

## **The repercussions of the Tigray region crisis at the international level**

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### **Summary**

The crisis of the Tigray region, whose erupted in 2020, it was not the first one, and it did not appear during that short period, it was a result of old accumulations and some problems between the Ethiopian government and the region, also in many aspects that called for the spark of this crisis, So it started to expand, that affected the interests of countries in Ethiopia, Which prompted those countries to take precautionary measures in order to control the situation, it include the suspension of aid to Ethiopia, as well as a change in some of its strategies towards Ethiopia in order to contain the crisis.

**Key Words:** Repercussions, Tigray Crisis, International Positions, International Strategies, International Aid

### **Introduction**

Ethiopia enjoys strong political and diplomatic relations with other countries including (United States of America- China, Turkey- Russia- European Union), It is also a staunch ally of the Washington government in Africa with their fight against global terrorism, the international powers are the first actor on the Renaissance Dam file and have large investments in Ethiopia, these forces play a key role in Ethiopian political decision-making, Some of these countries' investments in Ethiopia are not only economically returning, Rather, it takes on dimensions (political and security), They play a major role in directing investment in the Horn of Africa, which plays a role in influencing the region's demographics and national security.

The international community has expressed about his concern toward the humanitarian repercussions of the war in the Tigray region, Some powers with a high relationship with Ethiopia are trying to exert intense pressure on Abiy Ahmed's government to stop military operations in the Tigray region, These are operations that Washington describes for "ethnic decontamination", therefore Washington has suspended its aid to Ethiopia.

### **Research Problem**

The research problem stems from a key question: Has the crisis in Tigray region reflected negatively on the international attitudes towards Ethiopia? And What are the attitudes of these countries towards them?

## Hypothesis

The crisis of Tigray region has reflected clearly, effectively and negatively on the interests of the major countries within Ethiopia, As a result, it changed its strategies towards Ethiopia and suspended aid until the crisis was over.

### First: suspension aid to Ethiopia

Despite the geographical advantages and growing natural resources of the Horn of Africa, especially Ethiopia, However, its history of suffering, poverty and civil wars is in no way less than the history of the rest of the countries (of the black continent) full of tribulations and crises, This made it far from employing its advantages and wealth in achieving economic independence for its peoples and governments, also that has made countries of Horn of Africa completely dependent on external grants coming from UN institutions and some international and regional parties, therefore Ethiopia is at the forefront of African countries in terms of receiving aid (Hassan, 2021) , Its share was estimated at 4.4% of the total aid provided by Western countries in 2005 (Mahmoud, 2019) , this leads to recognized the usefulness aid as well as security and developmental role produced by the mediation (Saudi-UAE), Regarding the signing of the (Agreement of Friendship and Peace) between (Eritrea) and (Ethiopia) in 2018, which shows Gulf awareness of the importance of (Horn of Africa) region (Hassan, 2021, p. 22).

Turkey is good at its renewed position in the African continent and Horn of Africa through permanent and frequent economic support, but through the trade portal, the total (Turkish-African) trade exchange is (21) billion dollars, and the growth of Turkish embassies in the continent indicates the depth of this proficiency as it increased from (12) embassies in 2012 to (42) embassies in 2020 to enhance the mission of (Turkish) influence in the continent, while Horn of Africa is the epicenter of the Turkish presence, however half of the (Turkish) investments directed to (Africa) are concentrated in (Ethiopia) at (5.2) billion dollars, according to data from the Ethiopian Investment Commission in 2020 (Hassan, 2021, pp. 22-23), between 2016 and 2020 the United States of America provided Ethiopia with more than \$4.2 billion in development and humanitarian assistance, Washington has also provided ten million dollars to support Abiy Ahmed's government's development plan, also supported the economic reforms it announced, U.S. capacity building programs were expanded in coordination with the Prime Minister's affirmation of democratic governance and strengthened the exploitation of the judiciary, electoral bodies and the Attorney General's Office (Ahmed, 2021).

