

soon. This bill is misnamed as the "Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and

Democracy Act" to deceive some. It is a sanction bill to hurt the Ethiopian

The bill calls for aggressive action to be taken by the United States and other

people!

Dear Friends,

believe vou must have seen

constituents' inputs. This bill is now sent to the Speaker's desk for the entire House of Representatives for a vote

devastating anti-Ethiopia bill introduced by Rep. Tom Malinowski of New Jersey on the 4th February, rushed and passed through the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the 8th February without any deliberation, hearing, or

members of the international community against Ethiopia. Among the suggestions are additional sanctions, calls for a new human rights investigation, and ceasing investment support for vital infrastructure projects in Ethiopia via the USAID and international financial institutions. It also implies the conflict in Tigray as a 'genocide' against the Tigray people ignoring the previous report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), released on November 3, 2021, which concluded that the investigation team did not find evidence to support genocide claim or any allegations of "deliberate or willful denial of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in Tigray or the use of starvation as a weapon of war." If passed with its current content HR 6600 will destroy the century-old diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and the United States and will unfairly

target the victims of the war; the people of Ethiopia. It will also harm US strategic interest in the Horn of Africa in particular and in the entire continent of Africa in general. It is an irony that HR 6600 ignored the millions in Amhara and Afar regions who have been victims of the TPLF's ethnic-based violence. The Amnesty International Report that was just released on February 17, 2022, says "Tigrayan fighters affiliated with the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) deliberately killed civilians, gang-raped and sexually assaulted women and girls, and looted private and public property" in Amhara Region. The Ethiopian Government has taken significant steps toward peace including halting armed operations at the borders of Tigray, offering amnesty for senior TPLF leaders, and creating a national dialogue to help secure lasting peace for the country. So instead of trying to impose unwarranted punishment which could fuel further tensions in Ethiopia and destabilize the Horn of Africa region, Congress and the Administration should support Ethiopia and its people and

seize this moment of constructive engagement between the two countries. I humbly appeal to all Ethiopian Americans and to all peace-loving American friends of Ethiopia to reach out to your Congressional representatives raising your concern against this bill. It is a very quick process that can be achieved by filling in this form. You can also join local campaigns to name and shame the sponsors of this bill by organizing demonstrations. Ethiopia shall overcome this draconian bill that is designed to undermine its

sovereignty. I thank you for joining the campaign and for your continued efforts. Thank you! Sincerely, Mesfin Tegenu, AEPAC Chairman **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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AEPAC ACTIVITY UPDATE

The number of AEPAC State Chapters where State Election Campaign

Committee (SECCs) formed and activities initiated has exceeded 21. The

SECCs and the different specialized sub-committees (Data, Media, Research,

Youth, etc.) have made significant progress in developing election-related flyers

AEPAC Election Campaign Strategy Implementation Update

Eleven Member National Dialogue Commissioners Declared

and other outreach materials as part of voter education and mobilization for registering and voting the candidates of their choice, irrespective of their party affiliations. Each state will use the centrally developed materials as templates for customizing them according to their specific needs. Data gathering on Ethiopian Americans in the respective states is being conducted to encourage that the constituency doesn't miss the opportunity to register and vote in the

primaries and general elections.

encouraging persons of African origin to run for offices to be legislators.

HR-6600: AEPAC in Collaboration with Partners Hold Zoom Town Hall

AEPAC and its partners held several virtual town hall meetings to explain and

discuss the consequences of HR6600 on Ethiopia, US-America relations, US

businesses, and the diaspora. These engagements with the diaspora

community also include appearances on media for interviews and panel

discussions. Tens of thousands of petitions and phone calls to senators, the

House of Representatives, and the White House have been made to make sure

that this bill doesn't pass.

the United States.

release.

DIGITAL

Ethiopia's people.

Without addressing TPLF's ethnic-based violence, the Bill demands

THE MALINOWSKI

BILL WILL DESTROY

sanctions and ceasing investment in infrastructure.

