

جيمس مدرستنا الهندية
GEMS OUR OWN INDIAN SCHOOL



Anchored in Excellence

United Nations Simulation Conference 2021

United Nations Security Council



Background Guide

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sr.No.	Topic	Page
1.	Letter from the Chairs	2
2.	Introduction to the Committee: a. About b. Structure and Functions c. Nature of Resolutions	3
3.	Agenda 1- “Promoting Transitional Justice Systems”: a. Introduction to the Topic b. Definition of Key Words c. History of the Agenda d. Main Issues of Concerns e. Key Parties f. Timeline of Events g. Questions to Consider h. Suggested Readings i. Bibliography	5
4.	Agenda 2- “Conflict in the Tigray Region”: a. Introduction to the Topic b. Definition of Key Words c. History of the Agenda d. Main Issues of Concerns e. Key Parties f. Previous Actions g. Questions to Consider h. Suggested Readings i. Bibliography	13

Gems Our Own Indian School

Letter from Chairs

To the Security Council,

Greetings delegates, we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council and sincerely hope this background guide helps you with your impending mountain of research. Whether or not you actually read this document, we'd like you to know that the Chairs of the Security Council would welcome you in with open arms.

Whether you're here to add an extra row to your MUN CV or to debate or to expand your social circle, we hope you have a fun, enriching experience at the SC of the United Nations Simulation Conference. We hope that you take away lots of important MUN skills and enrich yourselves with information regarding the art of the proxy war.

While all committees at this conference prompt delegates to understand their country's policy, the Security Council adds another level of realism and diplomacy that requires delegates to refine their negotiating skills. As many of you know, The Security Council is tasked with promoting and protecting international peace and security. Therefore, the topic chosen best captures the current threats to global security. To ensure that the committee runs as smoothly as possible, we hope that each and every one of you will bring unparalleled knowledge of your country's position and parliamentary procedure, as well as an understanding of the functions of the Security Council.

To all the delegates who have committed themselves to this conference, we sincerely hope that we meet all your expectations and help you thrive at the art of repertoire. Wishing you all the best for the upcoming conference.

Warm Regards,

The Chairs of the United Nations Security Council

Armaan Basheer & Sana Asraf

United Nations Security Council 2

United Nations Security Council

A century prior to the formation of the United Nations, several international instruments attempted to alleviate conflict and resolve issues. Organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Hague conventions are a few notable examples. Following the disasters of World War 1 (WW1), the Paris Peace Conference, also known as the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919, established The League of Nations in order to settle various disputes. However, the League of Nations was a highly flawed institution, lacked representation from most of the world and failed to prevent multiple regional conflicts as well as World War 2 (WW2).

Formed in 1945, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the UN. It was formed in the aftermath of the failure of the League of Nations and aimed to prevent another world war and other forms of conflict. In a nutshell, its primary responsibility is to ensure international peace and security. The UNSC, however, was greatly paralyzed in its early stages due to the Cold War between the US and USSR and hence failed to take constructive decisions on conflicts related to the same, but continued to deal with other issues. In 1956, the first UN peacekeeping force was established to end the Suez Crisis.

Structure and Functions

The United Nations is composed of 15 member states, 5 of which are permanent (United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France) and the remaining are elected by the General Assembly every 1-2 years. However, as per Article 31 of the UN Charter, any party not a member of the UNSC but that is involved in the dispute being discussed may be invited, without vote, to the meetings (the concept of observer states in a particular meeting).

As per the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council's primary function is to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations. It also plays an integral role in investigating any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction, threat to peace or an act of aggression and recommend methods of reconciling or consequential actions thereof. Among the options that the UNSC can adopt for consequential actions is the placement of economic sanctions and other peaceful means or military aggression against an actor in certain cases.

