

Re: Open Letter to President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

<https://twitter.com/AbiyAhmedAli/status/1438869469464567808/photo/1>

Dear Mr Morrison,

The above letter, from the Ethiopian president to the US president, asks the United States to stop damaging Ethiopia through its support of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Australia recently suffered when the US did not warn of the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. The US treats other nations even more disrespectfully. Ethiopia is one of them and does not deserve it.

Because Australia is aligned with the US, it could diplomatically confront the US president. Millions are displaced and dying in the Middle East and in Africa, especially Ethiopia. Historically, Ethiopia has honoured Australia: the late Emperor Haile Selassie I visited at least 3 times. During Australia's 1890s depression, Emperor Menelik II sent shiploads of supplies. Today, Ethiopian diaspora are among the most wonderful citizens of Australia. None of them, apart from TPLF sympathisers with ill-gotten wealth, has ever hurt anybody.

I respectfully ask that you ask President Biden to act swiftly and decisively, ceasing US interference in Ethiopia's handling of war declared by the TPLF in November 2020. It must stop encouraging attempts to destroy the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. America also needs to immediately lift hefty sanctions that cripple Ethiopia's economy and hurt her people. Finally, the US and other Western nations should not delay in identifying and releasing to the Ethiopian government Ethiopian cash and heritage that members of the TPLF have stolen and taken abroad. In not acting, Australia dishonours Ethiopia and her diaspora residing in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Janet Bastyan

29/09/2021

cc. Mr Patrick Gorman MP,
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