GERD Generating Power

with Ethiopian/Eritrean/Somali-Americans

Americans as an equal opportunity measure. This process will continue

as

Abel Mulugheta for

Congress

MEDIA February was a busy media month for AEPAC as we set out to secure coverage on HR6600. It is important to get the message out to the US, African and international media. We have put the Bill on the radar of all major outlets and political news sites. Voice of America, Sputnik, and Pan-African News Wire all led with AEPAC's opposition and the damage the Malinowski Bill would do to Ethiopia. We are expecting more interest as the Bill makes its way to the floor of the House. Elsewhere we are continuing the PR fight to pressure the State Department to

undertake an off-cycle review for Ethiopia to be reinstated within AGOA.

Already China and Chinese companies have rallied to fill the vacuum created

by the United States. It's important we tell this story to open the eyes of the

Biden administration to the realities on the ground. We set up interviews with

Chairman Mesfin Tegenu and Professor Ann Fitz-Gerald with the South China

Morning Post. The article is an important read to understand the strategic

competition in Ethiopia and the value of AGOA not just to Ethiopia but also to

Finally, we worked with Borkena on two important articles last month. First,

Mesfin Tegenu wrote an op-ed titled 'The World Must Recognize the TPLF and

OLF-Shene are Destructive Forces' in which he detailed the history of the two

groups and the destruction they have brought to Ethiopia over the last 16

months. And secondly, we officially launched AEPAC's national election

committee and in order for the diaspora to engage Borkena ran our press



Ethiopia – started generating 375 megawatts of electricity using one of the 13 turbines. The 145-meter (475-foot) high dam is being built with \$4.2bn to ultimately produce more than 5,000 megawatts of electricity, more than doubling Ethiopia's electricity output. Prime minister Abiy Ahmed during the launch ceremony said: "Ethiopia's main interest is to bring light to 60 percent of the population who is suffering in darkness, to save the labor of our mothers who are carrying wood on their backs in order to get energy," Abiy said. "As you can see, this water will generate energy while flowing as it previously flowed to Sudan and Egypt, unlike the rumors that say the Ethiopian people and government are damming the water to starve Egypt and Sudan." During the inauguration, Pietro Salini, CEO and founder of Webuild said "We have done a lot of projects together. We have changed the capability of this country utilizing water...God gave to Ethiopia a special gift. No oil, no gas-

28%, the worst performance after El Salvador. Ethiopia's government declared a nationwide state of emergency in November after clashes between the federal army and the dissident Tigray People's Liberation Front escalated. The drawn-out fighting had hammered investor confidence in what was once one of the world's fastest-growing economies and sparked a sell-off in the nation's

Ethiopia

partnership/

Ethiopia

US Department of State and Amnesty International Speak of Tigray **Atrocities** According to a lengthy Amnesty International Feb 16, 2022 report, fighters affiliated with the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) deliberately killed dozens of people, gang-raped dozens of women and girls - some as young as

The US Administration echoed a similar sentiment by saying "The United States is gravely concerned by the reports of atrocities, including sexual violence, committed by fighters affiliated with the Tigray People's Liberation Front in the Amhara region of Ethiopia in late August and early September 2021, as described in a recent Amnesty International report. We call on all armed actors to renounce and end all human rights abuses and violence against civilians. It remains our firm position that there must be credible investigations into and accountability for atrocities as part of any lasting solution to the crisis".

Want to help push the voice of American-Ethiopians to the audiences who matter? Then social media:

regular updates.

Check out our website - www.aepact.org

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please share these Tweets so that AEPAC's message is seen by more people across **AEPAC Mission Video**

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AEPAC Endorses the First Two Candidates Running for Congress AEPAC/NECC endorsed two candidates from Texas after a process of learning what they stand for, their platforms, and an interactive session of questions and answers. There are a set of questions that AEPAC/NECC requests candidates to respond to be considered for a 'know your candidate' process which may lead to involvement. In addition to these criteria, the group will make sure that incumbents who have demonstrated their support in the mission of AEPAC in the past will be automatically endorsed. Lulite Ejigu, Ethiopian American (Republican representing District 29), and Abel Mulugetta Eritrean-American (Democrat running in district 30) are the two currently endorsed. Although this process will open doors for other candidates including incumbents to meet with NECC, it will particularly engage with African

The digital team has been hard at work in expanding the movement against the Malinowski HR6600 bill and highlighting the atrocities of the TPLF over the course of the conflict, with particular attention paid to the recent Amnesty International Report and UNHCR messages on TPLF violence and the resulting

Specifically, digital activities have engaged the diaspora community via mailout

suffering experienced by the communities.