Among a few of its specific functions are the formulation of plans to regulate armaments, appointment of the Secretary General and election of judges of the International Court of Justice with the General Assembly. **Article 25 of the UN Charter makes it the only UN organ whose decisions are binding and have to be carried out.**

The UNSC can enforce its decisions in any ways that don't involve the use of force. According to Article 41 of the UN Charter- *“The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.”*

However, if despite the working of Article 41 the dispute does not resolve, then pursuant to the following article the use of armed force is permitted: *“...demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.”* Such plans however, have to be made with assistance from the Military Staff Committee.

Nature of Resolutions

The UNSC treats resolutions under two main criteria:

1. **Pacific Settlement of Disputes** (Corresponding to Chapter VI of the UN Charter).

Please make sure that you read all the articles in the chapter to understand in depth what it is about. The underlying factor in all articles of this category are that they involve no use of force, or military solutions.

Additional Provision: In case a resolution is being discussed that entirely conforms to the articles in Chapter VI of the UN Charter. An invocation of Article 27(3) of the UN Charter *may* be entertained. As per paragraph 3 of Article 27 [27(3)], nations which are directly involved in the conflict shall abstain from voting on resolution

2. **Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression** (Corresponding to Chapter VII of the UN Charter).

Please make sure that you read all the articles in the chapter to understand in depth what it is about. The underlying factor in all articles of this category are that they do involve use of measures that might not necessarily be peaceful.

Important Note: The resolutions in this committee must utilize the mandate of only the Security Council and must not go beyond it.

“Promoting Transitional Justice Systems”

Over the years, the United Nations has acquired significant experience in developing the rule of law and pursuing transitional justice in States emerging from conflict or repressive rule. Experience has demonstrated that promoting reconciliation and consolidating peace in the long-term necessitates the establishment or reestablishment of an effective governing administrative and justice system founded on respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

Transitional justice is a method of dealing with systemic or large-scale human rights violations. It provides compensation to victims and creates or increases opportunities to transform political systems, conflicts, and other conditions that may be the source of violations.

Transitional justice consists of both judicial and non-judicial processes and mechanisms, including prosecution initiatives, facilitating initiatives in respect of the right to truth, delivering reparations, institutional reform and national consultations. The Member States can engage in active debates pertaining to taking account of the political context when designing and implementing transitional justice processes and mechanisms, ensuring the rights of minorities through transitional justice processes and mechanisms, and so on.

Locally owned and victim-centric transitional justice mechanisms have repeatedly helped resolve grievances and pave the way for a more peaceful society. Delegates or the Security Council must work with other UN agencies to adopt a decisive approach to resolve conflicts.

United Nations rule of law and transitional justice activities include developing standards and best practices, assisting in the design and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms, providing technical, material and financial support, and promoting the inclusion of human rights and transitional justice considerations in peace agreements

The United Nations (UN) Security Council is an inadequately understood source of field support for transitional justice intervention. The Security Council assists national and local efforts by expanding the voice of national stakeholders, exerting pressure on refractory individuals, protecting the integrity of existing peace agreements from internal attacks, using resources and requesting support mechanisms.

Definition of keywords

1. **Reparations:** The goal of reparations is to alleviate the suffering of victims of human rights violations. They make amends with victims, assist them in overcoming the consequence of the abuse, and assist in rehabilitation.
These could include monetary payments, social services like health care or education, as well as symbolic compensation such as public apologies.
2. **Truth Commission/ Truth and Reconciliation Commission/ Truth and Justice Commission:** an official body who is tasked with discovering and bringing past wrongdoings of a government into light.
3. **Institutional reform:** Public institutions, such as the police, military, and judiciary, are frequently involved in repression and other violations of human rights. When societies go through a transition, these institutions must be altered or reformed to ensure accountability and prevent abuse from happening again. This includes reorganizing these governmental actors to guarantee that they respect human rights and follow the rule of law.
4. **Memorials:** They aim to keep memories of people or events alive. They serve to honour people who died during conflict or other tragedies, analyse the past, address current challenges, and show respect to victims in the framework of transitional justice. They can assist in the creation of records to prevent denial and assist society in moving forward. Architectural memorials, for example, are examples of commemorative acts.
5. **Prosecution:** Serious international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, are investigated and prosecuted to assist reinforcement of the rule of law by punishing those who break it. It also shows that criminality will not be tolerated, and that those who violate human rights will be held accountable.
6. **Guarantees of non-repetition:** Measures that serve as deterrents to repeating a previous offense. They are one of the four classic aspects of transitional justice, along with truth, justice, and restitution - all of which are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

History

Transitional justice has its roots in ancient Greece, when, after a time of tyrannical rule in Athens, several measures were implemented to cope with the past once democracy was restored.

