

Washington Update - by Mesfin Mekonen

November 1, 2022

1. **Amhara** must be included in peace talks

Amhara organizations in Ethiopia and abroad wrote a letter to the diplomatic community demanding representation in any negotiations to resolve the conflict in Northern Ethiopia. The letter states that “in attempting to mediate the conflicts in Ethiopia, special envoy Jeffrey Feltman must not repeat mistakes the U.S. has made in the past when it excluded pro-democracy Ethiopian parties from negotiations over the nation’s future. The U.S. should not forget recent history, including the corruption, violence and human rights abuses of the EPRDF and TPLF. The peace process must include the Amaras, who are one of the largest populations in Ethiopia.”

The letter was sent as representatives of the Ethiopian government and the TPLF are starting peace talks in South Africa.

2. Conflict in Oromiya

Reuters reports that the Ethiopian government has bombed terrorists in Oromiya from the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). The Ethiopian Parliament has designated these groups, organizations including the OLF/Shenne which has massacred Amhara civilians, as terrorists. The massacre of civilians at Guliso Woreda, West Wolega Zone, was orchestrated by the OLF-Shene group and TPLF, Oromia State President Shimelis Abdisa said. Ethiopian-Americans are concerned about the possibility that the OLF/OLA have ties to Al Shebab terrorists.

3. Conflict over Abiy

The New Yorker magazine reports that the violence in Ethiopia “has sparked an international argument about Abiy” with critics accusing him of “starting an ethnic conflict in order to favor his political allies.” The story notes demands that his Nobel be revoked, and warnings that the violence he has unleashed could destabilize the entire

region. The story is available at:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/10/03/did-a-nobel-peace-laureate-stoke-a-civil-war>

4. National Press Club salutes Mesfin Mekonen

The National Press Club in Washington, DC celebrated Mesfin Mekonen for his dedication and 50 years of service. Club President Jen Judson presented Mesfin with a resolution from the Club board of governors honoring him not only for his longevity but also his dedication to members and his unfailing devotion to the Club as well as to his native Ethiopia. Details are available at:<https://www.press.org/newsroom/salute-mesfin-packs-reliable-source>