



An Open Letter to

H.E. Filippo GRANDI
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Case Postale 2500 CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt
SUISSE

Done: London- UK
Date: 27/01/2022

Excellency, Filippo GRANDI

We, the Red Sea Afar Human Rights Organisation (RSAHRO), express our deep concern about the deteriorating security, humanitarian, and human rights situations, as well as the safety and well-being of Eritrean Refugees, mostly from ethnic Afar living in Barahle district, zone 2 (Kiblatti Rasu) of the Afar Regional State, as a result of the ongoing war in the region as a whole, and in Barahle particularly. According to the Ethiopian Ambassador to UN, Mr. Taye Atske Selassie, TPLF Forces are brutally attacking Barahle town which is home to more than 15,000 refugees. Our local sources has confirmed that TPLF forces are firing heavy artilleries into the town indiscriminately in which the refugee camp has been hit and refugees are dispersed.

As you may have notice, RSAHO wrote a letter on the data 12/10/2021 about Barahle camp refugees and a need to give special attention. We are now alarmed of the ongoing war and left without receiving any information in the last three days from the camp. We also need to bring your attention on the content of Tigray Press Release that contains a clear intent to carry out genocidal campaign on the refugees under pretext of the unknown Red Sea Afar forces. It is historically known that the Afars in Eritrea call themselves Red Sea Afar people, and **RSAHRO is deeply concerned that the TPLF will use this type of wordplay to cover up their military adventure in that specific area and commit massacres against unarmed Refugees.** Currently, the TPLF has blocked all roads leading to Barahle town, making it difficult to receive information, and we have serious concerns about the safety and well-being of the refugees inside the Barahle camp.

As a result, we are pleading with your good office to take the following actions as soon as possible in order to save those refugees from being massacred by the TPLF.

- 1- RSARHO demands** UNHCR to update international community about the well-being of the refugees and actions that the agency had taken to secure Refugees in Barahle.
- 2- RSARHO calls** on the UNHCR to provide emergency life-saving evacuation and security for these refugees, who are in grave danger of becoming victims of the ongoing deadly conflict in Barahle district.
- 3- RSAHRO demands** that the UNHCR provide these refugees with legal protection, urgent humanitarian assistance, and resettlement in a third safe country where their human rights, fundamental freedoms, liberty, and dignity can be guaranteed and protected under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees.



- 4- **RSARHO calls** on UNHCR and other sisterly agencies to investigate the recent Tigray press release which clearly had a genocidal element on declaring war on Refugees living in both Barahle and Aysiata camps in the Afar Regional State - Ethiopia.
- 5- **Finally, RSARHO calls** on the federal government of Ethiopia, government of Afar National Regional State and the Afar people to look after the vulnerable refugees in Barahle and provide assistance, protection, and security and guide international community on how they should support the refugees in Barahle.

Please accept, Your Excellency, our assurances of the highest consideration.

Mr. Ismael GABAYTA

Executive Director

Red Sea Afar Human Right Organisation (RSAHRO)