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[To The Honorable (full name)]

House Office Building / Senate Office Building

United States House of Representatives / United States Senate

Washington, DC 20515]

Dear Representative/Senator [insert last name],

My name is [insert], and I am one of your constituents. I write to you regarding the escalating crisis in Ethiopia's Oromia region, where scores of innocent civilians have been killed by Ethiopian regional forces.

Beyond Tigray: Ethiopia's Brutal War in Oromia

Since the terrible conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region began last year, the US Congress has rightfully demanded an end to the deadly war. However, what the international community does not realize is that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's violent attacks against his own people began long before Tigray—in Ethiopia's Oromia region.

Like Tigray, Ethiopia's Oromia region is home to a distinct ethnic group—the Oromo people, who have for years suffered political repression and discrimination by the government. On March 24, Amhara regional forces poured into Wollo, a small administrative zone inside Oromia. The incoming soldiers claimed that they were defending themselves from a regional militia known as the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). However, the BBC and other media outlets reported that the **Amhara soldiers were in fact massacring innocent non-combatants**. As of April 06, the Wollo government reports that at least 35 people have been killed, 700 farmers have lost their lands and homes, and 9 mosques have been destroyed.

Videos are emerging online showing **government soldiers committing war crimes** in Oromia, from needless murders of injured civilians, to burning entire villages *en masse*. In what is now known as the Shawarobit massacre, an angry mob of Amharas intercepted an ambulance transporting 8 injured Oromo farmers to a hospital, dragged them into the streets, and murdered them for their ethnicity. Video footage of these atrocities can be viewed on social media, which has allowed for extensive documentation of the violence.

Wollega Killings

On the week of April 01, the Ethiopian federal government claimed that Oromo attackers killed 30 Amhara civilians in Wollega, another zone within Oromia. The government is now

using these unproven killings to justify its violent invasion of Oromia. Just as he insisted last November when he invaded Tigray, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed claims that the federal government can lawfully invade regional states in order to quell “disorder.” At Abiy’s request, **Eritrean soldiers have now re-invaded Oromia** for the second time in a year, purportedly to “assist” the Ethiopian troops in their campaign. In secretly recorded audio of Amhara soldiers, radical fighters are overheard planning to “cleanse” Oromos from the Oromia region and launch a war between Oromos and Amharas.

These actions by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed directly violate the Ethiopian Constitution, which holds that no federal or foreign forces can invade or intervene within Oromia or any other region. Oromo citizens have now learned that 2-3000 more military soldiers will soon invade Oromia, supported by Eritreans and the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF). I am deeply concerned that **the Ethiopian government is now extending its ethnic cleansing campaign from Tigray into Oromia**. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, whose commissioner has known ties to the federal government, has done nothing to intervene.

Therefore, I am requesting your help with the following actions:

1. Immediately release a statement condemning the ongoing atrocities in Oromia, including the ongoing violence in both Wollo and Wollega. This statement must voice US support of Ethiopian Members of Parliament Aminaat Indris and Mahamed Hassen, who have called upon Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to remove the Amhara militia from the region and dispatch an independent investigative team to Wollo.
2. Demand that the Amhara special forces, the ENDF, and Eritrean soldiers all immediately withdraw from Oromia and cease their attacks on civilians in violation of the Geneva Conventions.
3. Urge Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to respect the Ethiopian Constitution, which enshrines the rights of all ethnic groups to self governance and freedom from invasion by federal or regional forces.
4. Amend the title of S. Res. 97 to also recognize the ongoing crisis in Oromia. Additionally, S. Res. 97 must include:
 - a. Calls for a multi-region investigation into Ethiopian governmental abuses, including the ongoing violence in Oromia. This investigation must be credible, independent, and unbiased.
 - b. Demands for an investigation into the 2020 assassination of Hacaaluu Hundeessaa, a leading Oromo rights activist and artist, whose death sparked nationwide protests.
 - c. A mandate for the US and UN to engage Ethiopia’s Oromo community in dialogue over the country’s ongoing turmoil and what is at stake for the Oromo people.

This issue is very important to me, Representative/Senator [insert last name], and I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name, Your Address]