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CATHOLIC EPARCHY
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Ref.No Ad.Ep/-008/22

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Date 4rd Oct., 2022

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“War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil. Let us not remain mired in theoretical discussions, but touch the wounded flesh of the victims. Let us look once more at all those civilians whose killing was considered “collateral damage”. Let us ask the victims themselves”. (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, no.261)

A Call for Action

To END the Extreme Suffering of the Population of Tigray Caused by the on-going Genocidal War & Siege of 700 Days!

Greetings of Peace to you all !!!

Extreme brutality has been the hallmark of the ongoing devastating genocidal war in Tigray which no one can assume this magnitude of pain endured by the entire population under siege & total blockage from all basic services for so long!!! On top of already existing siege & suffering, the currently resumed all-round attacks with drones & warplanes, massive indiscriminate rain of artillery shelling to civilians in crowded places, **urban & semi-urban centers, market places, health & education facilities, etc.**, are destroying innocent civilian lives of the population who have lost all means of coping capacity to withstand against this monster terrorism.

The continuous brutal shelling and air-bombardment of towns and villages in all districts throughout the nearby northern and eastern border area districts within Tigray, are bringing incalculable destruction of lives and property; to mention only a few: Mekelle, Wukro, Adyabo districts, Sheraro, Shire, Rama, Adi Daero, Dedebit, Adigrat, in Gulomekada, Irob such as Dawhan, and Alitena - where our Catholic Church's Health Centre run by the Daughters of Charity Sisters is also shelled.

It is very painful and shocking to see horrifying acts of brutal crimes indiscriminate rain of artillery shelling & bombardments to civilians and then unable to get support to treat them. As a result, **all life saving humanitarian operations are almost totally halted** across Tigray. Essential drugs for chronic patients are no more available (insulin, tablets of hypertension, ART, vaccine for rabbi, vaccinations for newly born children). Besides, it is extremely difficult to move across the rural areas of Tigray to see what is happening because there is no fuel and the humanitarian condition is expected to be **very dire and requiring some sort of swift action with any possible means to help the people in this desperate situation**. Survivors of brutal rape are unable to get post-rape care left with their wounds as a result of the complete siege/blockage. **On the top of living through this state-planned siege and blockage, it is heart-bleeding reality and awesome crime too, that we are let down to live with over one and half million school children been deprived of their right to education for three years.**

In this critical situation we believe that the local and international collective civilized institutions and peace loving elements have to exercise their moral duty, be a voice for the voiceless, and enforce international treaties to save more than 7 million lives from vanishing.

Therefore, the Catholic Church in Tigray is urging all the Catholic Networks & our Partners, the national & international religious leaders, respective UN Agencies, Organizations, democratic Governments, Peace-loving international community, to condemn these brutal genocidal acts, and reach for us by all means that you have at your disposal to alleviate the ongoing inexplicable human suffering of our population, and thus, engaging your actions:-

- to be aware that this is the largest active war going-on on our planet right now, devouring largest number of productive human lives;
- to stop indiscriminate shelling and bombardment of innocent civilians;
- to allow urgently unfettered humanitarian access to all parts of Tigray;
- to restore all basic services;
- to be a voice for the millions of voiceless victims in this horrific situation;
- to stop the ongoing devastating genocidal war in Tigray & end the siege;
- to bring ceasefire and political dialogue to ensure lasting peace.

I am immensely grateful to all the **Diaspora movements of Tegar**u and their friends for their unceasing efforts towards the cause of **ending the genocidal war and the ongoing suffering in Tigray**.

I also remain most grateful to our support-rendering local & international partners, and all who are working for an end of this **distressing humanitarian and existential crisis in Tigray as well as elsewhere in the whole country**.

To all those **political elites, activists & media - who are realizing the gravity of this situation and are working for positive inspiration and engagements**, we acknowledge your nobles moves, we urge you continue doing more on, and we pray that your courageous works will bear fruit.

*“Whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it is also peaceable,shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. **The peace shown by the peacemakers brings harvest of justice.**” James 3:17-18).*

The Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat, which itself is living through this extremely painful genocidal situation in Tigray, as usual re-confirms its commitment to be in solidarity of sympathy, prayers and works of charity **with all the people who are going through an inexplicable sufferings in Tigray and across the country**.

May you ever be blessed with Love and Peace of God,



+ Abune Tesfaselassie Medhin
Bishop of Adigrat Eparchy