

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2023 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-080-2023

Proposed by Council Member Blegay

Introduced by Council Members Blegay, Dernoga, Harrison, Watson, Fisher, Olson,
Oriadha, Franklin, Hawkins and Burroughs

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction September 12, 2023

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Condemnation of All Acts of Violence and Human Rights Abuses Against Civilians in the
3 Tigray Region of Ethiopia

4 For the purpose of expressing the Prince George's County Council's support for condemning all
5 acts of violence and human rights abuses against civilians in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.

6 WHEREAS, regarding the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law,
7 including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as the
8 Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine; and

9 WHEREAS, recognizing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Tigray region of
10 Ethiopia, characterized by widespread violence, displacement of populations, human rights
11 abuses, and severe food and medical shortages; and

12 WHEREAS, emphasizing the urgent need to alleviate the suffering of the affected
13 population and address the dire humanitarian situation in Tigray; and

14 WHEREAS, reaffirming the commitment to uphold human rights, ensure the protection
15 of civilians, and guarantee unhindered access for humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected
16 areas; and

17 WHEREAS, acknowledging the efforts made by international and regional
18 humanitarian organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, in providing assistance
19 to the affected population in Tigray despite significant challenges; and

20 WHEREAS, noting with concern the reported obstacles and restrictions imposed on
21 humanitarian actors, hindering the delivery of life-saving aid, including arbitrary detentions,

1 denial of access, attacks on humanitarian personnel and assets, and other acts that impede the
2 provision of assistance; and

3 WHEREAS, deeply concerned by the reports of widespread violence, including sexual
4 and gender-based violence, forced displacement, extrajudicial killings, and other human rights
5 violations committed against civilians in Tigray; and

6 WHEREAS, reiterating the importance of upholding the principles of impartiality,
7 neutrality, and independence in humanitarian action while respecting the sovereignty and
8 territorial integrity of Ethiopia.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince
10 George's County, Maryland, that the Council hereby condemns all acts of violence, human
11 rights abuses, and violations of international humanitarian law committed against civilians in
12 the Tigray region; calls upon all parties involved in the conflict in Tigray to immediately cease
13 hostilities, respect international humanitarian law, and take all necessary measures to ensure
14 the protection of civilians; and urges the government of Ethiopia to collaborate with
15 international and regional humanitarian organizations, as well as non-governmental
16 organizations, to remove all obstacles and restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian
17 assistance to Tigray and to facilitate safe and unhindered access for humanitarian actors.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council hereby encourages the
19 international community, regional organizations, and bilateral partners to provide financial,
20 logistical, and technical support to enhance the capacity of humanitarian organizations
21 operating in Tigray, enabling them to effectively address the urgent needs of the affected
22 population; requests the United Nations, including the United Nations Office for the
23 Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to continue coordinating and mobilizing
24 international humanitarian efforts, ensuring efficient distribution of aid, and monitoring the
25 implementation of humanitarian programs in Tigray; calls upon all parties involved in the
26 conflict to fully cooperate with relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms
27 and grant them unrestricted access to investigate allegations of human rights abuses and
28 violations in Tigray; requests to the United Nations Human Right Council to extend the
29 mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia, which
30 investigates the war crimes and the human rights violations that took place in the Tigray region
31 of Ethiopia, for one year until December 2024 to ensure accountability for all those responsible

1 for human rights abuses and to facilitate the establishment of independent, impartial, and
 2 transparent mechanisms for the investigation and prosecution of such crimes; decides to remain
 3 actively seized of the matter and to monitor the situation in Tigray closely, including through
 4 regular reporting and review of progress made in implementing this resolution; encourages all
 5 relevant stakeholders to actively support national dialogue, reconciliation, and efforts towards
 6 sustainable peace in Tigray in order to address the root causes of the conflict and promote long-
 7 term stability; urges Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide support for the
 8 recovery and reconstruction of Tigray, with a particular focus on rehabilitating critical
 9 infrastructure, ensuring the provision of basic services, and facilitating the return and
 10 reintegration of displaced populations; and requests the Secretary-General of the United
 11 Nations to provide regular updates to the County Council on the progress made in
 12 implementing this resolution, including any challenges faced in ensuring unhindered
 13 humanitarian access to Tigray.

Adopted this 12th day of September, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council