



ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

Concept Note

Virtual Event

Human Rights in Ethiopia & Eritrea: Limited Efforts and Big Challenges

Background

Since November 2020, the Ethiopian authorities have committed extensive violations amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, amidst widespread news blackout to prevent media access to the areas where the violations are taking place. The Ethiopian authorities have even stepped up its violations by imposing severe restrictions on access to the Tigray region. Eritrean forces are proven implicated in serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Tigray, especially against the Eritrean refugees in the Tigray region, who were forcibly returned to Eritrea and denied access to humanitarian aid.

All this is compounded by the deteriorating humanitarian conditions inside Eritrea, the absence of justice and the rule of law, and the poor in the national service system, which is the main source of human rights abuse.

In this context, and on the sidelines of the 50th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Elizka Relief Foundation discusses the human rights situation in Eritrea and Ethiopia, in order to identify the flagrant violations in these countries and assess the human rights situation there and how they can be strengthened.

Objectives

- ❖ **Presenting a comprehensive view of the human rights situation in Ethiopia:** by reviewing the human rights situation at various levels, and the



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extent of commitment to the rules of international humanitarian law in conflict areas.

- ❖ **Comprehensively addressing the human rights situation in Eritrea**, by providing a comprehensive objective assessment of the human rights situation, and how to improve it.
- ❖ **Reviewing the obstacles to peace building in Ethiopia**, and how the conflicting parties can be brought together to find a middle ground for dialogue, and a safe space for civilians to maintain humanitarian conditions.
- ❖ **Presenting a proposal to solve the dilemma of forced conscription in Eritrea**, since forced conscription in Eritrea is the basis of all violations of civil and political rights in Eritrea.
- ❖ **Evaluating African mechanisms for improving human rights**, and their success in highlighting human rights issues and providing support for the advancement of humanitarian conditions.

Suggested Agenda for the Event

Event duration: 90 minutes

No.	Subject	Time
1.	Introduction to the event, its purpose, the universal periodic review mechanism and how it contributes to the promotion of human rights in general.	10 min.
2.	Shedding light on the violations of the Ethiopian and Eritrean forces in Tigray, and the extent of commitment to the rules of international humanitarian law.	15 min.
3.	A comprehensive view of the human rights situation in Eritrea	15 min.



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4.	Forced conscription in Eritrea & How to confront it	15 min.
5.	How to enhance the effectiveness of African mechanisms in improving the human rights situation	15 min.
6.	Presenting and drafting a memorandum of recommendations that would help improve the human rights situation in the two countries.	15 min.
7.	Questions & Conclusion	15 min.

Time and Place

The Event is held virtually via the Zoom application and is scheduled for June 25, 2022 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM (GMT)