

Members of the European Parliament Michèle Rivasi and Jan-Christoph Oetjen invite you to an online conference

Ethiopia at crossroad

On Monday 6 December 2021 from 10h00 to 12h00 (Brussels - CET)
Interpretation in English and French

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was sworn in on 4 October 2021 for a five-year term as Ethiopia's new leader. This reappointment comes in a tense political context, where Tigray has been ravaged by violent fighting since November 2020. Since the beginning of the fighting, the war has killed more than thousands people and forced more than 1.7 million to flee their homes. For those who have remained in the region, the humanitarian toll is dramatic: some 400,000 people are living in famine conditions, with humanitarian aid still struggling to arrive. According to the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and UN OHCHR joint investigation report, all parties to the conflict continue to be implicated in allegations of human rights violations.

Ethiopia's multifaceted challenges require a nuanced understanding of the last 30 years' political evolution. In order to understand the current situation, Members of the European Parliament Michèle Rivasi and Jan-Christoph Oetjen invite key speakers to discuss the origin of the conflict, the security situation and the role of the international community and the consequences of the conflict. This conference will be an opportunity to have a better understanding of this country in conflict and to exchange on the role of the West in the peace process.

10h00: Introduction by MEPs Michèle Rivasi and Jan-Christoph Oetjen

10h15: "*Origin of the conflict/ an overview of political development since 1991*"
Abera Yemane Ab, Chair of Dildiy, Ethiopian Association, Belgium

10h25: "*Relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia*"
Mirjam van Reisen, Professor of International Relations at Tilburg University and Leiden University.

10h35: "*The armed conflict in Tigray and the international community (EU/USA)*"
Ann Fitz-Gerald, Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs

10h45: "*the humanitarian situation in Tigray – aid, food security and famine*"
Jan Nyssen, professor at the Department of Geography, Ghent University

10h55: "Women's Experiences in the Tigray War"
Meaza Gebremedhin, International Relations Researcher & Activist

11h05: "*The consequence of the war on human rights*"
Daniel Bekele, Chief Commissioner at Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
Michelle Bachelet (TBC), High Commissioner for Human Rights

11h25: "Media bias and policy struggle"
Jan Abbink, Professor emeritus Governance and politics in Africa, Leiden University
Tsedale Lemma, Founder of the Addis Standard

11h45: "the role of the European Union"
Annette Weber, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa

11h55: **Concluding remarks and the way forward by MEPs**