



[The Ethiopian Government and Tigrayan Forces Acknowledge a Humanitarian Truce to Allow for the Much-Needed Delivery of Aid](#)

After nearly 17 months of brutal fighting, the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) have declared a humanitarian truce in an effort to allow for the much-needed delivery of aid services. The move comes in light of the severe humanitarian crisis that has ravaged the region of Tigray as a result of the ongoing conflict. Subject to what amounts to a blockade by the Ethiopian government, food and medical supplies have all but stopped reaching the areas that desperately need it. Aid workers have also been under attack, with both sides accused of engaging in war crimes and human rights violations. The recent breakthrough has been welcomed but also met with skepticism from some analysts, due to persisting tensions, the involvement of multiple smaller armed groups, and a lack of transparency. Humanitarian assistance for Tigray has been slowing in preceding months because of resistance from the Ethiopian government and new developments stemming from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Experts have warned that the Russian-Ukrainian crisis has disrupted major producers of food for aid programs.

Armed conflict began in November of 2020, and with it came hundreds of thousands of refugees. Over 400,000 people have been displaced in Tigray, according to the United Nations. Most concerning is the fact that an estimated 2 million of the 6 million people in the region are suffering from an extreme lack of food. Fuel shortages have also been forcing aid workers to deliver what supplies they can by foot. The fighting eventually spilled out of the Tigray region and into the neighboring Amhara and Afar regions, displacing millions more. Most of the people are internally displaced and living in refugee camps, but these offer little respite from the armed conflict. Last month, the fighting engulfed one of these camps, killing five refugees and forcing thousands of them to flee once again. This is just one of the multiple reported incidents of refugee camps being attacked and subjected to the violence stemming from the Tigray conflict.

The outbreak of the conflict itself started when Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ordered a military offensive against the regional forces in Tigray in response to an attack on a military base. The neighboring country of Eritrea also sent troops to support the government forces, which further exacerbated the conflict and the human rights violations committed by both sides. They initially took the capital of Tigray, Mekelle, and declared victory. However, the TPLF began a counteroffensive that took back the capital and much of the Tigray region, and pursued the government forces into neighboring regions. The two parties have recently been locked in a stalemate with no real gains by either side.

It will remain to be seen if this truce holds and leads to more permanent peace, or if it once again descends into conflict. There is hope that this at least temporary truce will give time for badly-needed food and medicine to reach the people affected by the conflict. Another important factor to take note of is that the TPLF is joined by many other regional groups outside of their control which may throw a wrench into the peace process by violating the humanitarian truce.