



[The Ethiopian Government States That It Has Recaptured a String of Towns from Tigrayan Forces](#)

The Ethiopian government declared that it has recaptured a large string of towns and territory from Tigrayan forces, in some of the latest developments regarding the now one-plus year conflict. This comes after Tigrayan forces, throughout the late summer and early fall, took control of highly strategic areas in the country, worrying Ethiopian officials of potential further advancements on the capital city of Addis Ababa. Human rights and social justice activists have long criticized the brutal nature of the conflict, with both Ethiopian and Tigrayan forces being found to have engaged in grave abuses and war crimes. Further exacerbating the devastating humanitarian impact of the conflict is the fact that access for aid workers has been extremely hindered, creating a major refugee crisis in which hundreds of thousands of people have been driven to famine-like conditions and millions of others have been displaced since fighting broke out back in November of 2020. Reporting of the conflict has also been difficult as it has grown in intensity, with few journalists able to operate in Ethiopia but those there citing the disturbing and grotesque scenes.

In the late summer and early fall, it appeared that the conflict had seen the Tigrayan forces with an unyielding momentum. They were sweeping across the country, making progress towards the capital of Addis Ababa in a brutal fashion using crimes against humanity as a war tactic. However, the progress seemed to have reached its apex around mid-October as Tigrayan forces took the strategic towns of Dessie and Kombolcha, located on a key highway to Addis Ababa. The most recent developments have witnessed Ethiopian forces tied to Prime Minister Abiy pushing back against the previous Tigrayan advancements. Both Ethiopian and Tigrayan forces have been accused of taking part in extrajudicial killings and mass murders against the other side, with reports of countless bodies near road sides in towns that were subjected to major fighting. Human rights activists have lamented that Prime Minister Abiy himself, a former Nobel Peace Prize winner, is tied to these atrocities and is also using inflammatory language and rhetoric to exacerbate the conflict.

The Tigray conflict has raged on for more than a year now. The war has caused ripple effects across the Horn of Africa, as expected from the start by human rights advocates and security experts. The ongoing conflict has led to destabilization in Sudan, causing the reagravation of tensions in a historically-disputed Sudanese but ethnically Ethiopian region that borders Tigray. Over the past few months, the conflict has also continued to deteriorate on the humanitarian front at an alarming rate. Ethiopian and Tigrayan forces have both committed horrific crimes against civilians, with mass murders, extrajudicial killings, the weaponization of aid, and other violations all taking place. The United Nations has had workers held captive by the Ethiopian government as well, showing deeply concerning disdain for international humanitarian assistance efforts. Tigrayan forces have additionally interfered with the impartial U.N. mission, taking aid envoys to use for their military, which has resulted in assistance often not reaching those in drastic need of it.

While the international community has expressed grave concern over the Tigrayan conflict and has tried to provide aid and diplomatic missions to lessen the violent conflict, it appears neither side is willing to come to the table to begin serious negotiations at this point in time. This has worried analysts about the potential devastating impact this could continue to have on local civilians, who have undoubtedly suffered the most as a result of the brutal and unrelenting conflict.