tigray region. In May 1991, the Derg government finally collapsed and the leader retreated into Zimbabwe as a way to escape from the conflict. The TPLF, starting from that point, took power and established constitutions to both reorganize the country and guarantee ethnic rights in the nation. Following this, there began to be increased development within the federal administrative system of

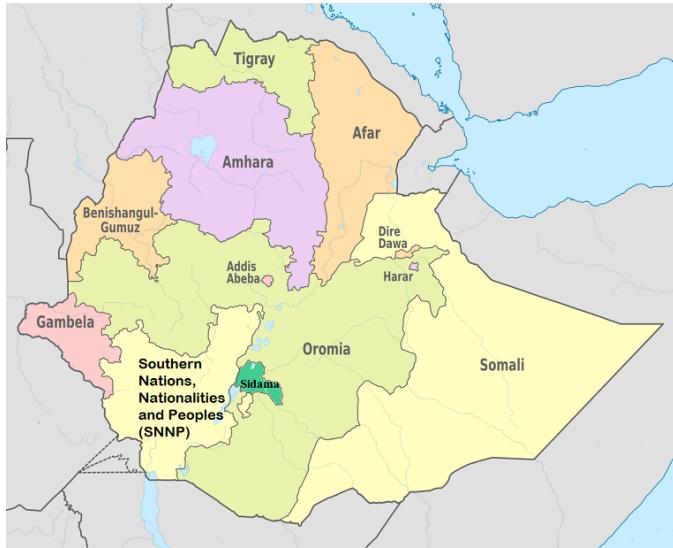
Ethiopia and decreased centralization of the government. Even though there seems to be more and more attempts in granting rights to the civilians, the government also feared the rise of opposition parties and as a result, applied new national law to establish media regulation and penalties. There's intense suppression of anti-TPLF forces and voting rights are primarily seen to be exercised in the presence of the ruling governmental party, suspected to be a method to make the nation comply with the direct decision of the government.

Economic issues during the TPLF rule

From 1992-1993, the government worked alongside the World Bank and other donor organizations to establish a structural-adjustment program. These efforts caused the direct devaluation of the Ethiopian currency and made it easier for the investors to invest within Ethiopia, ultimately improving Ethiopia's financial capability and stabilizing the economic potential. With the rise of another famine and lack of efforts to denationalize the lands, the economy of Ethiopia fell back into turmoil and millions of lives were risked during this time. The government failed to find support for the civilians and remained financially underdeveloped because of this famine.

Social reforms done by the TPLF

After the constitution was finalized and published, the power for the regional autonomous states was granted back to each of the provinces. This regional autonomous states system continues to persevere even till nowadays, making each of the provinces extremely independent and not reliant on the central government. The provinces became capable of holding their own regional elections and electing their own officials. The current Ethiopian government aims to take away this in order to centralize its administration. The difference resides in the current governing party wanting centralization to increase its power whilst the TPLF supports the independence of provinces. The TPLF supports the self-reliant nature of provinces as they tend to be able to retain control through the suppression of individual provinces. The TPLF remained in power mainly due to the suppression of all opposition in elections, with many of the opponents harassed or arrested as an effort to discourage any attempt to try to remove power from the main governmental party.



Caption #1: The provinces of Ethiopia

Rise of opposition parties and civil war

In May 2005, strong opposition parties entered into the legislature and held more power there than they previously had. The TPLF remained to be the majority, but the increase in opposition is starting to become clearer. Election fraud was later speculated in another election, in which several dozen people perished due to clashes between the government and the protestors. A collective sentiment against the suppressive rule began to develop against the TPLF party, which prompted the TPLF party to sign agreements with two major opposition parties to attempt to relieve the tension. Abiy Ahmed, an Oromo ethnic group, became elected on April 2nd, 2018 as a way to calm the tension between the government and the ethnic group. Ahmed made efforts to democratize the nation, released unlawful prisoners that the government previously held in prison, and started the movement towards more privatized industries within the nations. Whilst the reform made by Ahmed promoted a more democratic nation and less human rights abuse, it sidelined the TPLF in the process and led to overall resentment within the political party. Ahmed dissolved the political party that TPLF was previously involved in, which the TPLF was in full condemnation of. This led the TPLF to transition their efforts to the Tigray region, where they continued to hold regional elections and centralized their efforts in this region. The government attempted to stop this by withholding funds from the regional administration and withholding regional elections due to Covid-19 concerns. This, later on, led to TPLF being suspected of looting a military base and the federal troops began a full-scale invasion into the Tigray region. Elections all around the countries are being withheld and the civil warfare has been exacerbated by both parties in their efforts to

try to reclaim power. Because of this exact civil war, human rights and humanitarian assistance have all been cut down by both parties in an attempt to try to gain back control for the nations, causing immeasurable numbers of civilians to undergo starvation and methods of genocides done against these civilians.