Its beginnings are tied to the founding of the International Military Tribunal, which convicted leading Nazis in Nuremberg after World War II ended. During the 1990s, it grew more well-known and mirrored certain contemporary ideas and principles.

The emergence of the discourse of transitional justice is recognized by four events that took place in the 1980s and 1990s:

1. the transition to democracy in Argentina in 1983
2. The end of communism in Eastern and Central Europe after 1989
3. the reinvigoration of international criminal justice after the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1993
4. The establishment of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995.

As a result of this historical framing process, transitional justice is now widely recognized to include particular procedures that are expected to be utilized to respond to significant human rights violations or international crimes in many parts of the world. The consolidation of transitional justice around these historically-bequeathed understandings of violence and mechanisms risks crowding out alternative possible ways of thinking about and responding to human rights breaches. Understanding the history of transitional justice might help us better grasp the limitations of present techniques and come up with innovative solutions to overcome them.

These four events impacted the creation and evolution of the transitional justice discourse, imbuing it with distinct traits. They also affected opinions on whether human rights abuses merited transitional justice interventions and which procedures should be utilized to remedy these violations. Transitional justice's present mandate, aims, and toolkit are the outcome of this emerging process.

Main Issues of Concern

Halting Efforts in Latin America

Much of Latin America is still dealing with the consequences of the atrocities perpetrated by authoritarian regimes that ruled the region from the 1960s through the 1980s. Efforts to bring justice to the victims have been unsuccessful. Furthermore, recent attempts to foster peace in the region are also falling apart.

Latin America has been spearheading the implementation of transitional justice for a number of years now. Organizing civil society movements, establishing truth commissions and reparations programs are few actions taken by the region that are a testament to the aforementioned. However, as of late, the transitional justice system and policies that were implemented have been unravelling. Transitional justice techniques have been unable to stem the tide of forced displacement, environmental devastation, and attacks on environmental activists and human rights defenders. Moreover, they have also failed to curb crimes of various varieties.

Africa's transitional justice challenge

A continent that has seen multiple conflicts has also been home to a variety of attempts to achieve transitional justice. The Central African Republic launched a series of discussions with the aim of establishing transitional justice mechanisms, while Gambia formed a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission. However, similar efforts in the continent have been criticised for being fruitless. Furthermore, the rise of armed groups in control of different regions of the continent also poses a threat to the upcoming transitional justice system.

Designing a coherent and comprehensive transitional justice framework

Though the term transitional justice is not widely known, numerous regions have established transitional justice mechanisms for the purpose of dealing with atrocities committed in the past and transitioning into a new era away from conflict and oppression. Transitional justice is gaining prominence in several countries; however, it is evident that there is only partial implementation of the same.

Gems Our Own Indian School

To ensure proper implementation of transitional justice policies and techniques, the framework of transitional justice must encompass the primary principles of the above-mentioned. Truth Seeking, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition.

Key Parties

USA: Following September 11, 2001, the US government authorized and carried out counter-terrorism measures that resulted in infringements of human rights in the guise of fighting a "global war on terror." Torture, inhuman and humiliating treatment of captives were among them, as was covert and arbitrary imprisonment. The government employed fear-mongering tactics to quell resistance to its counter-terrorism programs, and relied on national security justification to keep most of its misdeeds hidden. The USA is expected to assume accountability for its wrongdoings, and it must admit to previous malfeasance and take measures to remedy them. To meet these demands, the United States needs to pursue transitional justice.