As for the rule of US President Donald Trump, relations between the United States of America and Ethiopia were marred by a kind of tension, especially after Ethiopia's failure to commit to the talks on the Renaissance Dam, and its adoption of decisions contrary to what happened in the tripartite talks, this lead United States of America promised the failure of Ethiopia to fulfill its obligations, Which prompted US President Donald Trump to withhold part of the (US) aid provided (to Ethiopia), it was estimated at about (130) million dollars (Himid, 2022), after taking over the Biden administration, it is closer to the urgent need for real trilateral negotiations, lead to an agreement acceptable to all on the filling and operation of the Renaissance Dam, Events in Tigray later topped the Biden administration's fears and vision of its disastrous consequences for the stability of the entire Horn of Africa region (Ahmed, 2021, p. 11).

These important determinants of the strategic relationship between the two countries (Washington) push to adhere to its traditional approach, affirming the priority of the unity and integrity of the Ethiopian State, therefore, Washington will continue (and in any case) to try to provide substantial humanitarian assistance in various (Ethiopian) regions, also United States of America occupies the first place among the countries providing humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia before November 2020, by a large margin from the rest of the donor countries, in the sectors (public health, education, agriculture, democracy, and human rights) (Ahmed, 2021, pp. 11- 12), on December 9, 2021, the World Food Program (WFP) stopped distributing food aid in two towns in northern (Ethiopia) after gunmen looted their warehouses, the United Nations said thieves from Tigrayan rebel forces detained aid workers at gunpoint in the town of Kombolcha Among them are some food supplies for malnourished children, a spokesman for the United Nations, which runs the World Food Programme (WFP), said its staff there had been severely intimidated during days of looting, “Such harassment of humanitarian workers by the armed forces is unacceptable, It undermines the ability of the United Nations and all our humanitarian partners to deliver aid when it is most needed”, the spokesman accused government forces of taking control of three humanitarian trucks belonging to the World Food Program and using them for their own purposes, this led to the decision to stop food distribution in Kombolcha and Desi in northern Ethiopia (Conflict in Ethiopia: the United Nation Stops Food Aid in two Towns after Its Warehouses were Looted, 2022).

Many of Ethiopia's international partners have suspended aid since the conflict between the federal government and rebels erupted in the Tigray region in November 2020 Which witnessed a large number of violations and led to a serious (humanitarian crisis), the (Ministry of Finance (Ethiopia)) announced in a statement the signing of a (financing agreement) between (Ethiopia) and (World Bank) on June 24, 2022, which includes first (600) million dollars, \$200 million in donations and \$400 million in credits for the establishment of the Food Systems Resilience Program; Second, it includes (115) million dollars in the form of a grant under the (Risk Reduction) program (the World Bank Allocates (715) million dollars to Ethiopia, 2022), on November 15, 2022, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced the arrival of the first medical convoy to the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia, Following the peace agreement signed at the beginning of November 2022, between the (Ethiopian) government and the Tigray Liberation Front, Peter Maurer, spokesman for the committee in Ethiopia, said the first medical supply convoy from the Red Cross had arrived in Mekelle, the capital of Tigray region (Ethiopia: the First International Relief Convoy Arrives in Tigray after the Ceasefire, 2022).

It should be noted that the data of the international situation in (Ethiopia) with regard to aid, Despite the increase in the development positivity of international aid in Ethiopia, the risks to Ethiopia aid will remain very close to the same risks resulting from internal conflicts and crises, this is due to the same frantic and uncalculated polarization towards Ethiopia in order to achieve donor interests (strategic, military, commercial, and security), Without taking into account the interests of the country (Ethiopia) in need of these grants and assistance, Therefore, the intensity of the conflict between the international parties will overcome the considerations of reform, economic development and taking in to account the human and democratic dimension.

## **Second: changing strategies of international powers towards Ethiopia in light of the crisis**

It was divided into the following:

### ***United States of America***

The U.S.-Soviet rivalry and rush in the aftermath of World War II for strategic positions around the world formed an important basis in shaping the direction of U.S. policy toward Ethiopia during that period. Due to the importance of Ethiopia's geopolitical position and its reflection on U.S. national security, this was a motivation for the establishment of political relations of strategic dimensions between the two countries. Therefore, the United States sought to strengthen this relationship through the conclusion of many treaties and agreements, for example, the Joint Defense Agreement in 1953, which allowed the United States to use Eritrea's bases in exchange for its commitment to provide necessary military assistance to the Ethiopian armed forces (Talib, 2018). One of the main goals of Emperor Haile Selassie to strengthen his relationship with the United States was to secure access to weapons and military equipment to counter regional changes and internal unrest (Talib, 2018, p. 1362). For its part, the United States of America does not have any direct water ambitions in the waters of the Nile. However, it moves politically in this region to achieve its interests by consolidating its geostrategic hegemony, and enable its allies - whether from inside the basin such as Ethiopia or from outside it such as the Zionist entity to achieve political and strategic gains. Even if those policies are at the expense of Egypt's vital interests and water security (Abbas, 2019).

