



Oral Statement by the International Bar Association

52nd Session of the Human Rights Council

ID with International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

21 March 2023

The use of rape and sexual violence and the question of genocide

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) welcomes the opportunity to engage in this interactive dialogue with the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.

The IBAHRI is concerned about reports of rape and sexual violence in Ethiopia, which continue despite the peace deal signed in November 2022. According to data from the Tigray Health Bureau in November and December 2022, 852 cases of rape and sexual violence were reported by survivors. Recent investigations show that most of these assaults in Tigray were committed by Eritrean troops.

It is crucial that all evidence of rape and sexual violence is investigated and those responsible are brought to justice. Furthermore, as the use of rape and sexual violence bears the hallmarks of genocide, it is crucial to examine the issue and explore how States are to implement their duties under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It is therefore crucial that the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia continues its work and that the UN not only extends its mandate but also expands it to enhance its engagement with a view to ensuring accountability.

The IBAHRI calls for:

- Independent investigations of the issue of rape and sexual violence in the region.
- State and international actors to provide assistance to survivors, including for their physical and mental injuries sustained.
- States enhance support to the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.

Thank you.

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