Philippines: For the Philippines, transitional justice remains a struggle. On a national level, there is a need to combine efforts in the areas of truth-seeking, culpability, reparations, and institutional reform. While different methods are used to manage and resolve disputes in general, these initiatives do not adequately address the fundamental causes and consequences that cause conflicts to recur. They have still not altered people's perceptions of the issues, nor have they mended the damaged connections that create dissent and conflict among individuals and groups, as well as between citizens and the government.

Kenya: The presidential and legislative elections in Kenya in December 2007 were followed by a period of extreme violence and political instability. Allegations of vote tampering collided with ethnic tensions, resulting in violent clashes, riots, rape and assault. An estimated 1,100 deaths were reported in the post-election violence, which further caused widespread devastation. Following this interval of intense violence, a recommendation to establish a Truth, Justice, and reconciliation Commission was considered and implemented.

Gems Our Own Indian School

Along with the TJRC, some major reforms were also instituted. Yet, implementation of transitional justice techniques has been prolonged.

Lebanon: Lebanon has a long history of human rights and humanitarian law transgressions, which included a series of interconnected wars, two concurrent occupations, and a spate of high-profile killings. According to a report published by the International Committee of the Red Cross, 75% of Lebanese residents have had "personal experience" with armed warfare. Lebanon was shaken to its core by the 1975–1990 Civil war which is estimated to have taken the lives of over 100,000 civilians and the its continued occupation by Israel and Syria. Parts of Lebanon remained under Israeli and Syrian control, and human rights violations persisted. Even after the Syrian Troops left in April 2005, the country has not been able to completely gain independence from its violent cycles.

Morocco: Thousands of individuals were unfairly arrested, and tortured by authorities after Morocco gained independence in 1956. They also reacted violently to public demonstrations and strikes, killing hundreds of civilians. In 1990, King Hassan II formed the Advisory Council on Human Rights (CCDH) in response to mounting domestic and international criticism. Hundreds of political opponents were liberated as a result. The committee suggested to the monarch in 1998 that he establish an official organization to compensate victims of previous human rights violations. Just two weeks before his death in 1999, King Hassan approved the proposition. After King Hassan's demise, King Mohammed VI appointed the Independent Arbitration Commission (IAC) in 1999 and the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) in 2004 to alleviate the growing unrest from civil society and victims groups—who were unsatisfied with previous measures. However, there's still a considerable amount of work to do. Programs promoting communal reparations are still in their infancy. Several unsolved disappearance incidents still exist. The IER's suggestions for legal and institutional reforms are still in the works.

Timeline

The Nuremberg Trials in 1945-1946, a model of accountability concentrating on individual responsibility that took place in Germany following World War II, is frequently credited with launching Transitional Justice. Despite its success, however, the Nuremberg model vanished from worldwide practice throughout the Cold War.

Beginning with the prosecutions of former members of military juntas in Greece in the 1970s and forward, the area of Transitional Justice acquired momentum and coherence (1975).

In the 1980s, the focus of transitional justice was on criminal justice, with a strong emphasis on human rights promotion. This resulted in a global focus on human rights and the gradual rise of the human rights regime, culminating in the adoption of international human rights laws and conventions. Since the early 1980s, transitional justice processes have been used as part of steps to account for the past and construct a future democratic state. Trials, truth commissions, reparations, lustration, museums, and other remembrance sites have all been used to remedy previous human rights breaches, either individually or in combination.

The focus of transitional justice shifted in the 1990s. Transitional justice reemerged as a new topic of study in democratization, influenced by the worldwide wave of democratization, notably the third wave. The Rome Statute established the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998. It is the world's first international criminal court dedicated to ending impunity for those who commit serious crimes. In circumstances where countries are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute leaders of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, it was created.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was established in 1993, and subsequent international and mixed criminal tribunals made international criminal justice possible. This renaissance resulted in the broadening of the transitional justice discourse, which had previously been limited to national policies such as those implemented in Latin America and Eastern and Central Europe, to international methods for dealing with human rights breaches.

