



Oral Statement by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

58th Session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced ID on human rights in Eritrea

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The Urgent Need for Lasting Peace in the Region - Including Through Justice and Accountability for Atrocity Crimes

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (the IBAHRI) is highly concerned about reports of growing tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia, including reports about Eritrea's mobilisation efforts, and what these tensions can turn into. As communities in Ethiopia continue to struggle with the consequences of the Tigray War and atrocities across other parts of Ethiopia, this is the time to exercise restraint to protect the lives of the people in the region. We need lasting peace in the region.

This lasting peace will not be achieved without justice and accountability for atrocity crimes perpetrated in recent years, including as perpetrated by the Eritrean troops in Tigray after the cessation of hostilities agreement in November 2022. Despite the agreement, Eritrean troops continue to be present in Tigray and continue to perpetrate atrocities, such as sexual violence, the kidnapping and enforced disappearance of civilians, extrajudicial executions, and looting, among others.

The IBAHRI calls upon Eritrea to immediately stop all atrocities and gross human rights violations in Eritrea and the Tigray region.

The IBAHRI calls upon UN Member States to:

- Ensure independent investigations of the human rights violations in Eritrea and of the atrocities perpetrated by Eritrean troops in Tigray;
- Establish an investigation and accountability mechanism to collect and preserve evidence of the atrocities, to ensure that the evidence could be used in the future to prosecute the perpetrators and counter growing impunity; and support grassroots organisations collecting the evidence;

- Identify avenues for ensuring justice and reparation to all victims in Eritrea and the Tigray region.

Thank you.

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