

Secretary Blinken's Meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Ahmed

READOUT

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON

MARCH 15, 2023

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Ned Price:

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed today to discuss a range of issues critical to the U.S.-Ethiopia relationship.

During the meeting, Secretary Blinken and Prime Minister Abiy discussed the significant progress in implementing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement following the silencing of the guns in northern Ethiopia. This progress includes improved humanitarian access and restoration of basic services. The Secretary reiterated U.S. support for efforts by the parties to achieve full implementation of the agreement in order to lay the groundwork for a sustainable peace. The Secretary and Prime Minister also discussed the importance of accountability for the atrocities perpetrated by all parties during the conflict, as well as the need for an inclusive and comprehensive process of transitional justice. The Secretary expressed concerns about the situation in Oromia and the need for a resolution through dialogue. Finally, the Secretary assured the Prime Minister of the U.S. commitment to helping Ethiopian communities suffering from the ongoing drought.

The meeting between Secretary Blinken and Prime Minister Abiy represents a reaffirmation of the important partnership between the United States and Ethiopia.

Secretary Blinken's Meeting with Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mekonnen

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MARCH 15, 2023

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Ned Price:

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met with Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen today to discuss a range of issues critical to the U.S.-Ethiopia relationship.

Secretary Blinken and Deputy Prime Minister Mekonnen discussed the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, which has resulted in considerable progress in re-establishing peace across northern Ethiopia. They also discussed the need for unhindered access by international human rights monitors to conflict-affected areas and the importance of an inclusive and comprehensive process of transitional justice, as well as the description of the justice plan and how the United States can be supportive. Finally, they spoke about Ethiopia's economic challenges and reviewed other important regional issues, including Somalia.

Secretary Antony J. Blinken Before Meeting with Ethiopian Civil Society Leaders

REMARKS

ANTONY J. BLINKEN, SECRETARY OF STATE
AMERICAN GIBBI

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

MARCH 15, 2023

SECRETARY BLINKEN: Well, I'm really grateful to each and every one of you, not just for being here this evening but for what you're doing every single day, which is working to protect and defend the rights of all of your fellow citizens. For us, human rights, democracy more broadly, are pretty much the heart of our foreign policy. And we know that the people who are really doing the work in defending and protecting rights are people like you. I admire the work you do. I admire the courage that you show in doing it.

We have been talking a lot, of course, about the very important cessation of hostilities in Tigray, which has produced very significant benefits, but one aspect of that is, of course, the importance of transitional justice and accountability, making sure that the rights of every Ethiopian are protected and the parties (inaudible). But I was really anxious to hear from you, the work that you're doing and, as always, how the United States can help. So with that, I'm really here to listen and learn. Thank you all for being here.

Secretary Blinken's Meeting with Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) Signatories

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MARCH 15, 2023

The following is attributable to Spokesperson Ned Price:

Secretary Blinken met with the signatories of the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA). Government of Ethiopia National Security Advisor Redwan Hussein and TPLF Spokesperson Getachew Reda shared the progress that has been achieved so far: silencing of the guns, delivery of humanitarian assistance, restoration of services as well as the disarmament of Tigrayan heavy weapons and significant withdrawal of Eritrean forces. The signatories acknowledged much work remains to fully implement the COHA and to ensure a lasting peace.

They spoke about the importance of the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration program and the need for it to be fully developed and implemented. The signatories also discussed the need for the establishment of a Tigrayan Interim administration as key to maintaining positive momentum. They agreed on the need for accountability, transitional justice, and reiterated their commitment to peace.

The Secretary expressed U.S. steadfast support, as an observer to the African Union-led process and as a partner to Ethiopia, towards achieving a lasting peace.