The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, established in 1995 to investigate human rights breaches perpetrated during apartheid, widened the scope of the emerging transitional justice debate. The South African Commission cemented the role of non-judicial mechanisms in transitional justice and opened the discourse to multidisciplinary approaches thanks to its broad mandate, which allowed it to grant amnesty in exchange for full disclosure and reliance on a language of reconciliation and healing.

Questions to Consider

1. Should perpetrators of gross human rights abuses such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes during the crisis be put beyond the reach of legal justice, or should they be made to face the rigours of the law?
2. What if their conduct was lawful at the time; or there was no law prohibiting their conduct?
3. Should political exemptions or pardons be granted or should they be subjected to a process of retributive justice?
4. Would compromises of principle have to be made in order to guarantee peace?
5. Would such compromises not amount to a denial of justice to victims? And if they did, would that promote peace or would it deepen the culture of impunity which may have provoked the crisis to begin with?

Suggested reading

1. Understanding Transitional Justice: A Struggle for Peace, Reconciliation, and Rebuilding - Book by Giada Girelli
2. Transitional Justice in Law, History and Anthropology - Lia Kent, Melissa Demian
3. An Introduction to Transitional Justice - Olivera Simić

Bibliography

<https://www.ictj.org/our-work>

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/andes/colombia/five-challenges-negotiating-transitional-justice-colombia>

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/insights/28053/the-many-challenges-facing-transitional-justice>

<https://asia-ajar.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Philippines-English-Transitional-Justice-Factsheet.pdf>

https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/TJ_Guidance_Note_March_2010FINAL.pdf

<https://www.universal-rights.org/blog/when-the-weapons-fall-silent-un-security-council-discusses-transitional-justice/>

“Conflict in the Tigray Region”

The situation in the Tigray Region involves most P5 Nations and is quite recent with multiple East African nations taking a stand on the issue.

The country of Ethiopia is divided into ten distinct sections. The Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) is a political party based in the region of Tigray. Despite the Tigrayans being a minority, the TPLF has had a stronghold on the country, being the head of a coalition of several regional parties. Therefore, its power wasn’t just restricted to its founding region. However, over the years, the party has come to be known as autocratic and dysfunctional in its ways leading to its fall from power after massive protests.

The chaos that followed paved the way for a young visionary by the name of Abiy Ahmed to rise to power. He was soon elected into office as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. The young leader promised reforms and vowed to end the autocratic rule. But in the wake of these reforms, what followed was war, destruction and terror.

Ethiopian government has invoked national sovereignty to justify its actions in Tigray and deflect criticism. However, observers note that the government remains bound by international conventions on conflict, including prohibitions on deliberate targeting of civilians. Although a media blackout has prevented definitive reports, there are widespread accounts of bombing of civilians, burning of crops and refugee camps, looting of hospitals, and summary executions.

The Ethiopian government has acknowledged the Security Council's efforts to deliver humanitarian relief and expand humanitarian assistance. Despite this, there are still humanitarian issues to contend with. They demanded a broader humanitarian response and unfettered humanitarian access for all people in need, especially those facing food insecurity. However, Contrary to public declarations, the Ethiopian government and regional authorities continue to isolate Tigray, allowing only minimal humanitarian aid and personnel to enter.

The Security Council voiced grave concern about accusations of human rights breaches and abuses in Tigray, particularly instances of sexual assault against women and girls, and urged for those guilty to be investigated and brought to account.

The fighting also involves neighbouring Eritrea, whose war with Ethiopia from 1998 to 2000 officially ended in 2018 with a much-anticipated peace treaty.