The Ethiopian Government has agreed with the United States of America to establish the Bureau of Land Reclamation Affiliate to the United States Department of Interior. A study of the resources of the Blue Nile in between 1958-1964 by conducting an extensive study on agricultural land with a length of (2200) km on the border with Sudan, this study was carried out with the rich participation (of the Zionists), the journal *Kedma* (Zionism) has referred to these studies, which were requested by a number of Egyptian researchers, but the journal refused to deliver these studies and ignored those requests, this study proposes to construct (33) dams and reservoirs that can provide water for both irrigation and hydraulic power, the study examined one million hectares suitable for agriculture, the four projects deduct about (8) billion m<sup>3</sup> annually from the Blue Nile water, Egypt's share of it (4) billion m<sup>3</sup> annually. Although the water available to Ethiopia amounts to (10) billion m<sup>3</sup> annually, the studies presented by the U.S. Bureau of Land Reclamation had a prominent role in fueling and igniting conflict in the Nile River Basin region and was planned to prepare Ethiopia as a power in the region that oversees and spies for a global power (Abbas, 2019, pp. 188- 189).

After the military coup that overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974 and arrival of power to military governor Mengistu Haile Miriam, there has been a noticeable change in the policy of the United States of America towards Ethiopia in general, the direction of Mengistu's government Haile Miriam in particular is the result of Mengistu's adoption of Marxism and his choice to join under the Soviet flag, which led to the decline of the American role in Ethiopia (Idan, 2016). Despite Mengistu's announcement on 5/3/1990 that he had renounced communism. However, a number of conservative members of the U.S. Congress remained opposed to any support for the Mengistu regime (Idan, 2016, pp. 180- 181), therefore, relations between the two countries are restored and the new Ethiopian government led by Meles Zenawi cooperates to support the separatist John Garang movement in South Sudan. It

sought to consider Sudan a state willing to terrorism after it was accused of involvement in the assassination attempt on former Egyptian President (Mohamed Hosni Mubarak) in Addis Ababa in 1995 (Hamad, 2022).

In September 2006, Donald Bamato, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs, visited Ethiopia. During the visit, Bamatu declared that Ethiopia is an important partner of the United States of America. It contributes to and supports many of the strategic objectives of United States of America in the region, as part of its growing security ties, the United States has provided Ethiopia with military aid, training, and economic support. It is worth noting that Ethiopia receives annually foreign aid estimated at (1.9) billion U.S. dollars, equivalent to more than a third of the Ethiopian government budget, and the share of U.S. aid amounted to (800) million dollars, including \$500 million in food aid (Idan, 2016, p. 185).

In the Ethiopian legislative elections in May 2010, Mike Hammer declared that "the United States of America and Ethiopia have a multifaceted relationship and share many interests, he urged the Ethiopian government to ensure that its citizens enjoy basic rights, He stressed that the United States of America will work with the Ethiopian government to ensure the support of democratic institutions to open a political dialogue to be a right for all Ethiopians" (Ahmed Q. f.-S., 2010). Washington also called for the withdrawal of Eritrean soldiers from Ethiopian territory, U.S. pressure has increased after two U.S. senators called for sanctions against any political or military official found to be implicated in human rights abuses in the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region, Eritrean participation in the Ethiopian war would contradict the narrative that Abiy Ahmed sought to create about the conflict as limited in scope, and for law enforcement only, and mainly local without participation from abroad (Askar, the Repercussions of the Conflict in Ethiopia on the Horn of Africa, 2022).

