

Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy, Jr.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Re: November 19, 2020 Briefing

Intentionally or otherwise, you have distorted the facts and dared to present events without shreds of evidence. I realize that there are alternative facts and total denial of the truth in the Trump administration. I am compelled to respond to your briefing pointing out where your presentation blatantly departs from the facts because the war Abiy Ahmed Ali has declared and is carrying out with full support of your administration is treason, ethnic cleansing and crime against humanity. Your job representing me, and Americans should have highlighted peace, the rule of law and democratic accountability.

Tigray has been rocked by the bloody fighting since November 4, 2020 when Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced the launch of military operations against the regional government, though the pandemic is raging throughout the world, in order to extend Abiy's unconstitutional time in office. Abiy launched an assault on Tigray to capture its democratically elected leaders, planned a surprise attack but foiled by the regional forces stationed in the region. There have been government-mandated bombings in the capital of Tigray, Mekelle, including some near a church and university. According to humanitarian sources, scores of people have been killed or injured from the bombings. Hundreds of people are reported to have been killed by these unfortunate clashes, while the UN estimates more than 30,000 refugees have fled to neighboring Sudan including an estimated 12,000 children. American-Tigreans are hurt when we witness injustice committed against our own people as we feel the pain as if it was inflicted on us personally.

I hate to lay out what had happened in Ethiopia up to this point. Your administration did not raise one word of objection when democratic processes were trampled. Article 9 (3) of the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia states "It is prohibited to assume state power in any manner other than through election." Article 54 (1) says: "Members of the House of Peoples' Representatives shall be elected by the People for a term of five years on the basis of universal suffrage and by direct, free and fair elections held by secret ballot." Article 67 (2) of the constitution reaffirms the same point. Think about the US election, though thousands of our American compatriots are in the middle of the pandemic and trying to postpone the Nov. 3rd election!

Article 39 of the constitution is non-negotiable and supersedes the National Electoral Board's role overseeing votes. Any election delay beyond the constitutional deadline, even given the pandemic and the House of Federation's decision on the matter, breaches the constitution. Public discussions, free and fair elections are regarded as essential because they are the driving forces for achieving the consent of the people and democratic order. Did you know Mr. Assistant Secretary that after Abiy Ahmed Ali dissolved the party that elected him, the EPRDF, he became a non-elected leader without constitutional recognition? The parliament that is in Addis Ababa was elected by constituents of EPRDF from all regional states. That too became illegitimate when the prime minister dissolved EPRDF.

The basis for Abiy declaring war on Tigray was that it held election. Even if they are the minority, the Tigray people are within their Constitutional rights which stipulates that self-rule gives them absolute

right to hold regional elections regardless of the federal authorities. In line with the granted law on self-determination, Tigrai held its National Regional State Government Election on September 9th, 2020. On September 5th, 2020, the Upper House the outlawed one, a branch of the Federal Parliamentary Assembly convened at the last minute to pronounce the upcoming election in Tigrai as illegal and the results thereof as null and void. Whatever Abiy presents to the parliament is rubber stamped, otherwise the election is constitutionally sanctioned which should have served as the best practice for the rest of the nation. Would you imagine a legitimate election to be illegitimated by unelected bunch of Abiy's forced bunch of groups in the name of an Ethiopian parliament?

The grave mistakes made by the government of Abiy Ahmed and his Prosperity Party (PP) have already resulted in increased social unrest, and total disappointment by the Ethiopian populace at large although their expectations of the change was high but failed miserably due to the incompetence of the ex-spy chief and colonel Abiy's incapacity to lead the country. Ethiopia faces serious challenges in its political stability and internal ethno-religious and regional divisions. I urge all those good journalist and bloggers home and elsewhere in the world to give close attention to the human suffering of the Tegar/Tigreans profiling and ethnic cleansing. The fight will go on until honest system of government (Federal) establishes equality of opportunities and responsibility as one people. No one should consider Africans and for that part Ethiopians as shitholes to be discarded as useless human beings and history will tell that the USA is siding with an extreme dictator trying to exterminate a people, who fought for their equal rights. The USA which says as bastion of democracy should also exercise it in other parts of the world without allying with bullies and warmongers.

We Tegar Americans and friends alike congratulate the people of Tigrai for upholding steadfastly their constitutional right. Let us not be captive by Abiy's emotional outburst and vulgar rhetoric and those of his cronies. As said let the dogs bark, the caravan moves on.

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