

Anthony J. Blinken Secretary of State U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As the Executive Chairman of the American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC), I write to urge public condemnation and concrete action regarding the abhorrent use of child soldiers by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in Ethiopia.

Images of the TPLF providing arms and weapons training to children have been widely distributed on social media channels and reported in Ethiopian press outlets. Then, this week, the photojournalist Finbarr O'Reilly was in Ethiopia reporting for the New York Times. His images have confirmed this horrific story.

On his Instagram page he posted:

"On multiple occasions, I saw Tigrayan children carrying weapons. Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, conscripting or enlisting children into armed forces or groups constitutes a war crime in both international and non-international armed conflicts."

I have included a copy of the images that accompanied his post.

- That the Biden administration immediately condemn the TPLF by name for the use of child soldiers, acknowledging that it constitutes an international war crime.
- That the U.S. impose sanctions on the TPLF's leadership to compel the rebel group to end its practice of arming children.
- And that the U.S. demand that the TPLF and all combatants also adopt an unconditional ceasefire similar to the Ethiopian government as the necessary first step to stem the humanitarian crisis and create a path toward political dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

Mesfin Tegenu

Chairman AEPAC





Senator Robert Menendez Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations United States Congress Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Menedez.

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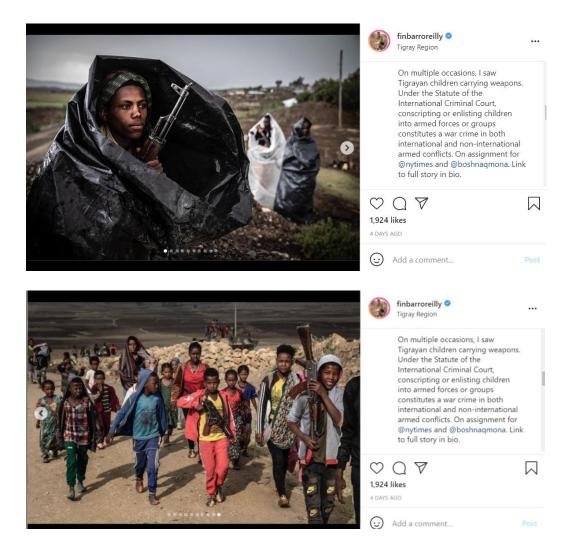
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Mesfin Tegenu Chairman AEPAC





Senator James Risch Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations United States Congress Washington, D.C.

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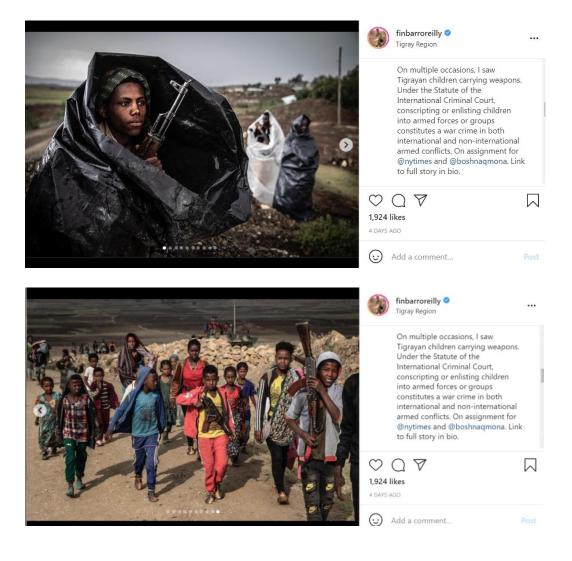
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Congressman Gregory Meeks Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee United States Congress Washington, D.C.

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Mesfin Tegenu Chairman





Congresswoman Karen Bass Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa United States Congress Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Bass,

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Congressman Michael McCaul Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee United States Congress Washington, D.C.

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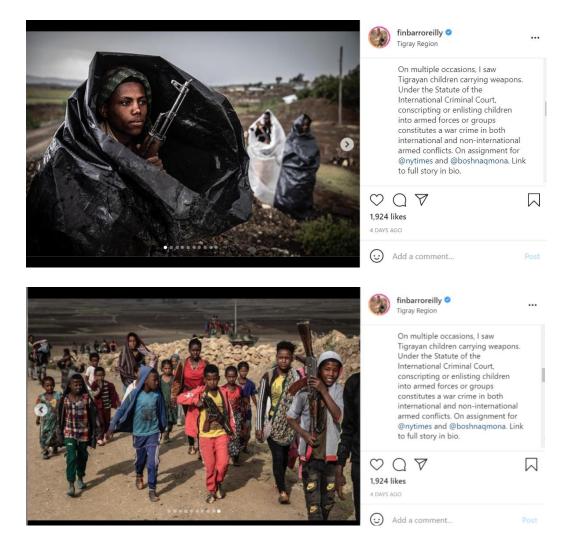
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Congressman Chris Smith Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa United States Congress Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Smith,

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Senator Chris Van Hollen Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa United States Congress Washington, D.C.

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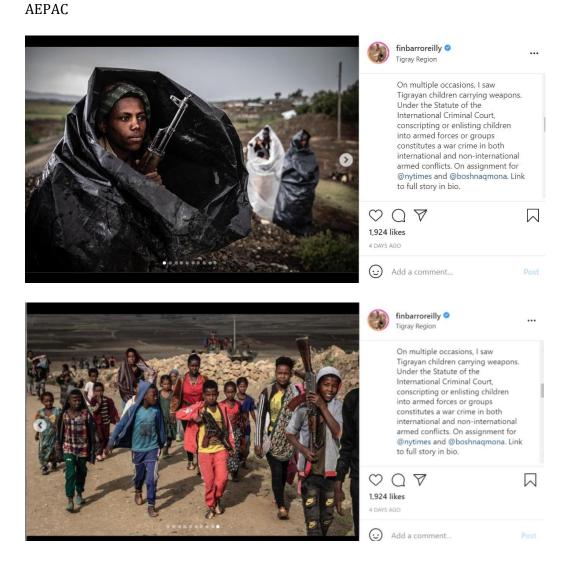
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Senator Mike Rounds Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa United States Congress Washington, D.C.

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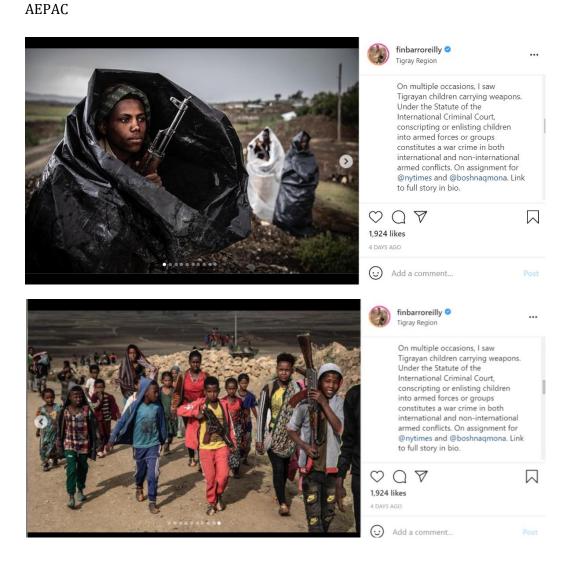
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António Guterres Secretary General United Nations New York City

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- That the United Nations immediately condemn the TPLF by name for the use of child soldiers, acknowledging that it constitutes an international war crime.
- That the United Nations encourages its members to consider sanctions on the TPLF's leadership to compel the rebel group to end its practice of arming children.
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