

*Open letter: To the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali.*



CC: 1. H.E. Wro.Sahle-Work Zewde  
President of Ethiopia  
2. H.E. Ato Demeke Mekonnen  
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister  
3. H.E.Wro Muferihat Kamil  
Minister of Peace

Your Excellency Prime Minister,  
First and foremost, congratulations to you and your party, the Prosperity Party, on winning Ethiopia's 2021 election.

Your excellency,

We, the members of Multinational Women Peacemakers Network (MWPN) are a consortium of Black, Migrant and Dutch women groups. We have many identities and come from different parts of the world. We are of various age, nationalities, ethnicities, educational background etc. Some of us were born here in the Netherlands and have dual nationalities; some of us came as migrants, refugees, professionals, students and/or wives. Whatever the circumstances that brought us here, we find that we all have one thing in common: we all came from war-torn countries and we all know what it means to flee from war in search of safety and refuge.

Two years ago, you received the Nobel Peace Prize for your effort to make peace with Eritrea. For many of us, you were a worthy peace laureate. Your powerful Nobel Prize acceptance speech eloquently explained, "There are those, who have never seen war, but glorify and romanticize it. They have not seen the fear. They have not seen the fatigue. They have not seen the destruction or heartbreak, nor have they felt the mournful emptiness of war after the carnage." Your speech, when you took office as Prime Minister in 2018 was full of compassion, integrity and resilience. With those two internationally televised speeches you inspired us. Indeed, you proved yourself a great man of peace and compassion. We now recall these words to urge you to consider several important steps when you start your new government on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. (4<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 EC)  
Specifically, we urge you to:

1. Solve the raging conflict and help suffering civilians on the warfront;
2. Publicly announce your willingness to do so and encourage other parties to commit to ending the fighting immediately. Without getting into all the details, it is painfully obvious the conflict in many parts of the country has led to great numbers of deaths, widespread human rights violations, internal displacement, hunger, destruction and severe suffering to many Ethiopians;
3. Issue orders to protect all civilians throughout Ethiopia, regardless of their ethnicity, including refugees and internally displaced persons and particularly women in the light of widespread reports of sexual and gender-based violence;
4. Granting amnesty to political prisoners languishing in prison to facilitate all-inclusive national dialogue;
5. Continue your support for investigations into human rights abuses and violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law by all actors. We welcome your support to the joint investigation by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. We encourage you to ensure other human rights organizations are allowed access to independently verify ongoing reports of human rights abuses and violations;
6. Open credible and inclusive talks with political and civil society actors.

Ethiopia needs a national dialogue designed to bring together all sectors of society. We wish you and all Ethiopians the very best.

Alem Desta

3-10-2021

Chairperson of MWPN, Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network.

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