

1. Political and security situation in Tigray

1.1. Can you briefly address the political developments that are the background to the conflict as it has developed in Tigray. Can you address the security situation in Tigray, in particular the increase in violence reported by a variety of sources and organizations since November 2020 and the background to this? In doing so, could you also explicitly indicate how the situation, with special regard to the violence (in terms of nature and extent) and the number of victims (dead and wounded), developed before, during and after the Mekele offensive, up to the end of the reporting period?

1.1.1. Is this mostly random violence or directed against specific groups? If the violence is directed at specific groups, is it predominantly Tigreans who are victims of the conflict or are these other (ethnic) groups as well? Why are these groups specifically targeted/are these groups specifically monitored? For example, if Tigreans are specifically targeted: Is it because of their ethnicity, or because they (are suspected/allegedly) have, or have had, ties to TPLF?

1.1.2. In this respect, could you also address the risk that women specifically face of becoming victims of violence?

1.1.3. Are "normal" civilians who have no participation in the conflict also targeted (e.g., based on their ethnicity)?

1.1.4. What are the main warring parties/actors committing violence in Tigray?

1.1.5. What types/forms of violence are used? Which methods of violence are used: those that target specific victims or those that cause random victims?

1.1.6. Is the violence that takes place limited to specific parts/places in Tigray, or does the violence take place widespread throughout Tigray?

1.1.7. How many fatalities did the conflict in Tigray result in?

1.1.7.1. How many of these are civilian casualties?

1.1.7.2. How many people were injured? Can you display these numbers in relation to the total population of the region?

2. Position of the victims of the conflict in Tigray

2.1. Is it possible for persons who are victims or fear to become victims of the conflict in Tigray to obtain protection from authorities or other parties?

2.1.1. If so, can you comment on the protection options in different areas/provinces?

2.1.2. Are there differences in protection options for ethnic Tigreans from Tigray and for other groups from Tigray?

2.1.3. Are there any groups that are excluded from protection?

2.1.4. Is it possible for individuals who are or fear becoming victims of the violence in Tigray to relocate to another part of the country in order to escape the violence in Tigray? What obstacles/restrictions/problems might someone face if they were to settle elsewhere in Ethiopia and to what extent are these problems exemplary? Can you indicate to what extent the opportunities and obstacles are different for different population groups?

2.1.5. In this regard could you specifically address the settlement opportunities for Tigreans from Tigray in Addis Ababa?

3. Position of Tigreans

3.1. Could you please address the position and treatment of Tigreans in Tigray independent of the conflict (to the extent possible) and in other parts of Ethiopia? (See also the passage on the increase in anti-Tigrean sentiment since 2018 in your Country of Origin Information Report on Ethiopia of February 2021, page 67).

3.1.1. Do they experience problems, violence and/or discrimination by fellow citizens and/or government? What forms do these problems and/or discrimination take? Can you indicate on what scale this occurs?

3.1.2. What is the basis for these problems? Is it found in an ethnic motive or a political one?

3.1.3. If and in so far as this is different from Tigreans experiencing problems as a result of the conflict: Is it possible for Tigreans to seek protection from the authorities or international organizations? Is it possible for this group to escape from occurring problems in another part of the country ?

3.1.4. How are Tigreans recognized as being ethnically Tigrean?

3.1.5. In your report of February 2021 you also write on p. 67 that persons with foreign passports with a Tigrean surname were reportedly not allowed to leave the country. What characterizes a Tigrean surname? What is the situation in terms of being allowed to leave the country for this group now?

3.1.6. To what extent do Tigreans originating from Tigray speak languages other than Tigrinya?

4. Refugees, displaced persons and returnees

With respect to the use of the term refugee, I ask that you take into account the distinction in everyday language use and the legal concept of refugee.

4.1. Can you provide a factual description of the flow of displaced persons and/or refugees in and out of the country, and the resulting movements within the country as a result of the events in Tigray?

4.2. How many displaced persons has the conflict resulted in so far? Where do IDPs find refuge?

4.3. Are there any areas in Ethiopia where internally displaced persons are accommodated? If so,

4.4. What is the actual situation in these areas?

4.5. Can you address the treatment of Tigreans returning to Ethiopia from abroad?