

Conflict in Ethiopia

Yashvi Tailor

Between 2020 and 2022, Ethiopia fought a war with militants from the northernmost region of Tigray, at that time under the control of the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF). As the conflict escalated due to many reasons, it led to displacement and thousands of people fleeing their homes in fear of violence. This conflict resulted in one of the deadliest wars in recent world history, a cry for humanitarian aid, impacting the lives of countless civilians.

For a long time, TPLF was the political force a lot of people chose to support, because of its past accomplishments like defeating the Derg forces in multiple engagements, but it soon declined in popularity as soon as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed gained power. The immediate cause of this was followed by a military intervention by Ethiopian federal forces in response to an attack on a federal military base in Tigray that was part of the TPLF. The Ethiopian government accused the TPLF of treason and began what was a military campaign to restore power and order and remove the TPLF as a whole.

The impact this has made on civilians in Tigray has been severe and extremely multifaceted. There have been large accounts of murder, abuse, and massacres carried out by Ethiopian forces towards the Tigrayan civilians. Also, the conflict has disturbed essential services like healthcare, education, the imports of goods from other countries, and just overall the social dynamics by the use of bombings and other unethical practices. All while this is in play, there are stampedes of people trying to cross over the border in hopes to finally escape the violence that they are being subjected to, causing them to be placed into camps and makeshift "jails" in Ethiopia, completely violating their rights.

The regional implications are significant as well, with an influx of refugees neighboring Sudan, now straining the resources there and escalating tensions within the region. Diplomatic relations have been greatly put under pressure, and the conflict has now become a complex geopolitical issue in the Horn of Africa, where around 32 million of whom are food insecure.

The ongoing nature of the conflict with limited progress towards a peaceful resolution continues to impact the lives of Tigrayan civilians. The lack of humanitarian access, combined with the destruction of infrastructure and disruption of livelihoods, poses significant challenges for both the affected and unaffected population. Urgent international attention and concerted efforts are needed to address the root causes of the conflict, facilitate humanitarian assistance, and work towards a sustainable and inclusive resolution which doesn't foreshadow on genocide, but instead ensures the well-being of the people in Tigray.

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