With the arrival of the (Joe Biden) administration in the White House in January 2021 Direct U.S. criticism of the federal government's role in the conflict in Tigray has grown, Washington condemned the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the region, it exerted pressure to remove Eritrean forces and Amharic militias from it, in April 2021, the US administration appointed Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman as Special Envoy for Horn of Africa (the Ethiopian Civil War its Paths and Possibilities, 2021), United States imposed restrictions on Ethiopian and Eritrean officials in May 2021 for serious abuses during war in Tigray (the Ethiopian Legislative Elections- a Reading of the Internal and Regional Result and Interactions, 2021), the U.S. government, which has its own regional envoy, has been outspoken about the crisis and has taken punitive action, in addition to urging talks, United States enacted sanctions, especially on August 23, 2021, by freezing the assets of the Eritrean army commander (Eight Priorities for the African Union in 2021, 2022).

In November 2021, Washington imposed sanctions against four official Eritrean entities and two Eritrean officials over the involvement of Eritrean forces in the Ethiopian conflict, and threatened to target some Ethiopian parties in the coming period, in attempt to force the parties of the conflict to make concessions that would end fighting and move towards settlement conflict, Washington has also threatened to exclude Ethiopia from preferential benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act by January 2022, this threatens the textile industry in Ethiopia, And the negative repercussions of this on the decline of the Ethiopian economy (Askar, 2022), Despite the current US/Ethiopian tension, Washington remains the most prominent international actor in mediation efforts to settle the Ethiopian crisis in close cooperation with the African Union, the European Union and other international partners (Ahmed M. A., 2021, p. 13).

### *The importance of Ethiopia to China*

China is one of the most important global countries in general and Asia in particular, which has great interests in most countries of the world, including the African continent, among them is the Horn of Africa region due to being a country with a high population density, a large area and a large economic growth rate (Hamad, 2022, p. 110), as for the China-Ethiopia relations, which were demonstrated by joint ties between two countries from the exchange of visits between officials and investors at a high level between the two countries, Chinese investments in Ethiopia and significant expansion in terms of quality and quantity show that Chinese companies have invested in areas such as textile, leather, glass and factory manufacturing, According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China has not only subsidized factories at the state level, but has also supported and strengthened the private sector, Chinese investment companies have played a remarkable role in the development of Ethiopia's economic development (Hamad, 2022, p. 193), Relations between China and Ethiopia improved significantly in 1991 with the signing of economic and technological agreements on October 9, 1991 in Beijing, China provided an interest-free loan about 6.5 million dollars (50 million yuan) to the new Ethiopian government and expressed its willingness to help Ethiopia in times of financial problems, Economic relations were further strengthened when China resolved to complete projects already underway in Ethiopia, among those steps was the completion and handover of the water supply project in January 1993, Trade between two countries took place faster to reach (88.9) million dollars by the end of the last century (Farabi, 2021).

Chinese investment in Ethiopia has increased since 2000 and takes two forms, the first form is joint projects between China and Ethiopia, the second form of investment is a wholly Chinese-owned investment, According to data obtained from the Ethiopian Investment Agency, the total Chinese owned investments under implementation in Ethiopia were estimated at approximately (500) million dollars in 2001, in 2007, Chinese owned investments amounted to approximately (118) million dollars, while in 2004 it was about (107) million dollars, During the period from 1992 to 2009, Chinese direct investment in Ethiopia amounted to about (950) million dollars (Hamad, 2022, p. 194).

The most prominent indicators of Chinese investment in Ethiopia can be monitored through signing (3) agreements between Ethiopian Electricity Authority and Chinese companies in 2009 to build dams to generate electricity and wind power, and the first agreement from China Gezhavba group company to establish a power generation project in the region of (Minyale Dao) in southern Ethiopia, the cost of this project is (480) million dollars with a capacity of (254) megawatts, The second agreement was with Sini Hydro Corporation to construct five river dams in the Shimoga Bada area of Amhara Region at a cost of (555) million dollars, and the third agreement with (Hydro China) to generate power in the area of (Adama and Missuyoha Rania) to generate (51) megawatts (Tamimi, 2015), And other projects.