Definition of Key Terms

- 1. Coalition:** Coalition governments are typically a short arrangement established when no particular political party has a clear majority and rival parties voluntarily agree to collaborate. A situation like this is more likely to arise during a crisis, such as a war, or in response to political breakdown.
- 2. Federal government:** A federal government is a system of power sharing that involves a central national government and local state governments that are interlinked by the national government.
- 3. Ethnic federalism:** Ethnic federalism is a federal form of national governance based on ethnicity, with ethnicity defining the federated regional or state divisions. Ethnic federal systems have been developed in order to successfully meet aspirations for ethnic autonomy and manage inter-ethnic conflicts within a state,
- 4. Quarantine:** In this context, Quarantine refers to the definitive actions taken by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed with regard to access into the Tigray region. This includes cutting off the internet, roads and the airports in the region alongside withholding of humanitarian aid
- 5. Sovereignty:** Sovereignty is a political term that refers to supreme authority or dominant power. The "sovereign," or king, wields absolute power in a monarchy. Sovereign power in modern democracies rests with the people, who exercise it through representative organizations like Congress or Parliament. The Sovereign is the one who has unrestricted authority.

History

On November 4, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed authorized a military strike against regional troops in Tigray, which sparked the war. After months of dispute between Mr Abiy's administration and leaders of Tigray people's liberation front, the war erupted. The party was at the heart of power for over three decades until being marginalized by Mr Abiy, who took office in 2018 following anti-government rallies. The origins of this issue may be traced back to Ethiopia's political structure. Ethiopia has had a federal system in place since 1994, in which ethnic groups manage the affairs of ten regions. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) - was influential in setting up this system. TPLF was the leader of a four party coalition that deposed the military regime in control of the region in 1991. Ethiopia grew more affluent and stable during the partnership, although concerns about human rights and democracy were voiced on a regular basis.

Discontent gradually transformed to protest, resulting in a cabinet change that saw Mr Abiy installed as Prime Minister. Mr. Abiy liberalized politics, founded a new political party (the Prosperity Party), and ousted senior Tigrayan government officials accused of corruption and persecution. The Prime Minister successfully resolved a long-standing territorial issue with Eritrea as well, winning him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019. Mr Abiy's changes were seen by Tigray's leaders as an effort to centralize authority and destabilize Ethiopia's federal structure. Tigray disregarded the national government and conducted its own regional election in September, beginning the dispute. In October, the central government halted financing for Tigray and severed relations with it, deepening the schism. Tigray's government said this amounted to a "declaration of war".

At the time, both sides regarded the other as illegal. Tigray said at the time that since Mr Abiy's appointment as Prime Minister, the central administration had not been put to the test in a national election. The TPLF also chastised Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his "unprincipled" alliance with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, who has subsequently dispatched soldiers to Tigray to help Mr Abiy.

Since 4 November, when Mr Abiy authorized an invasion after TPLF fighters captured federal military bases, more than two million of Tigray's six million inhabitants have fled their homes. As of now, the TPLF has been labelled as a terrorist group and resistance fighters have created the Tigray Defence Forces (TDF).

Main Issues of Concern

1. As the UN has warned, this war can and will aggravate humanitarian catastrophes. Mistreatment of Tigrayans in other Ethiopian regions, as well as stories of non-Tigrayan residents being massacred in Tigray. With nearly 4.5 million people, this war has intensified ethnic tensions and caused a massive humanitarian disaster.
2. The people of Tigray are in desperate need of help. Food, water, and medicine are in low supply, and many locations are deemed unknown due to the inability of foreign help to access numerous cities. More than two million people have been forced to evacuate their homes as a result of the fighting, and millions more are reliant on food help.
3. Ethiopia's government has regularly stopped basic utilities to the region, including electricity and communications, exacerbating the issue. This, combined with all parties' killing, pillaging, and rape, has resulted in a humanitarian crisis.
4. **The Effects on Sudan:** Sudan ordered the closure of portions of its eastern border with Ethiopia two days after the battle began, and reportedly began sending more than 6,000 of its own forces inside the Gedraf state, which borders the city of Tigray. According to UN High Commissioner for Refugees statistics, these border restrictions have resulted in an influx of over 56,000 refugees, with the number predicted to rise to 200,000 if the violence continues. At the height of the violence, the Sudanese government reported nearly 4,000 people seeking asylum at the UN Um Rakuba camp in a single day, as the camp was approaching capacity. Additionally, several Ethiopian rockets have landed in Sudan during the conflict.

