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Union of Tigrayans in Europe

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE UTE-OC-202300908

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Classification: Open

Peaceful protest is Basic Human right!

The Union of Tigrayans in Europe (UTE) is shocked to see footage of excessive use of force as well as imprisonment of peaceful demonstrators with an attempt to deny or stop civilians to exercise their deserved civil right in the capital of Tigray, Mekelle on 07.09.2023.

UTE have been following the intimidations and imprisonment of leaders and members of alternative political parties, who were mobilizing for demonstration to denounce injustice. UTE has never expected that TIRA uses force against peaceful demonstrators and denounces the unlawful act that left many civilians wounded, bloodied and 100s jailed after all the people of Tigray had been through. They are enduring pain and have not gotten the chance to lead a peaceful day to day life so far. UTE is extremely saddened to see the victims are the youth who have paid the ultimate price during the two years' genocidal war for Tigray and are still going through unimaginable suffering.

Peaceful demonstration is human right enshrined in the Art. 30 of the FDRE Constitution, international human right declarations, as well as under the Art. 21 of ICCPR. Furthermore, UTE understood that the president of TIRA, Getachew Reda, was clear about these facts during his televised press statement held on 06.09.2023, which should have been used as a ground for collaboration between the security forces and organizers of the demonstration. The use of force by the security apparatus of Tigray did not reflect the president's message. As trespassing these laws and brutally violating the rights of peaceful protestors are common practice of a dictatorial administration, UTE doesn't believe this is a sign of good governance nor will it lead to building a democratic Tigray.

Therefore, UTE once again denounces the violation of human rights and

1. Demands TIRA to ensure the safe release of the civilians, leaders, and members of alternative parties immediately.



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2. Demand a public explanation as to why this happened after the president of the TIRA stated on a televised press statement that the demonstration will be held as it's a basic civil right.

3. Demands that security force members who were physically violent on the peaceful demonstrators to be held accountable.

4. Expects TIRA to demonstrate practically its commitment to pave ways for the establishment of democratic Tigray by accommodating questions and demands of Tigrayans as long as they are raised peacefully.

Several incidents in the form of killings, kidnappings, organized robbery, rape and physical violences have happened since the CoHA was signed 11 months ago and have been mounting the past few months. All of them demonstrate the deteriorating security situation of Tigray which TIRA should seriously acknowledge and address. UTE means that the passive approach of TIRA that we have observed the last 6 months will only motivate criminal entities and might serve as instrumental for the establishment of anarchism in Tigray.

Copy:

- EU Council
- Human right watch
- Amnesty International
- UNHRC/ ICHREE