China has been a key partner in the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam since 2013, When Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation signed an agreement with Chinese Equipment and Technology Co. Ltd. to borrow Addis Ababa equivalent of one billion dollar for the construction of the dam's electric power transmission line project, in addition to the human expertise that China participates, the Industrial Bank of China also lent Ethiopia \$500 million in 2010 to prepare studies for the dam at its inception, making it the largest country involved in the construction of the dam (Hamdan, 2018), with the growing China-Ethiopia relations, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Ethiopian President Mulatu

Tishomi pledged closer cooperation in July 2014 during their meeting in Beijing, China hopes to help Ethiopia with transportation and energy infrastructure through regional aviation hubs, Manufacturing Centers for Development and Poverty Reduction (Hamad, 2022, p. 196), Ethiopia and Sudan accounted for the largest share of Chinese investments, amounting about (16.9) billion dollars and (5.4) billion dollars, respectively, between the years 2010-2012 (Zaabal, 2021), there has been a marked decline in the number and volume of China's investments in Horn of Africa since 2017, the bulk of China's financial investment in Horn of Africa has focused on the development of infrastructure projects, industrial parks and special economic zones, In addition to investments in the energy and technology sectors (Zaabal, 2021, pp. 15 -16).

Ethiopia offers a real opportunity for Chinese investment, Noting that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries in 2019 reached about (2.63) billion dollars, China has been Ethiopia's major trading partner for at least the past decade, In addition to the fact that the latter is a large market characterized by a remarkably low manufacturing cost it (Abedoun, 2022), However, what is remarkable about the relations between Addis Ababa and Beijing is that they have gone beyond the economic dimension since the beginning of December 2021, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Addis Ababa and met with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, as he was facing unprecedented domestic and Western pressure during the outbreak of war in the Tigray region in late 2020, this was seen as China's support for its powerful ally in Horn of Africa, Refraining from any external interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs, Ethiopian and Chinese interests intersect in international forums, especially during the vote on the Ukrainian crisis at the United Nations, on 2 March, Addis Ababa merely called on Russia and Ukraine to exercise restraint and refrain from violence; this reflects the desire of the Abiy Ahmed regime to strengthen its relations with a rising China (Abedoun, 2022, p. 5).

### ***Turkey***

Ethiopian-Turkish relations come at the forefront of Turks' concerns and among the priorities of the relationship with the African continent, Ethiopia represents a strategic regional weight in East of Africa, also It has an ancient civilization and a common history with the Islamic civilization, in addition to the economic potential, which makes interest in it one of the present and future reasons for a country like Turkey, the first official contact between the Ethiopian Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia and Sultan Abdul Hamid II was in 1896, then Turkey opened its first consulate general in the eastern Ethiopian city of Hor in 1912, as well as opened Its first embassy in Ethiopia was in 1926, after the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923 (Amin, 2018).

It is also self-evident for a country like Turkey that seeks to play greater roles in the international and regional arena to open wider relations with the largest number of countries in the western Red Sea, Turkey is particularly interested in a country like Ethiopia because it is the military and political base, in terms of its political weight in the continent, and the magnitude of Turkish investments in it, although there are investments in other countries, Ethiopia receives the largest share of them (Majeed, 2021), Ethiopia has natural resources, the most important of it is water, especially after the construction of the Renaissance Dam, therefore, Ethiopia receives the largest share of Turkish investments, and the economic performance of Turkish penetration is the most important in Ethiopia (Awwad, 2016), Diplomatic relations between the two countries were restored in 2006, after the collapse of the military regime in Ethiopia, Turkey supports the cause of Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, especially in light of decline Egyptian role, also Turkish policy in Ethiopia based on

economic and humanitarian aspect, Erdogan is the first Turkish government leader that visit Ethiopia, and has signed agreements in the field of trade and investments, such as health, culture, education, journalism, sports, tourism, and agreement on scientific and technological cohesion (Random, 2018).

