



OLLAA CALLS FOR RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS CONFLICT INTENSIFIES IN TIGRAY

Falls Church, Virginia (10/18/2022) – Over the past few days, there have been [reports](#) of an [escalation](#) of violence in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. On October 15, Josep Borrell Fontelles, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, [tweeted](#) about the violence, including reports that there had been, “targeting of civilians,” in Shire, a city located near Ethiopia’s border with Eritrea. Then, on October 18, the Ethiopian government [confirmed](#) that the ENDF, which is supported by Eritrean forces, had seized three towns in northern Tigray: Shire, Alamata, and Korem.

Leading human rights organizations have previously [reported](#) on the abuses that have been committed by all parties to the conflict in northern Ethiopia, including on [abuses](#) committed by Eritrean forces in 2021. It appears there is reason to believe similar abuses are likely being perpetrated in this latest round of conflict. Early [reports](#) indicate that thousands of residents have fled from Shire since the city was captured, and [Human Rights Watch](#) has noted that these latest attacks “have resulted in untold civilian casualties, including aid workers delivering food, property destruction, and large-scale displacement.”

OLLAA joins those members of the international community who have voiced their concern about the escalation of violence in Tigray and issued calls for peace, including the [UN Secretary-General](#), the [Chairperson of the African Union Commission](#), and members of the [US government](#). OLLAA also calls on all parties to the conflict to ensure that they respect international human rights and humanitarian law, and to ensure that the lives and well-being of Tigrayan civilians are protected.

OLLAA is an umbrella organization that works in collaboration with dozens of Oromo communities around the world.