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The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
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Our Ref: AP/KS10998

9 February 2021

Dear Dominic,

**Re: Ethiopia**

I am writing on behalf of several constituents to pass on their concerns about the grave situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. I would be grateful for your thoughts on this matter.

The conflict in Tigray has already cost thousands of lives, forced tens of thousands more to flee to Sudan and left hundreds of thousands of people to face shortages of food, water and healthcare. The region has been deprived of access to the internet and other telecommunications, journalists have been denied access and humanitarian aid operations have been constrained.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi has rightly raised concerns about accounts of grave human rights abuses including killings, targeted abductions and the forced return of refugees to Eritrea. Recent open source satellite imagery also shows new fires and other signs of destruction at two refugee camps, indicating a major violation of international law.[1]

The impact of this conflict on wider regional stability is also a huge cause for concern, particularly given reports of the involvement of Eritrean forces and the exacerbation of existing tensions with Sudan.

I would be grateful if you would be able to set out what action your colleagues are taking to raise this issue at the UN Security Council. Can you investigate further steps to secure humanitarian corridors and access for independent human rights monitors? Have you had any direct discussions with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, about his role in this conflict?

You will already be aware of my party's serious concerns about the government's cut to the 0.7% of GNI commitment to humanitarian assistance. The Famine Early Warning System has reported that the Tigray region may face a Phase 3 crisis before May and may tip into a Phase 4 crisis – an emergency, one below a Phase 5 famine.[2] What steps are you taking to provide humanitarian assistance to the civilians caught up in this conflict?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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- [1] <https://www.unhcr.org/admin/hcspeeches/600052064/statement-situation-eritrean-refugees-ethiopia-tigray-region.html>
- [1] <https://fews.net/east-africa/ethiopia>