The volume of trade exchange between two countries amounted to (420) million dollars in 2013, and includes iron, animals, meat, clothes and shoes, and increased in the following years to one billion dollars, the number of Turkish companies reached (350) companies in Ethiopia and the number of Ethiopian workers in them is a thousand workers, in the field of forums and meetings for businessmen, Addis Ababa hosted in 2014 the Ethiopian-Turkish Business Forum and projects were signed between businessmen of two countries in various fields, also in 2016, Turkish exceptions increased in Ethiopia, especially in the field of energy, electricity, agriculture, industry and many other fields (Awwad, 2016, p. 54), the visit of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to Ankara on August 18, 2020 was an important indicator in the context of Turkish-Ethiopian relations, which in recent years have gone through more than one turning point (Ali, 2021), although the details of the weapons were not announced, the announcement by the Turkish Defense Industries Corporation of sales worth (51.7) million dollars to Ethiopia in August 2020 attracted, and that the reason for Addis Ababa resorting to Ankara is to make a difference in the battlefronts with the Tigray Defense Forces, which moved the battle from its territory to the regions of Afar and Amhara (Ali, 2021, p. 3).

An air attack targeting a camp for displaced people in the Dibadibit area of Tigray on January 8, 2022, killed more than 50 people and injured more than a hundred others, Images released in the aftermath of the attack, provided by aid workers to the political news organization Politico, led investigators to believe that one of the weapons used in the attack may have been a missile from a Turkish-made Bayraktar Lee B2 drone and a Wim Ugenburg detector, he is an investigator working for PAX about the presence of Turkish drones in Ethiopia in December 2021 and highlighted satellite images showing Turkish drones parked at a government air base south of the Tigray region (Mawi, 2022).

The most prominent reasons that may push Ankara to agree to export its marches can be summarized as follows (Ali, 2021, pp. 3-4):

- 1- Protecting Turkish investments in Ethiopia from threats that may affect it if the war between two parties continues, which may lead to the collapse of the state.
- 2- Protecting Somalia from the dangerous repercussions of Ethiopian collapse scenario, as Somalia is the backbone of Turkish influence in Horn of Africa and Red Sea.
- 3- Ankara's preference for dealing in its foreign policy, and the adoption of maintaining the cohesion and unity of countries as its general principle, which was referred to by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in his emphasis on (the importance of peace, stability and unity of Ethiopia).
- 4- Turkey is taking advantage of the opportunity represented by Abiy Ahmed resorting to it to build a strategic political alliance between two parties.
- 5- The links formed by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) with outside powers, particularly Egypt, may be a concern for Ankara if it manages to take control of Addis Ababa, a relationship confirmed by the Ethiopian government and denied by Tigray.
- 6- There are no penal consequences for the supply of arms to Ethiopia despite some calls for an international embargo, but these calls have not yet been implemented.

- 7- Despite Western pressure on Addis Ababa, the entry of Turkish weapons on the battle line may be an influential factor in making military balances that push Tigrayans in particular to soften their positions, especially when considering that Tigray military and political leaders previously confirmed that Emirati drones were a major factor in the defeat that hit them in November 2020.

### ***Russia***

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met at the Moscow Russia Summit in Sochi in 2019 with President Vladimir Putin and agreed to strengthen military cooperation and increase Russian military sales to Addis Ababa, Under which the missile defense system (Pantesser S1) was also agreed between two parties to build a nuclear power plant in Ethiopia, Before that, in 2017, Moscow listed Ethiopia among Russia's most important arms markets in Africa (Omar, 2022), It seems clear that Ethiopian government needs qualitative military support, as it resorted to concluding a military agreement with the Russian Federation in July 2020 (Ali, 2021, p. 3), Russian-Ethiopian military cooperation continued with new agreements for Russia with Ethiopia in 2020-2021, on Russian supply of weapons, equipment and ammunition to Ethiopia, These agreements were forced by Ethiopia after the intensification of the battles waged by the Ethiopian army against the Tigray nationalism, Other ethnic groups fighting the federal government, and Ethiopia's need for weapons and ammunition (Siddiq, 2022).

Ethiopia is trying to increase the momentum of its military relations with Russia, especially at this difficult period in its history, as it confronts a major internal discontent of Ethiopian nationalities, it may overthrow the existing order, in support of this assertion, Ethiopia has appointed a former foreign minister to be its ambassador in Moscow, this is a strong indication that it is trying to build strong and effective relations with Russia, especially in the current period to rein in the insurgency of ethnic Tigray and other groups (Siddiq, 2022, p. 12), in March 2021, Russia and China objected to the issuance of a Security Council statement on the fighting in the Tigray region, saying that what is happening there is an internal affair (Russia and China Aborted a Security Council Statement on the Fighting in the Ethiopian Tigray Region, 2021), however, Ethiopia is trying to gain Russia's support in international forums to pass its political and economic agenda internationally and regionally (Siddiq, 2022, p. 13).

