



## Ethiopia

**INSIGHT:** Ethiopian government news agency accuses humanitarian NGOs of collaborating with TPFL rebels.

Following recent United Nations (UN) claims earlier in June that food is being used as a **“weapon of war”** in the Tigray region amid **warnings of famine**, Ethiopian state-controlled outlet *Ethiopian Press Agency* or *The Ethiopian Herald* published a report on 10 June - also posted of social media - accusing **“NGOs associated with the TPFL terrorist clique”** of being behind these ‘false’ and ‘fabricated’ UN reports about the ensuing humanitarian situation in Tigray.

These damaging accusations followed another report on 4 June by the Ethiopian state media in which unsubstantiated claims were advanced that **“some relief agencies [were] caught red handed smuggling weapons to outlaw groups”**, a thinly-veiled reference to the rebel group Tigrayan People's Liberation Front.

4 JUNE



Office of the Prime Minister Press Secretary, Bilene Seyoum

Attorney General, Gedewon Emnetsew (PM)

### Office offers insight on humanitarian, rehabilitation activities in Tigray

- Announces commencement of Eritrea army withdrawal
- Says some relief agencies caught red-handed smuggling weapons to outlaw group
- Operation undertaking to apprehend TPLF remnants in two areas
- Clarifies how conflict agents peddling fake news about Ethiopia

10 JUNE



### “There is no famine in Tigray”: Commission

BY BILAL BERSO

**ADDIS ABABA**— With the current massive engagement of the federal government and international aid agencies to provide humanitarian assistance and reaching 5.2 million people in Tigray State, reports about the occurrence of famine in the area are unfounded, National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) said.

Taking part in the live press conference hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister yesterday, NDRMC Commissioner Mefuke Kasia stated it is not a position to declare famine in Tigray with respect to the current context of the State.

The commissioner stated the UN OCHA's recent report about the current situation in Korem town, Wella wereda (district) of South Tigray is false and it is fabricated by NGOs associated with the TPLF terrorist clique. Now peace and order in the area is greatly enhanced and the door is widely opened for the international community to witness facts in the ground. “To categorize situation as famine requires the fulfillment of three inseparable standards,” Mefuke noted, adding that at least 20 percent of the households in a given area

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On 15 June, these claims were repeated in another unsubstantiated report, purporting that **“credible evidence have been found indicating that some actors have attempted to smuggle weapons to arm the terrorist TPFL cell under the guise of humanitarian assistance”**, before going on to specify that these actors in question are international humanitarian agencies.

The report also suggests that some within the international community are using humanitarian aid to undermine the Ethiopian government: **“some within the international community have embarked on a mission to undermine the unity, territorial integrity and the cohesion of the Ethiopian state, under the guise of humanitarian concern.”**

The report goes on to refute UN claims that food is being used as a weapon of war in the Tigray region: **“accusations labeled against Ethiopia of using hunger as a weapon of war on its own citizens, is an egregious falsehood.”**

15 JUNE

### Ethiopia seizes weapons as smuggling by some relief agencies

BY TEFODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA**— The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MofA) announced that credible evidence have been found indicating that some actors are attempting to smuggle weapons to the terrorist TPLF cell under the guise of humanitarian assistance.

In his recent pre-recorded video message, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeski Mekonnen reiterated that concrete evidence have been found showing international humanitarian agencies attempt of weapons smuggling.

It is extremely regrettable to see that some within the international community have embarked on a mission to undermine the unity, territorial integrity and the cohesion of the Ethiopian state, under the guise of humanitarian concern, he underscored.

He further said that the Ethiopian government cannot be expected to accept with equanimity this condoning approach.

“We are indeed disappointed by the campaign that is being waged against Ethiopia.”

Accusations labeled against Ethiopia of



In another report on 13 June, the state news agency indirectly refers to the UN and other international actors such as the European Union (EU) as “**special interests**”, claiming that the “**misconceptions of special interest groups**” which “**accused the Government of Ethiopia [of] using hunger as a weapon of war**” have been ‘exposed’ by the Ethiopian embassy in London.

The report, titled “**Embassy exposes special interest group’s lies against Ethiopia**”, is accompanied by a cartoon featuring what appears to be a number of non-Ethiopians taking money from a TPFL graveyard while EU money is scurried away. This seems to suggest that international organisations, including the UN, are making money from their alleged collusion with the TPFL rebel group.



**These claims and designations represent a systematic and dangerous attempt to discredit those international aid organisations campaigning for better access to beneficiaries and for more international attention of the worsening local humanitarian situation in the Tigray region.**

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