



[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

June 25, 2021

Washington, D.C., June 25, 2021 — It is with utmost sadness that we write this statement regarding the murder of Médecins Sans Frontières staff members Maria Hernandez, Yohannes Halefom Reda, and Tedros Gebremariam Gebremichael while on duty in Tigray on June 24, 2021. It is heartbreaking to see the lives of three individuals who had committed their lives to serving those less fortunate and most in need extinguished with such cruelty.

This horrific attack follows countless calls to protect civilians and humanitarian workers serving civilian targets in Tigray. There are now **12 humanitarian workers who were killed in Tigray** since the war started on November 4, 2020 — nine of whom were killed by June 1, 2021. The international community remains unwilling to act on what are evident and evidenced war crimes and crimes against humanity. The direct result of their inaction is the continued and evitable loss and destruction of human lives.

The Ethiopian and Eritrean governments' impunity from international humanitarian laws is a threat not just to the far away civilians in Tigray, it is a threat to us all and a threat to the global systems that provide us our freedoms and protect us from falling back into an era of fascism. It is high time for the international community to step up and stop granting carte blanche to the violators of those shared laws.

Médecins Sans Frontières has shown great courage and commitment to the beliefs and ethos of humanitarian assistance, and have from the start of the war provided continuous relief to the Tigrayan civilian population. We will forever be grateful for their service.

We thank Maria, Tedros and Yohannes for their humanity and service to the Tigrayan people, and will forever hold them in our hearts and memories. We express our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones, and share in their pain.

May their souls rest in peace.