

United States Issues New Executive Order with Respect to the Humanitarian and Human Rights Crisis in Ethiopia




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U.S. Commits to Free Flow of Humanitarian Assistance in Northern Ethiopia Conflict


WASHINGTON — In response to the growing conflict and humanitarian and human rights crisis in northern Ethiopia, which has threatened the peace, security, and stability of Ethiopia and the greater Horn of Africa region, President Biden signed an Executive Order (E.O.), “Imposing Sanctions on Certain Persons with Respect to the Humanitarian and Human Rights Crisis in Ethiopia.” The E.O. declares a national emergency with respect to the crisis and provides the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, with authorities to impose a range of targeted sanctions on persons determined, among other things, to be responsible for or complicit in actions or policies that expand or extend the ongoing crisis or obstruct a ceasefire or peace process in northern Ethiopia or commit serious human rights abuse.

“Together, with allies, partners, and international organizations, the United States calls on all parties to enter into negotiations to end the conflict. This conflict has created a widespread humanitarian crisis and threatens the stability of Ethiopia,” said Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo. “The Treasury Department is prepared to employ the range of targeted actions to hold accountable anyone contributing to the deepening of this crisis. The negotiated end of the conflict will set the stage for the United States and international partners to reengage in our efforts to support Ethiopia’s reforms to boost economic growth and job creation.”

The E.O. authorizes targeting of actors contributing to the crisis in northern Ethiopia and is not directed at the people of Ethiopia, Eritrea, or the greater Horn of Africa region. Treasury remains committed to ensuring that U.S. sanctions do not limit the ability of civilians located in Ethiopia and the region to receive humanitarian support from the international community. As part of this commitment, concurrent with the issuance of the new E.O., Treasury issued three general licenses (GLs), which authorize official activities of certain international organizations and other international entities, certain transactions in support

of nongovernmental organizations' (NGOs) activities, and certain transactions related to the exportation or reexportation of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, and medical items. For more information, please see Ethiopia GLs [1](#) , [2](#) , and [3](#) .

“Treasury is committed to facilitating the flow of humanitarian assistance to the people of Ethiopia. Treasury will continue to work with financial institutions, international organizations, and the NGO community to ease the flow of necessary resources to the people in need across Ethiopia and throughout the greater Horn of Africa region,” said Deputy Secretary Adeyemo.

Furthermore, today Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued six Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). These FAQs provide additional clarity and guidance regarding the non-application of [OFAC’s 50 Percent Rule](#)  to the property and interests in property of persons blocked pursuant to this E.O., as well as additional information on the activities authorized by Ethiopia GLs 1, 2, and 3. For more information, please see FAQs [922](#), [923](#), [924](#), [925](#), [926](#), and [927](#).

[View information from the White House on the new E.O.](#)

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