



THE ETHIOPIAN WORLD FEDERATION, INCORPORATED

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Date: September 30, 2026

**To: The Ethiopian Government, The United States Government, Ethiopian Airlines,
The Global Community, Members, Supporters and Stakeholders**

**RE: Renewed Conflict in Ethiopia, Electoral Accountability, Treaty Violations and
Recognition of EWF's Historical Contribution**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Ethiopian World Federation, Incorporated (EWF), writes with grave concern regarding renewed armed conflict in Ethiopia and an urgent demand for civilian protection, accountability and meaningful political participation. The lives of Ethiopian men, women and children cannot be subordinated to military ambition, political exclusion or competing institutional interests.

EWF calls upon the Ethiopian Government and all armed parties to stop the escalation, protect civilians and permit safe humanitarian access. International cooperation with Ethiopia must give serious attention to the protection of its people and the Federation's outstanding claims.

Historical Background and the Responsibility to Preserve Peace

Whereas, Ethiopia's present crisis follows successive struggles over political power, regional autonomy and national identity. In 1974, the Derg overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie I. Repression, civil war and famine followed. In 1991, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, dominated by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), defeated the Derg. Ethnic federalism was subsequently formalized under the 1995 Constitution.

Whereas, Abiy Ahmed became prime minister in 2018 amid demands for reform. Relations between federal and Tigrayan leaders deteriorated, culminating in war in November 2020. The Pretoria Agreement, signed in November 2022, brought a cessation of hostilities, but political and territorial disputes remained unresolved.

Whereas, the African Union facilitated the 2022 Pretoria Agreement between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, while other key stakeholders, including Eritrea and Amhara representatives, were not parties to the negotiations. Although the agreement initially halted major fighting, it has unsurprisingly failed to secure lasting peace. EWF considers the exclusion of key leaders and affected communities a serious weakness that made renewed instability foreseeable. The Federation calls for an inclusive peace process that addresses their grievances and secures meaningful participation in both negotiations and implementation.

Whereas, the African Union reported on September 23 that TPLF forces had seized airports in Mekelle, Axum and Shire, detained federal personnel and disrupted civilian air services. The United Nations expressed alarm over intensified fighting and its spread into neighboring areas. Reuters subsequently reported suspended flights to Lalibela and disrupted communications in Tigray, with responsibility for the communications disruption disputed.

The Federation maintains that an agreement between armed leaders alone cannot resolve every community's grievances. Peace must include accountable institutions, protection of lawful rights and a meaningful voice for the people.

Demand for Civilian Protection and Humanitarian Access

EWF demands equal protection for civilians in Amhara, Tigray, Afar, Oromia and all other affected regions, irrespective of ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. No community should be collectively blamed for the actions of a government, militia or political organization.

The World Food Programme identifies conflict, drought, disease and inflation as overlapping causes of severe need, while funding shortages are reducing assistance. Human Rights Watch warns that renewed hostilities risk further abuses because of past atrocities and continuing impunity.

EWF calls for immediate relief access, workable arrangements for medical evacuations, and restoration of communications, water, electricity, banking and safe civilian transport. Hospitals, schools, places of worship and cultural heritage, including Lalibela, must be protected. Relief must be distributed according to need, without requiring membership, religious participation or political loyalty.

Member Report: Stranded Visitors and Fear of Targeting

Whereas, an EWF member reports that approximately 52 tourists from the United States, Israel, the United Kingdom and other countries were stranded in Lalibela for more than a week amid suspended air services and unsafe road travel. The number, nationalities and duration are the member's estimates and have not been independently confirmed.

Whereas, the member reports that Israeli authorities arranged an evacuation. A report citing Israel's Foreign Ministry corroborates that Israeli visitors were evacuated from Lalibela by helicopter to a safer location for onward travel to Addis Ababa. This account differs from the member's description of airplanes; the status of all remaining visitors requires confirmation.

Whereas, the member also relays reports of an attack near Bahir Dar Airport and travel disruption, alongside an Ethiopia–Eswatini football match at Bahir Dar Stadium. These details remain unverified and do not establish the dates of the events.

Whereas, the member describes personally experiencing soldiers treating them as a target because of their dreadlocks and expresses fear of being harmed or killed. EWF records this as the member's firsthand allegation and withholds their identity and precise location. The Federation calls for civilian protection without discrimination based on appearance, faith or cultural identity, and for independent examination of alleged intimidation or targeting.

EWF calls upon the relevant embassies, Ethiopian authorities and Ethiopian Airlines to provide verified information on stranded nationals, coordinated consular assistance, and professionally assessed evacuation options. EWF further calls for food, clean water, shelter and medical support for affected residents and visitors. No person should be urged to attempt an unverified route through active fighting.

Electoral Accountability and the Right to Meaningful Representation

EWF asserts that Ethiopia has not provided a sufficiently fair and inclusive national election through which all affected communities could meaningfully determine their political future.

The June 2026 election took place amid restrictions and exclusion. Reuters reported that voting did not occur in all constituencies, including Tigray and conflict-affected areas of Amhara and Oromia; opposition parties alleged suppression through arrests and legal obstacles. Associated Press described a crackdown on dissent and 143 polling stations that failed to open because of insecurity. These are the actions that are diminishing democratic values globally.

An electoral result cannot answer the grievances of citizens who were unable to participate safely or whose political choices were restricted. EWF calls for independent electoral oversight, meaningful opposition participation, freedom of expression, transparent results and safe participation by displaced and conflict-affected citizens.