Key Parties

TPLF and its Special Forces: As stated previously, the TPLF is an important regional coalition party located in Tigray. The TPLF has a lengthy relationship with the government and has played a major role in the current crisis. The TPLF and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed were formerly allies in government, but a disagreement over his political reforms sparked the conflict, which has killed thousands and uprooted millions since November. After losing control of most of the territory early in the battle, the rebels reclaimed most of it in June, including the capital, Mekelle. The TPLF claims to be Tigray's legitimate government after winning regional elections in 2020. The Ethiopian government called the election illegitimate. It considers the TPLF to be a terrorist group. The Tigray Defence Forces (TDF), the armed wing of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), switched from defense to offense, reshaping the Ethiopian conflict in ways that were not anticipated at the outset.

Prosperity Party: Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed founded the prosperity party in 2019 as a successor to the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). The Amhara Democratic Party (ADP), the Oromo Democratic Party (ODP), and the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement merged to establish the EPRDF (SEPDM). Following that, this merger brought together a handful of movements and organizations with similar ambitions and plans for Ethiopia. The Tigray People's Liberation Front, which had ruled the country for nearly 27 years, refused to join the new party and even acknowledged its existence.

Ethiopian National Defence Force: The Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) has roughly 140,000 active members, with the army accounting for the vast majority of them. Its air force provides it a dominance over Tigray's skies. To install the government, ENDF forces were dispatched to the Tigray Region on November 8, 2020, backed by militias from the Amhara and Eritrean Defence Forces regions. ENDF personnel have been accused of committing war crimes against civilians in the Tigray Region from the commencement of the conflict. Rape and other gender-based crimes, as well as extrajudicial murders in combat zones, are among the charges levelled.

Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF): Ethiopia's administration has been able to maintain close connections with Eritrea. With the outbreak of the conflict, Eritrea, which had been locked in a long standoff with the TPLF, deepened connections with Ethiopia's military by dispatching its own troops to cope with the crisis in Tigray. Their military, it is believed, has contributed to the destruction of the Tigray region. Since Ethiopia's federal army expelled the TPLF from the regional capital Mekelle in November, numerous armed groups have been accused of committing human rights violations in Tigray. Eritrean forces have been accused of mass rape and murder in Tigray, notably in the towns of Axum and Dengolat.

Previous Actions

1. The Council voiced great concern about reports of significant human rights breaches and abuses, as well as violations of international humanitarian and refugee law, allegedly committed by all parties in Ethiopia's Tigray area since the war began on November 4, 2020.
2. They also demanded an immediate and verifiable evacuation of Eritrean forces from Tigray. It emphasized the importance of holding all those responsible for human rights violations and atrocities accountable.
3. They also asked all parties to respect and protect all civilians, including humanitarian personnel and innocent civilians, as well as all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, as well as to take all steps required by international humanitarian law.

Questions to Consider

1. What measures must the international community take in order to prevent a proxy war between Egypt and Ethiopia over the foreign funded GERD?
2. How does the involvement of other countries in this war burden Ethiopia or assist it in resolving its humanitarian crisis?
3. Does the International Community have the right to expose/demand Eritrea to remove their soldiers from Ethiopia when tensions are already escalating?
4. How will the establishment of Russian and American naval bases along with each of their respected allies resolve the tensions?
5. Why has the international community and media been silent and what is its role in avoiding a humanitarian crisis?

Suggested Reading

1. UNHCR Ethiopia - Tigray Situation Update #2 - ReliefWeb, 18 November 2020.
2. Situation Report EEPA HORN No. 2 - EEPA Horn, 18 November 2020
3. The Politics of Contemporary Ethiopia: Ethnic Federalism and Authoritarian Survival
- By Yohannes Gedamu

Bibliography

<https://news.un.org/en/tags/tigray>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/30/latest-crisis-ethiopias-tigray-region>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/05/world/africa/ethiopia-tigray-conflict-explained.html>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/following-tigray-conflict-rocky-road-peace-ethiopia>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14501.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14572.doc.htm>