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Human Rights Accountability in Ethiopia

The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) believes that human rights abuses are always to be strongly condemned and fully prosecuted, no matter who is responsible.

As requested by the Ethiopian Government, the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission have deployed independent investigations of atrocities and serious human rights violations. The Canadian Government is also opening its own. The four bodies are now investigating alleged crimes in the Tigray region. The Ethiopian Government publicly promised to take appropriate legal measures based on the result of those investigations.

The Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission are also investigating killings in other parts of Ethiopia.

- ✓ (3/25/21) [Probe announced into alleged Tigray rights violations: UN rights office | | UN News](#)
- ✓ The probe, which will be carried out jointly by the High Commissioner's Office and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), is described "as part of the much-needed accountability process for the victims".
- ✓ (3/23/21) [U.N. rights chief agrees to Ethiopia request for joint Tigray inquiry | Reuters](#)
United Nations human rights chief Michelle Bachelet has agreed to the Ethiopian government's request for a joint investigation in the country's northern Tigray region, where Bachelet says possible war crimes may have been committed.

In addition to the UNHCR, ACHPR, and EHRC investigations, there are several others being undertaken by the Ethiopian Government to investigate and prosecute crimes. They include:

- ✓ Military Investigations of the Ethiopian National Defense Force--The military police and prosecutors have focused their investigation and law enforcement efforts, particularly on cases of homicide/murder of civilians and cases of rape/sexual assault perpetrated by members of the Ethiopian National Defense Force.
 - The military justice system has so far investigated and brought to military courts 60 soldiers who have been suspected of committing rape or killing civilians;

- In addition to the trials underway, three soldiers have already been convicted and sentenced for rape; one soldier has been convicted and sentenced for killing a civilian.
 - The military police are also investigating several other cases in which credible allegations of similar crimes have been reported.
- ✓ Major Atrocities in Tigray- The Federal Police and Federal Prosecutors have focused on allegations of major atrocities that have been reported since the onset of the conflict in the Tigray Regional State.
- The investigation of alleged atrocities has been carried out in addition to the crimes that are believed to have been committed by those who perpetrated the attack against the Northern Command of the ENDF.
 - The first report of major crimes and atrocities to emerge in the Amhara Regional State concerns the killing of several hundred civilians in the town of Maikadra.
 - (5/21/21) [Four Ethiopian soldiers convicted of crimes against civilians in Tigray | Reuters](#)
 - Three Ethiopian soldiers have been convicted of rape and one of killing a civilian in Ethiopia's Tigray region, the government said on Friday, the first public statement that soldiers had been found guilty of crimes against civilians in the conflict.
 - Twenty-eight more soldiers are on trial for killing civilians and 25 for acts of sexual violence and rape, the statement from the attorney general's office said.
 - Reports by international human rights organizations and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission brought to light the identity/ethnic-based attacks against civilians in the town of Maikadra.