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November 18, 2023

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Dear Chairman Cardin,

Subject: Urgent Call for U.S. Intervention to Address the Humanitarian Crisis in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia

On behalf of the Amhara Association of Oregon, I am writing to express our profound concern regarding the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. The severity of the situation necessitates urgent attention and action from the international community, with the United States playing a pivotal role as a champion of human rights and global justice.

The Ethiopian military's actions in the Amhara region have led to widespread suffering. Indiscriminate shelling of villages and cities, along with drone strikes, have resulted in numerous civilian casualties. Internet services have been completely shut down, isolating the region from the rest of the world. Vital health infrastructure and educational facilities have been destroyed, disrupting essential health services and leaving millions without access to education. The destruction also extends to higher education institutions, severely impacting the region's future prospects.

The crisis is further compounded by reports of egregious human rights violations, including the systematic sexual violence perpetrated by soldiers against women and girls. These acts of brutality not only violate human rights but also leave lasting scars on the affected individuals and communities.

Furthermore, the conflict has caused significant damage to the Lalibela rock-hewn churches, a UNESCO World Heritage site of immense cultural and historical importance. The damage of these ancient monuments is tragedy not only for Ethiopia but for the entire world, representing an irreplaceable loss of cultural heritage.

We, therefore, urge the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee to:

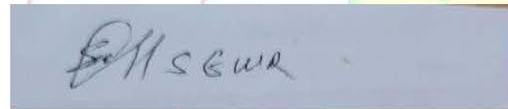
1. Strongly condemn the Ethiopian military's actions in the Amhara region and demand an immediate halt to the hostilities.

2. Encourage the U.S. Government to exert diplomatic pressure on the Ethiopian government to withdraw its military forces.
3. Call for sanctions or other measures against those responsible for human rights abuses in the Amhara region.
4. Facilitate international humanitarian aid to the region, ensuring unimpeded access to those in need.
5. Advocate for an independent international investigation into the human rights abuses to ensure accountability and justice.
6. Support initiatives to protect and restore damaged cultural sites, particularly the Lalibela rock-hewn churches.

As a community deeply connected to the Amhara region, we look to the United States to lead in addressing this crisis. Your action can help alleviate the suffering of countless individuals and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Thank you for considering our request. We eagerly await your response and the measures you will implement in response to this humanitarian emergency.

Sincerely,



Sileshi W Rufael  
President, Amhara Association of Oregon

CC: Senator Jeff Merkley  
Senator Ron Wyden

