



Open Letter

November 14, 2025 - Washington, D.C., USA

Eritrean Council – Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia (EC-DMV)

To:

- H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations
- H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission
- H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General, Arab League
- H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, Chairperson, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Member States
- The European Union (as a collective governing body)
- The Government of the United States of America
- The Government of the People's Republic of China
- The Government of the United Kingdom
- The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
- The Government of the French Republic

Subject: Urgent Condemnation of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Threat to Seize Eritrea's Port of Assab and Re-Annex Eritrea

Your Excellencies,

The EC-DMV, a “Yiakl” (“enough”) civic movement representing Eritrean communities across the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia Region, convened an emergency meeting on November 6, 2025, in response to the ongoing and recent statements by the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed threatening to “**correct the historical mistake**” of Eritrea’s independence and to **re-annex Eritrea** while vowing to seize the Port of Assab by force.

The Eritrean Council unequivocally condemns Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s inflammatory threats to seize Eritrea’s Port of Assab and undermine Eritrea’s sovereignty is a blatant violation of the UN Charter (Article 2(4)) and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission’s (EEBC) final and binding ruling dated April 13, 2002.

Such statements, echoed across Ethiopian state media and political circles, represent an alarming attempt to resurrect expansionist ambitions. By framing access to the Red Sea as a matter of national “*survival*,”¹ the Ethiopian leadership is deliberately inciting hostility toward Eritrea, threatening to undo decades of peace and destabilize the Horn of Africa.

These remarks are not merely political rhetoric - they constitute a direct and unlawful threat to Eritrea’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, in violation of the United Nations Charter² and the Constitutive Act of the African Union³. They endanger regional stability, maritime trade routes through the Red Sea, and the security of millions across the region.

1. The Central Threat: Attempt to Re-Take Eritrea

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s repeated references to Eritrea’s independence and coastline as a “*mistake*”⁴ imply a revival of annexationist goals. The suggestion that Eritrea will once again come under Ethiopian control constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and a dangerous provocation toward open conflict.

2. Violation of International Law

Eritrea’s borders were legally settled under the Eritrea - Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC)⁵ following the Algiers Agreement. That decision is final and binding. Any attempt to overturn it through force amounts to aggression, undermining the sanctity of internationally recognized borders across Africa.

3. Economic Cooperation and Legitimate Access to Ports

If Ethiopia seeks access to Eritrean ports such as Assab or Massawa, this must occur only through peaceful, lawful, and mutually beneficial economic and trade agreements between the two sovereign nations. Eritrea, as an independent state, has the right to manage its territorial waters and ports in accordance with international law. Any attempt to gain access through coercion, military pressure, or unilateral claims constitutes a violation of both the United Nations Charter and the African Union’s Constitutive Act. The Eritrean Council - DMV Region reaffirms that regional stability and economic cooperation can only be achieved through respect, dialogue, and fair - trade partnerships - never through the threat of force.

4. Statement of Solidarity

The Eritrean Council - DMV Region stands firm in defense of Eritrea’s sovereignty, self-determination, and peace. We call on the global community to uphold justice and international law, ensuring that no nation can threaten another’s independence under any pretext.

¹ [Ethiopian Prime Minister Issues Warning to Somalia, Egypt, Eritrea Over Red Sea Access Ethiopia and Eritrea on path to war, Tigray officials warn | Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ethiopian-prime-minister-issues-warning-somalia-egypt-eritrea-over-red-sea-access-2023-04-11/)

² https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/purposes-and-principles-un-chapter-i-un-charter?utm_source=chatgpt.com

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutive_Act_of_the_African_Union

⁴ [Return Of Red Sea Port Of Assab ‘A Matter Of Time’: PM Abiy Ahmed](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/return-red-sea-port-assab-matter-time-prm-abiy-ahmed-2023-04-11/)

⁵ [Algiers Agreement \(2000\) - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algiers_Agreement_(2000))

Despite of our opposition to the Eritrean Regime on internal matters, we Eritreans around the world will not remain silent to defend our country in the face of aggression – in this regard we are all united!

5. Warning of Imminent War

Experts and regional observers warn that the current rhetoric and troop movements are paving the way for war. Such a conflict would devastate millions, displace countless families, and threaten international shipping routes through the Red Sea. The cost of silence will be catastrophic. The time for preventive diplomacy is now if not yesterday.

Here is a strong, polished additional point you can insert—fully aligned with the tone, legal grounding, and strategic framing of your open letter. It builds directly on the content in your document and expands the geopolitical and legal implications **without repetition**.

6. Dangerous Global Precedent for All Land-Locked Nations

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's vow to retake Eritrea by force and seize the Port of Assab does not only endanger Eritrea - it sets a profoundly dangerous global precedent. If a land-locked country were permitted to violate internationally recognized borders under the pretext of seeking sea access, it would legitimize military aggression as a means of resolving trade or geographic limitations.

Such a precedent would destabilize not only Africa but every region of the world where land-locked states exist, including Central Europe, Central Asia, South America, and parts of the Middle East. Allowing Ethiopia to forcibly claim Eritrean territory would undermine:

- The UN Charter's prohibition on territorial conquest;
- The sanctity of post-colonial borders, which African Union member states unanimously pledged to preserve;
- The global framework governing peaceful access to ports through treaties, transit agreements, and economic cooperation.

Accepting Ethiopia's argument would encourage other land-locked countries to pursue similar claims through intimidation or warfare. This would erode international stability, threaten global trade corridors, and dismantle decades of diplomatic norms designed to prevent wars over territory.

The international community must therefore respond decisively - not only to protect Eritrea, but to safeguard the global rule of law.

7. Call for Immediate International Action

We therefore call upon the United Nations, African Union, IGAD, Arab League, European Union, and all responsible governments and the international community at large to:

- Publicly denounce Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's threats and territorial claims against Eritrea.
- Demand Ethiopia immediately cease military mobilizations near the Eritrean border⁶.
- Reaffirm the final and binding nature of the EEBC border decision.
- Launch an urgent multilateral initiative to de-escalate tensions and ensure Eritrea's territorial integrity.
- Protect peace and security across the Red Sea corridor.
- Condemn any attempt to justify territorial expansion on the basis of land-locked status, recognizing that such reasoning - if accepted - would set a dangerous precedent for global peace by encouraging land-locked nations worldwide to pursue coastal access through force rather than lawful economic agreements.
- The International Community must affirm that access to sea routes must only occur through lawful, negotiated economic agreements - not through coercion or force.

Respectfully,

Signed,

Eritrean Council – DMV
Washington, D.C., USA

⁶ https://www.haguejusticeportal.net/Docs/PCA/Ethiopia-Eritrea%20Boundary%20Commission/Decision_13-4-2002.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Map Reference: Location of Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the Port of Assab



Source: The Economist - East African Ports Map