ETHIOPIA-US Deliberate killings of dozens **RELATIONS** of people. Looting of private and public property. Promote **Promote** ♡ 114 139 ₾ 1 367 ♡ 358 **NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS**

After a decade of project implementation challenges, February 20, 2022,

became a historical milestone for Ethiopia's electrification vision. The Grand

Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) - a massive, multibillion-dollar

hydropower plant on the River Nile Benishangul-Gumuz region of western

The report meticulously documents & underscores the seriousness of the

NEW AMNESTY REPORT EXPOSES TPLF CRIMES,

INCLUDING:

Gang rape of women and

girls. Some as young as 14.

TPLF's crimes in #Ethiopia.

Read now: amnesty.org/en/latest/news...

the United Nations, here it is." The GERD hydropower installation is part of 71 power projects included in a \$40 billion investment package to increase the country's electricity generation over the next decade. The list also includes 24 wind, 17 geothermal, and 14 solar projects, as Ethiopia not only increases its use of renewable energy but also moves toward becoming a net exporter of power to other African nations. The GERD project will be the largest hydroelectric plant on the African continent and would rank as the eighth-largest in the world. **EU-AU Summit in Brussels** The heads of state or government of the member states of the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) met for the sixth European Union – African Union summit. The meeting was co-chaired by the President of the European

Council, Charles Michel, and the Chairperson of the AU, the President of

Senegal, Macky Sall. EU and AU leaders will also boost regional and

continental economic integration, particularly through the African Continental

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed joined African and European leaders at the AU-EU

Summit that was held from 17 and 18 of February 2022, in Brussels, Belgium.

The two continents are aiming to concretize their cooperation, among others, in

fighting the COVID pandemic, exchanging strategic approaches on easing the

financial constraints and economic downturn due to the pandemic, and

supporting the youth and women in job creation as well as environmental

issues that include green transition. It was also timely in expressing Ethiopia's

commitment to peace and development both within itself and the region during

At the summit, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to provide at least 450 million

vaccine doses to Africa, in coordination with the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task

Team (AVATT), by mid-2022. In the margins of the summit, the World Health

Organization (WHO) announced the first six countries that will receive

the technology needed to produce mRNA vaccines on the African continent:

The Ethiopian Parliament approved the appointment of eleven National

Dialogue Commissioners. On February 4, 2022, the parliament announced that

42 candidates were shortlisted from over 600 nominations. A parliamentary

committee was assigned sometime in December 2021 to receive the

nominations based on criteria the parliament announced, including Ethiopian

citizenship. The Commissioners are presumed to be independent in the sense

that they are not members of any political party. The commission is expected to

bring about an end to political polarization in the country on a range of issues,

including the system of government, ethnic land claim, and flag, among other

The Government of Ethiopia's (GOE) roadmap dubbed "Homegrown Economic

Reform Plan" is poised to implement sweeping macro, structural, and sectoral

reforms, with a focus on enhancing the role of the private sector in the economy

and attracting more foreign direct investment. The three-year plan prioritizes

growth in five sectors: mining, ICT, agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing.