### ***United Nations***

The United Nations has warned of a humanitarian catastrophe that will frustrate more than 400,000 people facing famine in Tigray, and another 1.8 million are on the brink of famine (the Ethiopian Legislative Elections- a Reading of the Internal and Regionl Result and Interactions, 2021, p. 3), three separate UN teams assessing the situation in Ethiopia's Tigray region also noted that troops wearing Eritrean military uniforms were moving in some areas, Such as Mekele and Sherry and on the Ethiopian side of the border with Eritrea, which means the involvement of Eritrean forces in the war against the Tigray region (Askar, the Repercussions of the Conflict in Ethiopia on the Horn of Africa, 2022, p. 14), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Michelle Bachelet) announced that Ethiopian and Eritrean forces had documented a series of serious violations, may amount to war crimes against humanity in the Tigray region, and Bachelet said that her office has established data on events that occurred in November 2020, Refers to indiscriminate bombing operations in the cities of Maqli, Hamra and Adifrat (Russia and China Aborted a Security Council Statement on the Fighting in the Ethiopian Tigray Region, 2021), The scope of the Tigray conflict has expanded to a worrying level, as leaders in both Addis Ababa and Mekele

have not yet responded to foreign diplomatic initiatives, and this is an additional reason for international bodies, especially the United Nations, to intensify their efforts to stop the fighting in Ethiopia between the government on the one hand and Tigray on the other, and this is due to their awareness of the great risks they are implementing if the conflict continues on its current path (the Challenges for the UN in 2021-2022, 2022).

### ***European Union***

European Union Humanitarian Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs has called for an independent investigation in to the deadly events in Mai-Kadra region of Tigray and elsewhere, after his visit to um Rukuba refugee camp in Sudan, which hosts some 10,000 refugees from the conflict, while these calls for international investigations are welcomed by the leaders of Ethiopia's Tigray region (Askar, the Repercussions of the Conflict in Ethiopia on the Horn of Africa, 2022, p. 14), International pressure has escalated on Abiy Ahmed's government due to international human rights reports on the region, this led to a shift in the position of traditional donors to Ethiopia, as in December 2020, the European Union raised 107 million euros that were allocated to support the government budget (the Ethiopian Legislative Elections- a Reading of the Internal and Regionl Result and Interactions, 2021, p. 3) International movements are also highlighted through European Union in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and African Union, where European Union renewed its support for any initiative from the African Union aimed at addressing the situation in Ethiopia (Askar, Accounts of the Conflict in the Tigray Region and its paths, 2022, p. 14), in February 2021, the European Union appointed its Foreign Minister Finland (Pekaha Visto) as Special Envoy to resolve the conflict in Ethiopia (the Ethiopian Civil War its Paths and Possibilities, 2021, p. 3).

By following the current events in Ethiopia since the beginning of Tigray crisis and until this moment, we notice that the main concern of the major countries with clear interests in Ethiopia is to find an optimal way out of this crisis and in order for those countries to restore their fixed position inside Ethiopia and to preserve their interests there, which made it take many measures, the most important measures is suspension humanitarian aid provided to Ethiopia to put more pressure on it and to avoid the problem of the uprising against Ethiopian government, as well as the change in some of its plans and strategies as well.

## **Recommendations**

Through the above research as well as in order to find realistic solutions to the crisis in the Tigray region, the researchers recommend the following:

- 1- Adopting peaceful solutions and resorting to negotiations with representatives of Tigray region and inviting them to the dialogue table with the central government.
- 2- The continuation of the crisis in Tigray region has not worked for all parties there, so the major countries must pressure the representatives of Ethiopian government in particular to change their strategy towards the region.
- 3- It is recognized in such internal tensions, and after exhausting all negotiated solutions, to resort to one of the following solutions:
  - Direct military intervention within the territory and ending the insurgency.
  - Giving freedom to the region in order to determine its fate, whether by secession or staying within the state of Ethiopia, and the researchers with this proposal as it avoids many the scourge of wars.

- 4- The United Nations, as the sponsor of all member states, must take more severe and decisive action against the crisis.

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