

Date: January 17, 2026

Ambassador Ervin Massinga,  
United States Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia

**Subject: Letter of Serious Concern Regarding Your Visit to Humera, Western Tigray**

Dear Ambassador Ervin Massinga,

The Union of Tigrayans in North America (UTNA), a U.S.-based civic organization, writes to express its profound concern and deep disappointment regarding your visit to Humera, Western Tigray, on January 15, 2026. Both the visit itself and the statements that followed fall far short of what is expected from a seasoned ambassador like yourself, representing one of the world's most influential and powerful nations.

Unfortunately, UTNA found your visit to be a complicating rather than a stabilizing factor, erecting additional barriers to justice and accountability and further undermining the already fragile peace process and the very spirit of the Pretoria Agreement.

By meeting with, engaging, and participating in a ceremonial public reception organized and attended by individuals who have been unequivocally identified and extensively documented as perpetrators of ethnic cleansing, mass killings, and crimes against humanity, your visit amounted to an implicit legitimization of criminal actors. These are neither contested nor speculative allegations; the crimes in question have been thoroughly documented by the United States Government itself, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and numerous reputable international media outlets.

Given your position, it was incumbent upon you to leverage your influence to compel these criminal actors to withdraw from Tigray. At this critical juncture, you are expected to call for immediate and meaningful actions to ensure the safe and dignified return of IDPs and refugees who were violently uprooted from their homes and now languish in inhumane conditions, dying from hunger and the absence of medical care—while their daily cry for humanitarian aid and justice are ignored by those with the power to act.

Dear Ambassador,

Your public presence alongside officials installed by the Amhara regional government—specifically Mr. Ashete Demlew, an administrator imposed through force, ethnic cleansing, and demographic engineering—seriously undermined the Interim Regional Administration of Tigray and represented a blatant violation of both the spirit and the intent of the Pretoria Agreement. It directly contradicts the United States' commitments to accountability, constitutional order, and the protection of victims of mass atrocities.

As if this were not enough, in the aftermath of your visit, you reported that they—those responsible for brutal crimes of ethnic cleansing and extrajudicial killings—told you they would continue working with the government of General Tadesse Werede on the “return of the people,” cynically referring to them as “the people whose origin is the Humera zone.” In doing so, you deliberately avoided recognizing them as internally displaced persons, thereby diminishing both their legal status and the severity of their forced displacement.

UTNA firmly asserts that diplomatic engagement in such a context must be anchored in justice, accountability, and the protection of civilians—not in political convenience. By failing to uphold these principles, your visit effectively legitimized perpetrators and further perpetuated the suffering of our people: the people of Tigray.

Dear Ambassador Massinga,

UTNA doubts that you are unaware of the atrocities these actors have committed—and continue to commit—against Tigrayans returned to areas such as Tselemti. They have terrorized, tortured, killed, kidnapped, or forcibly re-displaced those who refused to relinquish their identity. While they may feign gestures allowing the gradual return of IDPs, as you reported, their intent is unmistakable: to ultimately wipe out anyone who refuses to abandon their Tigrayan identity.

So, your statement is deeply troubling. You lacked even the courage to name “Western Tigray Zone” as such, instead adopting the invaders' imposed terminology and referring to it as the so-called “Humera Zone.” This choice can only be understood as an attempt to appease the occupying forces and legitimize an unlawful reality. By echoing this language, you aligned yourself with the very actors responsible for the ethnic cleansing of Tigrayans, turning Western Tigray into a living hell.

In this context, it is hard to believe that your visit was genuinely aimed at alleviating the suffering of the people or addressing the root causes of the humanitarian catastrophe. Instead, it appears your mission served to reinforce and sanitize the propaganda of Abiy Ahmed's government—a regime that has deliberately created, sabotaged, sustained, and exploited this crisis as a tool to cling desperately to power, employing the very cruel individuals you met in Humera as its pawns. Meanwhile, millions of innocent Tigrayans continue to endure unimaginable suffering, their homes destroyed, their families torn apart, and their cries for justice unanswered—a human tragedy that deepens with every act of silence and complicity.

Dear Ambassador,

Your choice of language and framing erases identity, obscures responsibility, and normalizes injustice. It does not advance peace; it entrenches impunity. Any engagement that refuses to name the crime, the perpetrators, and the occupied territory is not diplomacy—it is complicity.

Most alarmingly, your engagement with these individuals, while bypassing and undermining the Tigray government, has effectively legitimized and empowered actors who falsely claim Humera and surrounding areas as part of the Amhara region, which they occupy through aggression aided by the federal government and Eritrean forces. There is no legal or constitutional dispute: Western Tigray is rightfully part of Tigray. Your statements should have affirmed this.

The individuals you met are directly responsible for the displacement of millions of Tigrayans, who continue to languish in IDP and refugee camps under inhumane conditions. Any engagement that ignores this reality—or worse, normalizes it—constitutes a grave moral and diplomatic failure.

We find it deeply contradictory that, while your Embassy's statements call on "all actors to put people first, above politics," your actions in Humera did precisely the opposite. One cannot credibly urge civilian protection while standing beside those who orchestrated civilian expulsion. One cannot claim neutrality while engaging administrators imposed by force in defiance of constitutional order.

Your acknowledgment of damaged infrastructure, lack of medical care, and humanitarian suffering—while accurate—fails to address the root cause of these conditions: the ongoing illegal occupation of Western Tigray and the deliberate exclusion of its rightful population. Humanitarian language, when detached from justice and accountability, risks becoming a tool for normalizing atrocity.

Furthermore, your support for an "Ethiopian-led, UN-backed process" rings hollow when the very communities entitled to determine their political future—displaced Tigrayans—are denied the right to return to their homes in safety and dignity. Any process that proceeds under conditions of ethnic cleansing and demographic engineering is neither legitimate nor ethical.

Dear Ambassador Massinga,

Diplomacy carries responsibility. Silence in the face of injustice is complicity; engagement without accountability is endorsement. Your visit to Humera sent a message—whether intended or not—that crimes can be rewarded with recognition and that constitutional violations can be laundered through diplomatic courtesy.

We urge you to reflect seriously on the consequences of your actions and to realign U.S. engagement with its stated principles: constitutionalism, accountability for atrocity crimes, the unconditional return of displaced Tigrayans, and the restoration of Western Tigray to its rightful administration.

Anything less undermines not only the credibility of U.S. policy in Ethiopia, but the very values the United States claims to uphold.

Sincerely,

UTNA

Union of Tigrayans in North America (UTNA)

Tel. (202)-321-7770 | Email: [utnaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:utnaoffice@gmail.com)

**CC:**

- The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary U.S. Secretary of State
- H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AU Commission