



Suggestions Regarding The Necessary Reconsideration Of House Resolution 445 On Ethiopia

AEPAC believes that recent events, particularly the unilateral ceasefire by the Ethiopian Government, requires a complete rethinking of House Resolution 445. AEPAC respectfully requests that no action on the resolution be taken this summer given quickly changing events on the ground or, in the alternative, that a new draft contain the following key points:

1) Strongly support the Ethiopian Government's unilateral, unconditional ceasefire. *The US and the international community have demanded this of the Ethiopian Government for some time. It is only proper to support it now that it has happened.*

2) Clearly call on all combatants to also adopt an unconditional ceasefire or face sanctions. *An unconditional end to fighting and violence is the necessary first step. The humanitarian crisis will only grow without this first step. No other steps like political dialogue can take place unless and until fighting stops.*

3) Express strong regret that the TPLF has reacted to the government ceasefire by rejecting it and, in fact, expanding on its war aims and rhetoric. *Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) rebels initially described the Ethiopian government's ceasefire as a "joke" and vowed to drive their "enemies" from the region. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-57714799> Additionally from *The Guardian*, *Insurgent forces in Tigray are mobilising for new conflict against militia from a neighbouring province in Ethiopia, with thousands of new volunteers joining their ranks after federal forces withdrew following more than eight months of war.**

4) Call on a political dialogue amongst all parties who reject war, violence, and armed insurrection. *Political dialogue cannot be successful if some of the parties to it are actively waging or planning war.*

5) State clearly that the recent fighting began with the TPLF's violent attack on federal government forces on November 4, 2020, and do not characterize the federal government's response as a "military **offensive**" (emphasis added). *The fact that the TPLF completely initiated the military conflict was universally acknowledged, including by the Biden administration witnesses, at the Committee's recent hearing on Ethiopia.*

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