

# THE AMHARA ADVOCACY GROUP IN EUROPE

*Open Letter to the European Union — May 2026*

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**Date:** 20 May 2026

**To:** Commissioner Jozef Síkela | HR/VP Kaja Kallas | Chair AFET David McAllister MEP | Chair DROI Mounir Satouri MEP

**Subject:** Resumption of budgetary support to Ethiopian Regime

Dear Commissioners, Members of the European Parliament,

We, the **Amhara Advocacy Group in Europe**, are writing to you regarding the [announcement made by Commissioner Jozef Síkela on 21 April 2026](#) in relation to resumption of budgetary support to the Ethiopian administration.

We had noted the European Union's [suspension of budgetary support to the Ethiopian regime](#) during the Tigray war when the regime launched its offensive against the TPLF in 2020. We recall that Abiy Ahmed placed the Tigray region of Ethiopia under military blockade prohibiting free movement of people, goods and capital. The EU's decision to take such action was not only due to the blockade and existence of the war but also due to the manner the war campaign was conducted.

- The EU pressed the Ethiopian authorities to allow full and unhindered humanitarian aid to reach civilians who found themselves trapped inside the blockade. The EU had also provided humanitarian aid.
- The EU called for protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure that the Ethiopian forces were attacking and destroying deliberately.
- The EU called for an immediate and independent investigation of reports of widespread human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed in Tigray by the Ethiopian army and Eritrean soldiers.
- We had also noted that the United Nations Security Council, backed by many members of the European Union states, had held 11 meetings to discuss the situation.

After the Tigray war had ended, the authorities in Addis Ababa turned against the Amhara region of Ethiopia and the region has been under [military blockade for 3 years](#). Whilst we have been campaigning to bring this to the attention of the EU and the world at large, we remain puzzled that the EU — which had been clear and loud in condemning the Ethiopian regime's military campaign against its own people in Tigray — has been [silent](#) when the Amhara people are facing the exact same state of affairs now.

History is repeating itself in Ethiopia. The gross human rights violations against ordinary civilians, the collective punishment, the [indiscriminate destruction of civilian infrastructure](#) and private property, the [public executions of innocent civilians](#), the widespread use of [hunger](#) and [rape as an instrument](#)

[of war](#) — these have been ongoing for the past three years. The same atrocities, the same cruelty, the same brutality and violence, in the same country, perpetrated by the same authorities.

In light of all this, we notice a troubling inconsistency in the level of international engagement. The EU's earlier, principled stance during the Tigray conflict is now absent. It came to our attention that the EU has announced that it will [resume its budgetary aid to Ethiopia](#). If we draw comparisons: the Tigray war started due to political disagreements and a power struggle between the TPLF and Abiy Ahmed. However, the Amhara people are fighting for their very survival as an ethnic group — after [five decades of marginalisation](#) that reached its climax under the current regime. What makes the current regime different is that it is engaged in [erasing Amhara culture and faith](#), and in questioning the very existence of this people as a distinct ethnic group in Ethiopia.

The European Union, which previously upheld its principles by standing in solidarity with the people of Tigray — by suspending monetary assistance, by condemning acts of violence, and by calling for accountability — cannot choose to prop up the same authorities while ignoring the ordeal the Amhara people are facing. We have grave concerns that, given the ongoing military campaign to crush the Amhara people, such budgetary support would provide funds that the regime desperately needs to [purchase military hardware and weapons](#) to perpetuate the war against its own people.

We call upon the European Union to uphold the same principles it adhered to in response to the Ethiopian regime's brutal conduct during the Tigray War, and to impose the same fundamental conditions for the resumption of any budgetary assistance. These conditions should include:

- Urging the Ethiopian regime to [lift its military blockade](#) of the Amhara region;
- Demanding the [release of all political prisoners and journalists](#) detained without due process;
- Pressing the regime to withdraw its troops from civilian areas and [cease drone strikes and extrajudicial killings](#) targeting Amhara civilians;
- Calling for [independent international investigations](#) into credible reports of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Amhara;
- Engaging the Ethiopian government to pursue inclusive peace negotiations with Fano forces in pursuit of a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Kind regards,

**The Amhara Advocacy Group in Europe**

**Editors**

[editors@amharaadvocacy.eu](mailto:editors@amharaadvocacy.eu) | [amharaadvocacy.eu](https://amharaadvocacy.eu)

## SOURCES & REFERENCES

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All references are hyperlinked inline in the letter above. Full list below for printed copies.

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