



# Union of Tigrayans in North America (UTNA)

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March 6, 2025

## An Open Letter to the:

Rev. Franklin Graham,  
President and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA)  
1 Billy Graham Parkway  
Charlotte, NC 28201  
[franklin.graham@gmail.com](mailto:franklin.graham@gmail.com).

Subject: ***Urgent Concerns Regarding Your Visit to Ethiopia and Its Political Implications***

Dear Rev. Graham,

The Union of Tigrayans in North America (UTNA) hopes this letter finds you well and in good health. We are writing to express our deep concern regarding your trip to Ethiopia, as we understand you have been invited by the Council of Ethiopian Evangelical churches to teach the message of God. While we are confident that your mission to spread the gospel is driven by faith and love, we believe it is important to highlight some critical matters that may impact the integrity of this invitation and the political context surrounding your visit.

There are troubling rumors circulating that the invitation to you may have been initiated or strongly influenced by the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Mr. Abiy Ahmed, as part of a broader strategy to manipulate your acquaintance with President Donald Trump for political gain. In countries with a corrupt mentality, leaders often seek to exploit relationships with influential figures to bolster their political standing and advance their agenda. By aligning themselves with high-profile personalities like yourself, they aim to legitimize their actions, distract from domestic challenges, and strengthen their grip on power. This manipulation is often framed as an effort to build international support, while in reality, it serves to conceal or exacerbate their human rights abuses and repression. In such scenarios, invitations like the one extended to you can be used as a tool to advance the political interests of those in power, rather than focusing on the genuine mission of spreading God's message and faith.

Rev. Graham,

We find it essential to highlight the ongoing atrocities in Ethiopia, particularly the genocide in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Since November 2020, the people of Tigray have endured a campaign of unimaginable genocidal war, resulting in over one million deaths, widespread sexual violence, the displacement of more than two million people, and the deliberate use of starvation as a weapon. These acts have been extensively documented by international organizations and human rights bodies such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Independent and renowned

researchers at the [New Lines Institute](#) have classified these crimes as genocide. Unfortunately, the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been directly implicated in these atrocities.

Despite the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) in November 2022, the humanitarian crisis persists without resolution. The war that began in Tigray has also expanded far beyond its borders. Ongoing conflicts in the Amhara and Oromia regions continue to exacerbate the suffering of the Ethiopians. These areas have also witnessed widespread violence, with Mr. Abiy Ahmed's government unwilling to address the root causes of these conflicts but instead exacerbating them through military repressions.

In light of these grave concerns, we respectfully ask that you distance yourself from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. His actions do not reflect the values of peace, justice, and respect for life that are central to the teachings of Christ. His hands are soaked in the blood of innocent civilians, and his lack of accountability and disregard for the suffering of the people are clear signs of a leader who does not fear God. By meeting with him, you risk associating yourself with a regime that has perpetuated genocide and suffering rather than promoting the values of compassion and righteousness that you hold dear.

Rev. Graham,

We understand the importance of fostering relationships and spreading the gospel to all corners of the world. However, we urge you to consider carefully the broader implications of your visit to Ethiopia, particularly in the context of the political environment and the people's suffering. As you know, faith and politics must never be intertwined in such a manner, and it is essential that your mission remains centered on spreading the love of God rather than being used for political purposes that may harm the people of Ethiopia.

May you remain steadfast in your mission to spread God's word and stand with the innocent who are suffering under this brutal regime.

We appreciate your time in reading this letter and hope you will give serious consideration to the points we have raised. May God continue to guide you in all your endeavors.

Most Sincerely,

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**Union of Tigrayans in North America (UTNA) is a US based civic organization that advocates for the wellbeing of the Tigrayan People in Ethiopia.**