



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
King Charles St
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AH

4 November 2020

Dear Foreign Secretary

I am writing to you on behalf of the APPG for Eritrea regarding the growing tensions in Tigray, the consequences it would have for Eritrea and the wider region, and the urgent need for de-escalation.

Tigray is facing considerable threats from both the Ethiopian federal state and the Government of Eritrea. We are becoming increasingly concerned that should the situation deteriorate further the region of Tigray will be surrounded by hostile actors. The UK should continue to support politically inclusive dialogue within Ethiopia and restate its commitment to support democratic action taken within the boundaries of Ethiopian law.

We welcome Minister Duddridge's visit to Ethiopia from 27 - 29 July and we understand he expressed the need for more peaceful dialogue between different ethnic groups in Ethiopia and for space to be given for political debate. We further welcome support the £30 million that the UK has spent to support Ethiopia's electoral process, support engagement with citizens and support civil society organisations so that they can play an increasing role in monitoring human rights. As the UK looks to reduce its ODA spending, we ask that these programmes are protected as such programmes represent

We support participation within the democratic process by all groups. Should Tigray decide legally to succeed from Ethiopia the UK should recognise the new state and offer support. If both the Federal Ethiopian state and Government of Eritrea commence military or otherwise hostile action against Tigray for legally succeeding from Ethiopia then it would find itself fighting on all sides or blockaded and unable to bring in essential supplies.

Kind regards,

Kate Osamor MP

Chair APPG for Eritrea