Encouraging economic trends are being reported from Ethiopia, a sign that a

multi-track approach of managing crisis, keeping construction and development

Reporting to the House of People's Representatives on February 23, 2002 PM

Abiy said that over the last six months, the country has obtained 1.63 billion

dollars in the form of Foreign Direct Investment. As compared to the same

period of the last budget year, the amount has surpassed 23 percent. In the last

six months, the country has collected 172.3 billion Birr (about \$3.5 billion) in

According to Bloomberg News of Jan 31, 2022, "Ethiopia's bonds are the best-

performing sovereign debt in emerging markets this year, after a rally sparked

by the government's decision to end a state of emergency as a 15-month

conflict with rebels eases. The bonds have rallied 6 cents on the dollar since

Jan. 26, when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office said that the security threat

had diminished. That brings returns this year to 13%, the best performance out

of 80 developing nations tracked by Bloomberg. Last year, the securities lost

bonds. In recent weeks, the 15-month conflict has shifted in Abiy's favor, with

Tigrayan forces on the retreat and the United Nations saying there is a

"demonstrable effort to make peace." Last week, Fitch Ratings Inc. affirmed

West International Holding, one of the major cement producers in China,

work going hand in hand with diplomacy as an enabler may be working.

the various side meetings that took place at the summit.

Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia.

Eleven Member National Dialogue Commissioners Declared

Free Trade Area.

issues.

Economic Turnaround for Ethiopia

revenues which are 92 percent of the plan.

water. This is the white oil of Ethiopia. When we talk about sustainable goals of

relocated its headquarters from South Africa to Ethiopia. Even a bigger deal is the fact that West International joined in partnership with East African Holding Co. The <u>foundation stone</u> for the USD2.2 billion West International-East African Holding was laid in March 202. According Almariam, a joint venture similar to West International Holding-East African Holding, could become an important element of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which aims to create a single market

strengthening and deepening the economic integration of the continent.

http://almariam.com/2022/02/23/ethiopia-on-the-move-prosperity-through-

On the downside, the country is challenged by huge inflation and the rising

price of basic products which are allegedly triggered and caused by the unrest

in the north, and other multiple factors such as Covid19, drought, illegal

activities by unethical businesses, etc. As compared to the last fiscal year, in

the past six months, the price of food-related items has doubled. Last year, the

country imported food worth 1 billion USD while in the past 6 months it imported

2.1 billion USD. The price of fertilizers increased by 176 percent, metal by 65

UN Deputy SG and Ethiopian President visit several crisis regions in

Following her participation at the African Union Summit in early February,

Amina Mohammed, deputy UN General Secretary, visited Amhara, Afar, Somali

and Tigray regions to meet crisis-affected communities, regional officials and

observe the damage on life and property following the crisis. A top United

Nations official has said that Ethiopia is in "a much better place" to resolve the

conflict that erupted 15 months ago in Tigray. "There is much more

conversation and dialogue and talk around the national dialogue itself and the

way to peace", Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told journalists as

she flew out of the capital Addis Ababa. She underscored the determination of

the United Nations to remain an impartial and engaged partner in its delivery of

humanitarian assistance and provision of development support to the

accompanied on her mission to Somali and Afar by Ethiopian President Sahle-

"Tigrayan forces have shown utter disregard for fundamental rules of

international humanitarian law which all warring parties must follow. Evidence is

mounting of a pattern of Tigrayan forces committing war crimes and possible

crimes against humanity in areas under their control in the Amhara region from

July 2021 onwards. This includes repeated incidents of widespread rape,

summary killings, and looting, including from hospitals," said Sarah Jackson,

Deputy Regional Director for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes at

Amnesty International. "The TPLF leadership must put an immediate end to the

atrocities we have documented and remove from its forces anyone suspected

Ethiopians. The Deputy Secretary-General was

Move:

percent, petroleum by 85 percent, palm oil by 65 percent.

the

on

and

Government

Work Zewde.

all

of involvement in such crimes", said the report.

Amnesty-Intl-Report-on-TPLF-Atrocities-in-Ethiopia

Prosperity

Through

Partnership

Ethiopia's long-term foreign currency debt rating at CCC".

14 - and looted private and public property in two areas of northern Ethiopia's Amhara region.

https://www.state.gov/reports-of-atrocities-in-the-amhara-region/ HOW YOU CAN HELP

To keep up to date with AEPAC's work, please follow us on Twitter, and Facebook for

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