Key Issues

Ethnic Cleansing

Within the Tigray region, the government released statements regarding the situation and Ahmed denied any claim that the civilians were harmed. The government denies these claims as a way to stay involved within the African Growth and Opportunity Act, as any sort of human rights abuse would lead to the act being invalidated to the Ethiopian government. The African Growth and Opportunity Act is a United States trade act that enhances trade relations between the sub-Saharan African countries and the United States. It has a zero-tolerance requirement for any human rights abuse, which is exactly what the current Ethiopian government is trying to hide in order to receive further benefits from trade relations. In documents published by Amnesty International, soldiers from Eritrea reportedly massacred the entirety of the city of Axum in 10 days with suspected support from the main governmental party of Ethiopia. Many statements from the United States government concerning the villages have documents on the looted houses and deserted villages because of the Ethiopian government's involvement within the warfare. Thousands of cases of sexual acts of violence, massacres, looting, and other forms of ethnic violence are seen to be conducted by the government's attempt to cleanse the entire region of Tigray. The involvement of Eritrean troops with the Ethiopian government in their acts of committing genocide onto the Tigray region is increasingly alarming, considering how many cases of the extreme violence and food blockade are contributed by the soldiers of Eritrea.

Famine

Just in September of 2021, the UN has stated that the "de facto humanitarian aid blockade" is impeding its effort to provide humanitarian aid to starving civilians. More than 5 million people within the Tigray region are being blocked from receiving necessary help and many of them are under heavy famine conditions. The Ethiopian government has denied all claims of supporting the food blockade and has denied it from existing in the first place and has proceeding expunge the UN officials from the country to stop any outside interference from foreign organizations in the proceeding of the government.

The UN aid chief declared that the famine is “man-made” and the Ethiopian government’s instituted warfare is increasingly harming all its citizens in the process. The UN has labeled it as the worst hunger crisis in decades, with many crops burned and access to food hindered. Witnesses of the crisis have reported the collective force of the Ethiopian government and the Eritrean forces looting a variety of food sources and destroying all health centers in the process, leading to the influx of inaccessibility of food supplies or any medical care. The food blockade also exemplifies as another way that the political parties are attempting to suppress any assistance provided by any foreign parties. The UN aid trucks and other aids by NGOs are all eventually undermined due to the parties monitoring the surroundings to block any civilian assistance. This only contributed further to the severity of the famine as resources run out and any foreign aids are revoked.

Human rights abuses

Joint investigation (JIT) upon the human rights abuses by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the UN Human Rights office has all violated international human rights and humanitarian laws. In the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crimes of Genocide, the situation in Tigray fully constitutes under most terms under article 2 of crimes constituting under genocide. A series of violations and abuses have been researched and detailed in the report by the joint investigation, with research often impeded by the planned visits not being able to be completed or the other administrative works being delayed because of the severity of the situation. The JIT listed several main human rights cases of abuse conducted by the Ethiopian government within its investigation, which consist of indiscriminate attacks on civilians, torture, arbitrary detentions and circumstantial disappearance, forced displacement of its citizens, and much more. The denying of accessibility to health care or humanitarian aid contributed greatly to this system as these citizens are revoked of any rights to receive support or help from international organizations to help transition them into a safer condition.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

TPLF

The TPLF was the previously dominant political party in Ethiopia from 1991 to 2018, and was ultimately undermined and had its power severely diminished because of the increase in opposition to their political party. They were previously oppressive in their rules and caused much discontent with the

establishment of their government. The ethnic tension resulted from years of oppressive rules and during the regional election in 2020, the Ethiopian government withheld the elections in order to promote safety from the covid-19 virus. This is seen as a tactic to increase the timeframe for the influence of the government by the TPLF and their attempt to take away regional autonomous control, which the TPLF disagreed with and held their election nonetheless. The main intention of the TPLF is to re-establish their prominence within the governing party and to undermine the centralization methods of the government because of their previous policy on regional autonomous freedom. Their current progress in regaining prominence lies in their subversion of the government policies when they continued their own regional election. Currently, the civil war serves as their most significant attempt in attempting to regain prominence. Their involvement within the warfare revolved around their intention to reestablish themselves, which the Ethiopian government critiques and believes their genocide as a method to halt the progress.

