

Documenting the civilian victims of the Tigray war

by

Jan Nyssen

With contributions by Sofie Annys, Emnet Negash, Lars De Sloover, Tim Vanden Bempt, Robin Ghekiere, Kiara Haegeman, Daan Temmerman, and Mishtir Sabat

Department of Geography, Ghent University; Contact: jan.nyssen@ugent.be

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Abstract

In early November 2020, after months of growing political tensions, an armed conflict emerged between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray regional government. Numerous war crimes were committed and since July 2021, there has been a medieval siege of Tigray, hindering all humanitarian access. Our calculations of the total number of civilian deaths in Tigray, updated up to 31 December 2022, lead to an average estimate of 518k civilian victims in Tigray. The lowest estimate we could realistically make is 311k, and at the upper end a scary 808k. Of these, approx. 10% would be due to massacres, bomb impacts and other killings, 30% due to the total collapse of the healthcare system, and 60% to famine. The continuous marauding by Amhara and Eritrean troops in 2023 have led to additional civilian victims. Tigray remains inaccessible for trade, banking services, public services, and largely also food aid.

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