Expanding Conflict, Forced Recruitment and Regional Instability

Public posts accompanying the September 28 discussion on The Newsmakers identify Amhara grievances, the “Alliance for Survival,” widening conflict and questions about national unity and possible separation. These concerns require sustained attention to representation, regional security and the protection of every community.

Reuters reports that the TPLF has allied with six other armed groups seeking to overthrow the federal government, including former adversaries. Their shared opposition does not resolve every territorial or political disagreement. EWF calls for inclusive dialogue that addresses those grievances without collective blame or retaliation.

Human Rights Watch reported in July 2026 that Tigrayan authorities had abducted and unlawfully recruited civilians, including children as young as 15. EWF demands an end to abusive recruitment, protection and release of affected children, and assistance for families subjected to coercion.

Ethiopia’s military has accused Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt of supporting opposition forces; the countries concerned deny those allegations. EWF urges regional governments to support de-escalation and humanitarian relief and refrain from actions that widen the conflict.

EWF’s Allegations of Violations of the U.S.–Ethiopia Treaty

Whereas, the 1951 Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations provides for recognition of qualifying companies, including nonprofit corporations and associations; access to courts and administrative agencies; fair and equitable treatment; protection against unreasonable or discriminatory interference with legally acquired rights; and protection of property, including compensation for qualifying takings. These protections appear in Articles VII and VIII.

EWF alleges that the Ethiopian Government has failed to honor treaty obligations where the Federation’s rights and interests are concerned. EWF demands an independent examination of the alleged violations and effective remedies for any breaches established by the evidence.

The Federation's August 2026 inquiry seeking international counsel identified alleged unauthorized occupation and control of the Shashamane land grant, collection of rents by persons described in the inquiry as rebel or foreign operatives, and unauthorized transfers. It also alleged misuse of EWF's name and seal, unauthorized solicitation of donations and memberships, and assertions of property control by groups presenting themselves as official EWF bodies. EWF alleges that the Ethiopian Government and Embassy had disregarded American inquiries into this international concern which needs further review before military support.

EWF requests review of fraud, expropriation, foreign sovereign immunity, the act-of-state doctrine and international arbitration to investigate title, possession, leases, rental income, restoration and compensation.

These allegations must be examined through incorporation, land-grant and title records, correspondence, administrative decisions and records of attempts to obtain relief. Government responsibility must be distinguished from alleged private misconduct. Treaty coverage, applicable conditions and exceptions, and available remedies require legal assessment; this notice does not report a judicial finding of breach.

U.S. Aviation Cooperation and Recognition of EWF's Contribution

Whereas, the United States is promoting participation by American companies in Ethiopian Airlines' \$12.5 billion Bishoftu International Airport project. U.S. Commerce Department materials describe commercial matchmaking and participation opportunities. This is a new airport led by Ethiopian Airlines; the sources reviewed do not establish a U.S. commitment to fund the entire project.

EWF calls upon the United States Government, the Ethiopian Government and Ethiopian Airlines to ensure that public recognition surrounding the project includes Colonel John C. Robinson's EWF affiliation and the wider contribution of Black Americans to Ethiopian aviation.

An EWF historical account identifies Robinson as a member of EWF Local One and subsequently Local 10 Chicago. Ethiopian Airlines credits him with training its first pilots and helping establish the airline. The airline named a Boeing 787 "Colonel Robinson" in 2016 and publicly acknowledged his pioneering contribution. EWF's concern is that this recognition should also identify his Federation affiliation; the sources reviewed do not establish that the affiliation has been recognized in Bishoftu project communications.

The Federation proposes a historical exhibit or memorial developed with authenticated records and EWF participation. Commercial development and historical recognition should proceed with transparency and respect for the contributions of those who helped build Ethiopian aviation.

Required Action and a Practical Path Toward Peace

EWF calls for the following:

- An immediate cessation of hostilities with independent monitoring and clear procedures for reporting violations.
- Safe humanitarian deliveries and medical evacuations agreed with relief organizations and those controlling affected territory.
- Restoration of essential civilian services and protection of hospitals, schools, water systems and cultural heritage.
- Credible investigation of reported abuses, assistance for survivors, voluntary and safe return of displaced families, and recovery of livelihoods and education.
- Electoral reforms that provide safe, inclusive and meaningful political participation.
- Independent examination of EWF's treaty and property allegations, preservation of relevant records, and appropriate remedies where violations are established.
- Recognition of Robinson's EWF affiliation and the Federation's historical contribution in aviation-related public communications.

Community Responsibility and EWF Coordination

The Federation proposes a humanitarian coordination team to verify needs through trusted contacts, identify experienced relief partners and prepare a transparent assistance budget. Food, clean drinking water and essential medical care should be the first priorities.

Any appeal should explain who will receive assistance, how it will reach them and how spending will be documented. Vulnerable people's identities and precise locations must be protected. Public updates should distinguish verified facts from allegations.

EWF proposes a written appeal to the relevant authorities and humanitarian agencies seeking civilian protection, relief access, inclusive dialogue and attention to the Federation's outstanding claims. Immediate humanitarian protection and a credible political process must advance together.

The Ethiopian people deserve safety, sustenance, justice and meaningful representation. The Federation calls upon all responsible authorities to act transparently, address documented grievances and pursue peace with measurable commitments.

Respectfully submitted,

Donah Sandford, International Executive President

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