Ethiopian Federal Government

The Ethiopian government, led by Abiy Ahmed, led a militaristic assault on the Tigray region in an effort to dissuade the TPLF political party from taking power from the government. They are starving the civilians within the Tigray region in the process and condoning genocides onto the civilians due to the years of ethnic tension in the history of Ethiopia. They are supported by the Eritrean troops, which also help perform actions of genocide and remove proper access for supplies within the civilians. The Ethiopian government favors the centralization of the country and deems the regional election that the TPLF held as a fraud, and they took the chance of the supposed theft from the military base as a way to impose the military assault onto Tigray. From the current state of events, the Ethiopian federal governments are not open to any international actions done for the government and deny any allegation of human rights abuse in the region. The government would continue with its crackdown on the region, starving more citizens and imposing man-made famines in the process.

Eritrea

Eritrea acknowledges its force has involvement within the Tigray crisis and agrees to retreat its forces due to international pressure for its troops to retreat. They previously denied all cases of Eritrean troops' involvement and contradicted all claims that the civilians have provided against them. Some previously worn old Ethiopian army suits as a way to disguise themselves from the public. Eritrea previously had tension with the TPLF party and would support the actions of genocide because of the historical warfare between them. TPLF previously suppressed the country over border tensions and fought a war with the dominant TPLF party over the issue. The federal government of Ethiopia worked to

honor the peace term established previously during the warfare instead of ignoring it like the actions of the TPLF. The years of tension are theorized to be the main cause and reasoning for the involvement of the Eritrean troops within the warfare, although there exist more reports on the Eritrean force retreating out of the nation in the face of international pressure.

The United States of America

The United States of America has previously called for a UN security council meeting to address the ongoing Ethiopian crisis in an attempt to resolve the civil war between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF party. Previously, the United States had a special trade status with the country of Ethiopia in order to help facilitate their development as a developing nation. They were previously enjoying duty-free access to the exports from Ethiopia, but now the United States has ended its special trade status with Ethiopia. Sanctions have been applied in hopes that the economic and financial burden would be enough to encourage the head of Ethiopia's government to provide more peace to their civilians. The United States supports the facilitation of human rights within the nation and their involvement within the economy of Ethiopia could prove to be a huge deterrent to the ethnic cleansing of the Ethiopian government currently.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
December 10th, 1948	<p>The UN proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Right</p> <p>The United Nations proclaimed the establishment of the Universal Declaration of human rights on this day and established the basis of human rights within the international ground. All member states serve to promote this purpose.</p>
January 12th, 1951	<p>Ratification of Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</p> <p>The ratification of this convention as an attempt to list down the punishments and prevention procedures of crimes on Genocide is used to dissuade its member from using such measures. It's used to hold member states accountable or help deem the violation of human rights.</p>
August 1950	Ratification of the Fourth Geneva Convention

The Geneva Convention provides rights and proper treatment of civilians in occupied territory during wartime. It provides them with legal rights and elevates their status as necessary to be protected and treated. The other 3 conventions separately aim to protect the injured during warfare and prisoners of war.

Abiy Ahmed elected as prime minister

April 2nd, 2018

He became the first non-TPLF aligned minister to serve as prime minister and was elected as a way to quench the opposition's necessity for the opposition in the political ground.

Ahmed released statements on honoring terms of peace

June 5th, 2018

Ahmed states his intention to honor the term of the peace agreement to end the war with Eritrea. He started to accept and implement these terms to its full extent, benefitting the Eritrea-Ethiopia relations.

Ahmed initiates dissolution of EPRDF

November 2019

Ahmed initiated the dissolution of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front to merge them into one singular political party, and in the process isolated the involvement of the TPLF within politics. The TPLF remained in politics but had its power severely diminished due to the appearance and acceptance of other opposition parties.

TPLF holds their regional election in Tigray

September 2020

The dominant federal Ethiopian government called for the postponement of the election to promote a better mitigation effort against Covid-19, but due to the conspiracy of the Ethiopian government taking further power, the TPLF continued their election process. This sparked aggression between the two parties.

TPLF suspected looting military base and invasion of Tigray

November 2020
The TPLF party is accused of looting the military base of Ethiopia and such offense is taken as a national offense in the Ethiopian government as it places the stability of the country in jeopardy. The Ethiopian government launches an attack on the Tigray region and the process of starvation started from this point.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 12 January 1951([A/RES/3/260](#))
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948, ([A/RES/3/217](#))
- Fourth Geneva Convention, August 1950, ([A/RES/57/521](#))
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951, ([A/RES/71/1](#))

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

On October 1st, 2021, the Security Council was called to a meeting to settle on the situation in Ethiopia in an attempt to alleviate the situation. Countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, France, and others supported actions done to promote human rights within the region. Many governments have already condemned the situation ongoing in Ethiopia and have exerted international pressure on the country. The international pressure successfully removed the Eritrean troops to retreat out of Ethiopia and marks a step in promoting human rights, although the continuation of the starvation and blockade from Ethiopia still hinders the process of providing humanitarian assistance to those in need. The UN Security Council recommended for actions to end, although still haven't settled on the decision to act upon it or utilize any forces of peacekeeping due to the risk of danger. Even though the Security Council can decide on actions to promote peace, two of the p5 nations support the idea of sovereignty and recommend the UN to leave Ethiopia for its internal affairs. The previous meetings conducted by the Security Council have all concluded in the lack of actions on the international ground, contributing to the longevity of the abuse.

Other economic and international pressures have also been an attempt to try to solve the human rights crisis currently. As seen by the United States, economic sanctions and pressure onto the nation have been placed in order to discourage the government from continuing the starvation of its citizens. Many countries have further pulled back in their support for the country's development. Ethiopia is further risking its international relations with many European nations who have previously supported its development. Countries such as Ireland, France, and Germany amongst the European nations have all contributed greatly to the infrastructure and governmental power of Ethiopia. The international pressure and necessity to maintain these relations with foreign countries currently doesn't seem to be effective, although further economic sanctions could assist with the issue.

Possible Solutions

International efforts are critical to solving crises and it's the duty of the Security Council to uphold international peace within all countries. This has never been more true in face of humanitarian problems such as the one currently in Ethiopia, where civilians are risking hunger and death with each passing day. **Recommendation for negotiation** between the Ethiopian government and international organizations to help improve the situation is necessary to allow humanitarian aid into the country as the repeated offense of military taking down the aid trucks would happen time and time again until the international organization works alongside the government. This can be provided with threats of sanctions or guaranteeing better conditions for its civilians if the government doesn't want to comply with the negotiation. A ceasefire can be established to allow certain aids to be able to enter into the country and accountability for human rights can be used in pursuit of international peace. In the face of warfare, humanitarian assistance and the process of peace between the parties is the main component the UN would be worried about. Negotiation, if reached, would be an effective and efficient solution to transporting aid into the country and providing the civilians with the necessary help. **Peacekeeping** vehicles can further be established in the transportation process to safeguard the supplies and successfully deliver the supplies. By providing incentives for the Ethiopian government to not fight against the efforts in peacekeeping, the chances for proper assistance to the starving civilians would be exponentially increased.

Financial incentives and usages of sanctions would serve as another important detriment that the country of Ethiopia would need to take into consideration and would become a useful tool to combat the insistence of the Ethiopian government to not allow international help. Ethiopia has its financial capability fully dependent on foreign countries and seeing as the globalization of trade excelled during

this time, the country of Ethiopia would need to consider the impact of the sanctions before continuing with their methods of genocide. By establishing financial incentives and sanctioning, would allow the intergovernmental organization to fully be capable of changing the current crisis and advocate for more preservation of human rights. The actions of the Security Council are required to be binding and actions can be taken in order to fully promote peace in foreign countries. Although this financial incentive would be a key hindrance to the decision from the Ethiopian government, this may also cause some backlash as some nations wouldn't want to impose any sanctions onto Ethiopia out of preservation of sovereignty. And if the sanctions were to be placed into the circumstances and the government remained to be unresponsive to the international outcry, it could highly damage the civilians within other provinces as their economic capability drops further and they lose much of their foundation if the government decides to impose more taxes onto its civilians. But due to the government's need for the economy to sustain its own military, it's highly unlikely the government would ignore these financial incentives and would begin to listen to possible international actions to help with the crisis. This crisis constitutes the most severe case of famine seen in recent decades and involved many cases of genocides within the country. It is more crucial than ever to begin the establishment of methods and solutions to diminish the severity of the ongoing crisis.

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